

The Greek Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of SEE and its contribution to the Building of Good Governance Structures in the Region

The Greek Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of SEE (Plan) is a relatively new institutional cooperation framework. It is therefore still early to make an analysis related to its contribution to the building of good governance structures in terms of specific projects. It is, however, realistic to make an analysis of the orientation of the overall Plan and see, whether “good governance” belongs to its core objectives and, if the answer is positive, whether it offers the necessary practical and procedural guarantees for the achievement of these goals.

For the purposes of legal assessment, it is appropriate to define good governance following the orientation of the international organizations, in particular of the United Nations. Good governance should be understood to mean democratization, rule of law, efficient use of resources, effective decision-making, public accountability and transparency. There are two ways to promote the building of good governance structures: First, by adopting projects having that objective as their immediate or exclusive goal; second, by applying the good governance principles by the implementation of the Plan itself and by the realization of the individual projects.

I. Good Governance as Objective of the Plan

The Plan rests on two pillars, on domestic law and on bilateral agreements concluded with the recipient states. The Greek domestic law formulates the general principles of the overall Plan, while the agreements draw up programs for each contracting party. Law 2996/2002 created the general system for the provision of economic assistance, set the objectives, established the domestic mechanisms for the monitoring of the Plan and determined that it should be realized within five years (2002-2006). The law was adopted by the Greek Parliament with wide majority and, therefore, a consensus was established on the necessity to support the new democratic states of SEE.

On the second pillar there are six bilateral agreements concluded with the beneficiaries, namely with Albania, Bulgaria, FRY, FYROM, Romania and Bosnia-Herzegovina. All these agreements have a common structure. They draw a Program for each recipient state, which specifies the objectives of the assistance and determines the total funds allotted to each Contracting Party. The agreements create also Joint Management Committee for the management and implementation of the development assistance programme. This is a mixed committee in which Greece and the respective contracting party are represented on equal footing.

The building of governance structures constitutes the core element of both the Greek legislation and the respective bilateral agreements. Art. 1, para.3 the Law 2996/2002 reads:

“The purpose of the above financing is, mainly, to modernize infrastructures; promote productive investments; modernize public administration and self-government; support