

## **LAW No 2667/1998**

Constitution of a National Commission for Human Rights and a National Bioethics Commission

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

We hereby promulgate the following law, which has been voted by Parliament:

SECTION A (Articles 1 to 10) establishing the National Commission for Human Rights

### **SECTION B National Bioethics Commission**

#### **Article 10 Constitution and Mission**

1. A National Bioethics Commission, which shall be subject to the Prime Minister, is hereby constituted.
2. The Commission shall be supported as to its staffing and infrastructure by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, and its budget shall be incorporated into the budget of this service unit.
3. The Commission shall have its own secretariat. The President of the Commission shall be in charge of the secretariat.
4. The Commission shall constitute an advisory organ of the State and its mission shall be to oversee continuously matters related to the possible applications of biological sciences and to explore their ethical, social and legal impact.

The Commission shall in particular:

- a) investigate the ethical, social and legal aspects that arise from scientific advances in biology, biotechnology, medicine and genetics,
- b) outline, in collaboration with the respective ministries, proposals of general policy and provides specific recommendations on related issues,
- c) collaborate with international organizations and related bodies and represents Greece to international fora,
- d) inform the public on issues related to biotechnological advances and the impact of their applications

#### **Article 11**

The Commission shall orientate and coordinate related governmental advisory bodies in the field of bioethics and more particularly those bodies attached to the Ministries of Environment, Development and Health.

#### **Article 12 Composition of the Commission**

1. The Commission shall be made up of the following members:
  - (a) Four scientists of established reputation from the fields of Biology, Genetics, Medicine and Biotechnology respectively

- (b) Five persons of established reputation, two from the field of Legal Studies, one from Philosophy, one from Sociology and one from Theology.
2. The chairman, the deputy-chairman and the members of the Commission are appointed by a decision of the Prime Minister.
3. The term of office is five years.

### **Article 13 Invitation of experts**

The Commission may invite experts of an established reputation either from Greece or abroad for hearings.

### **Article 14 Commissioning of specialist studies**

1. The General Secretariat for Research and Technology of the Ministry of Development may commission, on the proposal of the Commission, on a contract for services, the compilation of specialist studies for its purposes from academic working parties.
2. The working parties, on the conclusion of the relevant study, shall submit a report to the Commission, which may be made public by a decision on its part.

### **Article 15 Commission's function**

1. The Commission shall meet regularly every two months and extra-ordinarily when summoned by the President or on the application of at least two (2) of its members. The members shall be summoned by the Chairman by any appropriate means.
2. The Commission shall have a quorum if: (a) there is present the absolute majority of its members, and (b) among the members present is the Chairman of the Commission or the Deputy-Chairman.
3. The decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
4. The compensation of the members of the Commission shall be set by a decision of the Ministers of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation, and of Finance, by way of deviation from the provisions in force concerning a fee or compensation by reason of service on councils and commissions of the public sector.
5. The Regulations for the operation of the Commission shall be drawn up by a decision of the Prime Minister. The Regulations may be amended by a decision of the Prime Minister, following an opinion on the part of the Commission.
6. The Commission shall by the end of January of each year submit its report to the Prime Minister, the President of Parliament, and the leaders of the political parties which are represented in the national and the European Parliament.

**Article 16**  
**Assistance of public services**

In order to fulfill its mission, the Commission may seek from public services and from individuals any information, document or any item needed. The Chairman may take cognizance of documents and other items, which are characterized as confidential. Public services must assist the work of the Commission.

**Article 17**  
**Research Officers**

1. Two (2) posts for specialist academic staff, within the meaning of para. 2 of Article 25 of Law 1943/1991 (OJHR 50 A), on a private law employment contract of a term of five (5) years, are hereby constituted. This contract shall be renewable. These posts shall be filled following a public invitation by the Commission for applications. Selection from the candidates shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 5 and 6 of Article 19 of Law 2190/1994 (OJHR 28 A), as replaced by Article 4 of Law 2527/1997 (OJHR 206 A), by five members of the Commission who have a vote, to be nominated by its Chairman.
2. The research officers shall assist the Commission.
3. The remuneration of the research officers shall be determined by common decision of the Ministers of Finance and Justice.

**Article 18**

1. One (1) post of secretary and three (3) posts for secretarial and technical support of the Commission are hereby constituted.
2. The following shall be regulated by a Presidential Decree issued on the proposal of the Ministers of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, and of Justice:
  - (a) The distribution of the posts of para. 1 by category, branch and specialization, as well as issues concerning the organization of the secretarial and technical support of the Commission;
  - (b) The filling of the posts of para. 1, which may be by the making available or secondment of civil servants or employees of public law legal persons, or those employed on a contract of employment of a fixed or indefinite duration with the State, public law legal persons or private law legal persons of any form which are under the direct or indirect control of the State;
  - (c) any matter concerning the in-service status and the remuneration of this personnel.
3. It shall be permitted for an employee of a ministry or public law legal person of Grade A or B of category Π.Ε. (=of University degree), proposed by the Chairman of the Commission, to be seconded as secretary of the Commission, by a decision of the Minister of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization and of the minister jointly competent in the particular instance.
4. Until such time as the Presidential Decree of para. 1 is issued, it shall be permitted for the Commission to make use of employees and to use technical support provided by the Ministry of Development and of Justice in accordance with the decisions of the competent ministers.

**SECTION C**

**Final provision  
Article 19**

This law shall come into force as from its publication in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic.

We hereby mandate the publication of the present law in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic and its execution as a law of the State.

Athens, 17 December 1998