



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
GENEVA

**URGENT**

No 6171.4/6/AS 151

***NOTE VERBALE***

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, referring to his letter dated 11 January 2017, has the honour to outline below the contribution of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence / General Staff with regard to Resolution 20/2 on 'Conscientious objection to military service':

"136.15 According to the law 3421/2005, people who, for reason of conscience refuse to fulfill their military service, invoking their religious or ideological beliefs, recognized as conscientious objectors are required to perform alternative service. This recommendation is not accepted".

"136.16. According to the law 4321/2005, people who, for reason of conscience refuse to fulfill their military service, invoking their religious or ideological beliefs, recognized as conscientious objectors are required to perform alternative service. As regards the duration of alternative service, the less onerous nature of civilian service justifies a longer duration than that of military service. The duration of alternative service comes within reasonable limits and is proportionate, not of excessive character to the duration of military service. This recommendation is not accepted."

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, January 31, 2017



*Allopriou*