

## Annex

### **RECENT REFORM MEASURES**

Subsequent to the completion of our report, a number of measures and proposals have been initiated by the Greek authorities on issues relevant to our analysis and recommendations. This annex sets out the main items covered by these recent developments.

#### **REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Within the parliamentary procedure for the revision of the Constitution, the Ministry of Education has proposed *the Amendment of Article 16* on education. According to the Minister's statement, the aims of this proposal are, among others, to:

- preserve the public character of tertiary education;
- liberate public education by diminishing bureaucracy, thus encouraging flexibility and adaptation;
- decentralise and devolve responsibility to local and institutional levels;
- provide for an evaluation system;
- provide a more composite system in determining professional rights and capabilities so that these correspond more directly to market needs;
- support inter-institutional programmes of study;
- meet the demand for education by allowing other public bodies to supply such education;
- facilitate the raising of funds and the search for new financial resources.

#### **OVERALL POLICY MAKING**

In order to ensure better continuity and greater political stability in the overall policy for the evolution of the national education system, the Ministry has legislated for the creation of a *Council of Education* with representatives from all

political parties. So far, the response of the opposition parties has not been particularly encouraging, but there are signs of a growing consensus on this issue.

A *National Education Council* has been established by law. It is composed of representatives from a great variety of academic, social and professional agencies and will concern itself with issues related to the strategic planning, quality management and control of all levels of education. The president of the Council has already been nominated and approved by Parliament and procedures for the first meeting of the Council in Autumn 1996 are under way.

### **ISSUES IN EDUCATIONAL FINANCE**

Procedures for the setting up of a *National Education Fund* of Dr. 200 billion in the first instance have been initiated. The fund will be used to support the needs of tertiary level institutions.

A sum of Dr. 350 billion has been set aside to fund the 1996 part of a strategic programme of school buildings in order to overcome the problem of double-shift schools in ten of the largest urban areas of the country.

Retraining and in-service training of teachers has been intensified and a sum of Dr. 10 billion has been allocated for this purpose for 1996.

### **EDUCATIONAL REFORM MEASURES**

A radical change in the philosophy of the Greek Education system is expressed by the introduction, as of September 1996 (with effect from June 1999) of a programme leading to the establishment of a *National Lyceum Leaving Certificate*. It replaces two existing examinations: school-leaving and entrance into tertiary level institutions. The programme will be offered to students of all types of Lycea (General, Technical, Comprehensive, etc.) and combines "common core" subjects with academic and/or vocational electives.

The Certificate will be awarded following an externally set and graded national examination. It will certify the attainment of a high standard of general knowledge and – depending on the electives taken – it will also serve as the sole criterion for entrance into tertiary level institutions or as proof of skills required for the labour market.

The new scheme, which will be linked to a new system of student evaluation, aims at upgrading the role of secondary education, strengthening general education of all students attending upper secondary schools and reinforcing students' learning skills across the board.

At the same time, the *International Baccalaureate* has been recognised by law as equal with and equivalent to the Greek Lyceum Leaving Certificate. Both state and private schools are now allowed to offer the IB programme, which will be of

particular value to students with a multicultural background and to those aiming at inter- or cross-national careers.

In relation to the above initiatives, it should be noted that the Ministry of Education has put forward proposals for the abolition of the single textbook system which has prevailed in the Lyceum and Higher Education Institutions, to be replaced by a book-allowance for all students and enrichment of university libraries. These proposals are the subject of intensive public debate.

### **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT MEASURES**

A *Centre for Educational Research* has been established and its president has been nominated and approved by Parliament. The Centre has, as its aim, to build up a strategic plan of educational research and take initiatives for its implementation directed at promoting knowledge in this area and facilitating the evaluation of the school system.

The *Pedagogical Institute* is being reorganised in order to be in a position to respond to the needs created by the initiatives taken by the Ministry. One of the major changes within the Institute's responsibilities will be the introduction of market competition for text-book writing and production. It is expected that this will improve quality and will eventually replace the "unique textbook" system as indicated above.

The *Hellenic Open University* has been established by law and is scheduled to start operation during the academic year 1996-97. In order to meet the educational and cultural needs of growing numbers of immigrants from neighbouring countries and returning Greek expatriates, a *Special Secretariat for Intercultural Education* has been established by the Ministry and is already operational.

As part of the drive to decentralise the system and encourage distance learning, *Education Support Centres* are being set up at local level. In addition, these Centres will encourage local cultural activities and serve the needs of School Counsellors by providing them with the necessary facilities and sources of information (libraries, and computer links, etc.).

### **PLANNING GROUPS**

A number of committees and working groups have been set up within the Ministry of Education to elaborate action plans in a number of major issues, of which the following are worth noting:

- the selection, appointment, evaluation and promotion of the teaching staff;
- the establishment of an International Centre for Educational Management;
- further development of all non-university higher education institutions;

- improving the links between the education system and the labour market;
- the increase of university student places to meet the growing social demand for such education and reduce, *inter alia*, the number of Greek students now studying abroad.