

ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΑ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ

Βουλής 45-47

Τ.Κ. 10557, Αθήνα Τ.Κ. 10557, Αθήνα

Τηλ. & Φαξ 210-32.10.680

Αρ. Αποφ. Πρωτ. Αθηνών 407 ειδ. 4195/3/7/86

Α.Φ.Μ. 090300158, Δ' Δ.Ο.Υ. ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

PANHELLENIC TOURIST GUIDE FEDERATION

45-47 Voulis str.

10557, Athens, Greece

Tel. & Fax +30 210-32.10.680

www.touristguides.gr

e-mail : admin@touristguides.gr

Member of:



Αρ. Πρωτ. 7
Αθήνα 5.2.14

PRESS RELEASE

PANHELLENIC TOURIST GUIDE FEDERATION APPEALS TO EU COMMISSION ON VIOLATION OF EUROPEAN LEGISLATION BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

The Panhellenic Tourist Guide Federation complains and appeals on the continuous violation of the European legislation by the Greek Republic and more specifically of Directive EC/2005/36 on the recognition of professional qualifications by the Hellenic Republic since 2010.

According to the national legislation implementing the Directive mentioned above for the regulated profession of tourist guide in Greece, Greece must regularly offer the chance to the established applicants/tourist guides from other EU countries to go through an adaptation period with compensation measures in order to recognise their qualifications.

The responsible body for examining the applications and deciding on compensation measures (SAEP) within the Greek Ministry of Education has decided a long time ago (2010 and 2011) that some of the applicants/tourist guides must go through compensation measures.

Although ten (10) applicants have chosen practical training as a measure, this has not been realised yet for none of them, simply because the Greek state and more specifically the Ministry of Tourism has not given this chance to tourist guides from other EU member-states for the last 4 years.

The reason for this obstacle in the legal recognition of the tourist guide qualifications is that the vocational Schools of Tourist Guides are kept closed since 2009 by the Ministry of Tourism and there is no other official body responsible to organise examinations, studies or practical training for tourist guides from Greece or for those coming from other EU member-states.

ΣΩΜΑΤΕΙΑ-ΜΕΛΗ / MEMBER-ASSOCIATIONS:

ΕΝΩΣΗ Δ/ΧΩΝ ΞΕΝ. ΙΟΝ.ΝΗΣΩΝ & ΔΥΤ.ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ

Τ.Θ. 324

49100 Κέρκυρα Τηλ. 26610-97.212, Φαξ 26610-72.177, kerkyraguides@hotmail.com

ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

Τ.Θ. 10163

54110 Θεσ/νίκη Τηλ. 2310-546.037, Φαξ 2310-546.037, guideskg@gmail.com

ΣΩΜ. ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΟΥΧΩΝ ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ

Απόλλωνος 9^Α

10557 Αθήνα Τηλ. 210-32.20.090, Φαξ 210-32.39.200, xenagoi@otenet.gr

ΣΩΜ. Δ/ΧΩΝ ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ Β.Α. ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ & ΝΗΣΩΝ

Τ.Θ. 130

81100 Μυτιλήνη Τηλ. 22510-43.818, Φαξ 22510-43.818, aeageanguides@otenet.gr

ΣΩΜ. Δ/ΧΩΝ ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑΝΗΣΟΥ

Τ.Θ. 235

85100 Ρόδος Τηλ. 22410-27.525, Φαξ 22410-39.251, xenagoirhodes@yahoo.gr

ΣΩΜ. ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜ. ΞΕΝΑΓΩΝ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ & ΘΗΡΑΣ

Ε.Κ.Η. Α. Δημοκρατίας 10

71306 Ηράκλειο Τηλ. 2810-281.984, Φαξ 2810-288.802, cretanguides@gmail.com

Therefore, the established tourist guides who waited to go through practical training by the School of Tourist Guides (Ministry of Tourism) since 2010 and 2011, have rightfully appealed against the Greek state, asking to have a proper and regular practical training as soon as possible.

What did the Greek state do about this maladministration? Nothing at all, despite the complaints of our tourist guide Panhellenic Federation, our tourist guide Associations, as well as of candidates, who have already taken exams, but are still waiting for the Ministry of Tourism schools to open in order to study and to qualify as tourist guides or the EU tourist guides who are waiting to do their practical training in Greece.

Instead, the Greek Ombudsman published on the 2/12/2013 a recommendation, saying that because the Greek Schools of Tourist Guides do not regularly function, **the EU applicants/established tourist guides should receive the recognition of their professional qualifications by the Ministry of Tourism without going through any compensation measures at all.** The Ministry of Tourism immediately agreed and the tourist guide IDs were issued for them with no chance for compensation measures at all!!!

We believe that this is considered as a total violation of the national and European law, on one hand that an Ombudsman interferes with the legislation and the educational function of a country and issues such a recommendation and on the other hand that a Ministry agrees to violate the existing law.

The Ministry of Tourism obviously doesn't care whether their country's tourist guides are properly trained and qualified to be able to offer the high quality guiding services they have been offering to the visitors of Greece for many decades, but we do.

We do care that the doors of the Tourist Guide Schools in Greece have been kept closed by the Ministry of Tourism since 2010, the candidates who took the exams to enter are still held hostages, long waiting to study what they have chosen, in order to become professional tourist guides.

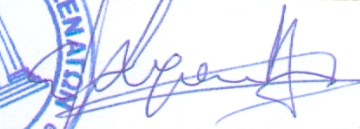
The European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (FEG), the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) and their members, including the Panhellenic Tourist Guide Federation (POXEN), have expressed their opposition to this maladministration of the Greek government.

We ask from the EU Commission to urge the Greek government to reconsider its policy towards tourist guide profession and training, which, as it stands now, may have grave implications to the detriment of the protection of consumers and tourists, not only in Greece but - as the EU Directives dictate - also in the rest of Europe.

ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Η ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ

Η ΓΕΝ. ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑΣ



ΕΥΡΥΔΙΚΗ ΒΛΑΣΣΗ

ΕΛΕΝΗ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ

