



**STATEMENT**  
**BY**  
**MR. DIONYSSIS KALAMVREZOS**  
**REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE**  
**Head of the United Nations Department,**  
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**AT**  
**THE 11<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS**  
**CONGRESS**  
**ON CRIME PREVENTION AND**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**BANGKOK, 18-25 APRIL 2005**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

First, I would like to congratulate you for your election in this important office and to thank, through you, the Government and the people of Thailand for their warm hospitality.

Mr. President,

The Greek Government fully associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the Minister of Justice of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Let me share with you some of the measures that Greece has taken in combating organized crime.

Organized crime has been receiving increasing attention by the *Greek law enforcement and judicial authorities* over the last years. Within the framework of the EU Strategy of 2000 and other EU initiatives on mutual legal assistance, a major framework *Law on Organized Crime (2928/2001)* has entered into force. Other measures include the adoption, last year, of a new Law on Extradition, the European Arrest Warrant and Combating Terrorism (3251/2004), law enforcement cooperation and technical assistance.

The *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols* is under the process of ratification by the Greek Parliament.

*Terrorism*, often linked with other forms of organized crime, runs counter to the core values of the UN, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. As the HLP Report confirmed, security threats, including terrorism and organized crime are interrelated.

Greece has ratified all 12 UN Conventions and Protocols on terrorism and has adopted strict anti-

terrorist laws, giving emphasis to the protection and compensation of victims and their families.

We expect that a comprehensive Convention against terrorism, including a definition, will soon be a reality, as it is stressed in the *High Level Panel Report* and in the recent Report of the Secretary-General *In Larger Freedom*.

Mr. President,

Greece is deeply concerned with *trafficking in human beings*, this contemporary form of slavery and one of the worst human rights violations.

In Greece, both the Government and the Civil Society are currently cooperating closely in the implementation of a comprehensive *National Action Plan* to combat trafficking. This plan addresses all levels of counter-trafficking action in cooperation with International Organizations, other governments and NGOs. Emphasis is given to legislative reforms, to the better cooperation among law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary, awareness campaigns, extensive protection to the victims and cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination.

Mr. President,

We strongly believe that the adoption of the *Convention against Corruption* provides the tools needed to fight this complex social, political and economic phenomenon that undermines development, the rule of law and effective government and to fight the emerging nexus between organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

The *support that the new Convention* has received, indicates both an acute awareness of the severity of the problem, as well as a strong political

commitment by the International Community to tackle it. The Convention is in the process of ratification.-

Greece, in supporting the international efforts, has contributed generously to the UNODC program "*Activities in promoting the ratification of the UN Convention against corruption*".

Mr. President,

In Greece, *money-laundering* and other *economic and financial crimes*, these elusive and fastest growing offences, are dealt with by the relevant European initiatives as the Council of Europe Convention of 1990, EU initiatives and the domestic Law 2331/1995 on the "*Prevention and combating of the legalization of income from criminal activities*".

Greece, in formulating her policies, takes into account the international regulations in this field, in particular the recommendations by the *Financial Action Task Force* on money laundering.

*Theft of and trafficking in cultural property* are vert' significant for Greece, a time victim of such criminal acts. Notwithstanding the relevant UNESCO Convention of 1970 and the Rome Convention of 1995, much needs to be done to combat theft and trafficking of cultural property and facilitate its return to the country of origin, especially if it has been purchased or exported illegally.

Mr. President,

There is a broad agreement that to combat effectively organized crime we need a universal ratification and implementation of all major anti-crime Conventions, more effective international cooperation and coordination.

The *Bangkok Declaration* should reflect our determination of building strategic alliances against organized crime, as well as our commitment to enhance international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures, to enhance criminal justice reforms, including the implementation of the standards and norms regarding the treatment of prisoners, development of restorative justice policies and support of victims. The Declaration should also stress the important role of Civil Society to the fight against crime, the threats emanating from document fraud and theft, and cyber-crime.

Mr. President,

In combating crime, comprehensive prevention strategies are very important. As Periander the Corinthian (668-585 BC), one of the famous seven sages of the Greek antiquity underlined, *"Punishment of the offenders is not the only response to the crime; prevention is equally important"*. But talking about prevention, it is important to repeat what Mr. Costa said in his statement yesterday: *Cultures riddled by violence, poverty, the lack of choice and the absence of hope, create only two kinds of human animal: predator and prey*. These underlying root causes need also to be tackled.

In our rapidly changing world we need new strategic alliances against organized crime, new synergies and responses; we need more effective international cooperation against the new security challenges. We believe that the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has already contributed to all.

Thank you Mr. President.