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The Central Mediation Committee

The purpose of the Central Mediation Committee is to facilitate and promote the functioning of mediation. It is also competent to deal with any issue concerning the implementation of the institution of Mediation in Greece.

The Committee is established by decision of the Minister of Justice and it is composed of 13 Members: 2 senior judges, 2 professors of University-Law Direction, representatives of the Plenary of the Bar Associations and the Ministry of Justice, mediators - representatives of professional bodies of Mediators and mediators with at least 4 (four) years of experience in their field of activity and proven experience in mediation. The President of the Committee is the senior Judge.

The term of office of the Committee is three years and shall be renewable once.

The Central Mediation Committee has the power to establish sub-committees for the purpose of speedy resolution and control of issues arising from the implementation of the law and for greater flexibility.

Four sub-committees are mandatorily established by law with a two-year term of office:

- 1. The "Committee for the Register of Mediators".**
- 2. The "Ethics and Disciplinary Committee".**
- 3. The "Committee for the Audit of Training Bodies",** which is responsible for all matters relating to the Training Bodies of Mediators.

4. The 'Examination Committee', which is responsible for the conduct of examinations and the marking of examinees for the purpose of accrediting successful candidates. The accreditation of mediators and their registration in the Registers is carried out by the Central Mediation Committee .

The examinations are held in Athens, twice a year and are nationwide in scope. They have a writing and an oral part that includes an assessment with simulations. The decision of the Examination Committee on the successful candidates is communicated to the Central Commission, which accredits the final successful candidates.

Moreover, the Central Mediation Committee establishes and maintains, in electronic form, two registers of mediators, which are posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice:

(a) the "General Register of Mediators", in which all accredited mediators in the country are registered, and

(b) the "Special Register of Mediators", which includes accredited mediators based in the district of each regional Court of First Instance

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Each accredited mediator assigned a unique registration number.

An mediator who has been accredited in another EU Member State, in compliance with the provisions provided for in that Member State and who is legally practicing this profession, shall be registered in the Greek Register, upon request.

In addition, the Central Mediation Committee, within its discretionary power to establish committees, **has established the "Legal Resolution Committee"**, to resolve legal issues. It is composed mainly of University professors. Any mediator can address a question to this

committee and receives almost immediately an answer which is also posted on the website.

Finally, an important role in the proper functioning of the Central Mediation Committee and in the promotion of the institution plays the Secretariat of the Commission, which is responsible for the immediate resolution of any practical problem that arises both in the exercise of the Committee's responsibilities and in the conduct of mediation in private disputes.

These organizational structures and procedures aim to ensure the effective practice of mediation in Greece, maintain the quality and ethical standards of mediators, and offer support and information to both mediators and those seeking mediation services. The Central Mediation Committee's work is crucial in promoting alternative dispute resolution and ensuring its integrity in the Greek legal system.

Thank you for your attention.