

153 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Greece is a co-founder of ITU since 1865 and had the honor to be elected as a member of the Council the last two consecutive periods, 2010-2014 and 2014-2018. Based on her commitment to contribute to the work of ITU, the Hellenic Republic puts forward her candidacy to the ITU Council in the upcoming elections of PPI8 for Region B (Western Europe).

COMMITMENT TO ITU

- Hosted major ITU Conferences and events. The first event was held on 12 July 2018 during the High Level Political Forum of the United Nations, which concerned Smart Sustainable Cities for implementing the SDGs. The second event was held on 11-12 October 2018 in Athens and concerned an ITU Forum titled "Towards 5G Enabled Gigabit Society".
- Provides her expertise in the work of the Union.
- Contributes constructively towards meeting ITU's goals, by preserving the interests of the Member States.
- Supports ITU initiatives in Smart Sustainable Cities.
- Strengthens Regional presence and implements ITU Regional initiatives for Europe.
- Participates in ITU-R, ITU-D and ITU-T Conferences.
- Contributes to the extent possible, to the standardization work of the Study Groups.
- Supports the presentation of major results of the ITU work to related ICT local conferences and meetings.
- Consistent with ITU-R initiatives in order to achieve effective and efficient use of radio spectrum in broadcasting and mobile, according to ITU procedures.
- Consistent with the ITU-R satellite coordination procedures in order to achieve the effective use of radio spectrum and the operation of satellite systems on non-interference basis.



High Level Political Forum of the United Nations Major ITU Conferences and events held in Greece.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Reaffirming our dedication and strong commitment for bridging the digital gap and supporting ITU's position in the United Nations, Greece will strongly contribute to the work of the Union through Council membership so as to promote ITU's leadership in the sector of telecommunications and ICTs at a global level.



Secretary General of Telecommunications and Post

GREECE

CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION COUNCIL

The Reliable ITU Member

PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2018

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DIGITAL POLICY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Digital Policy,
Telecommunications and Media

GREECE AND THE WORLD

Greece in the international scene

Greece is one of the most politically stable countries in the region of Southeastern Europe, with a high level of telecoms market maturity and a competitive and liberal telecoms environment. Regional expansion and her membership in EU, Black Sea Region, Mediterranean region and NATO has made Greece a strong player in the development of the European telecommunications sector in Southeastern Europe. Greece has always adhere to the principles of good relations and friendship with all countries, contributing to international peace, stability, security and prosperity. Greece's strategic geographic position serves as a pathway to three continents, (Europe, Africa and Asia), her academic reputation of highly competent engineers and scientists, make her a remarkable location to establish and build a strong ICT industry in the Mediterranean area.

Greece in the European Union

As a member state of the EU, Greece is actively involved in electronic communications policy making and implementation of the European legislation. The Ministry of Digital Policy, Communications and Media supports the activities of the European Commission, such as i.e. 2010 Content plus, Safer Internet action, etc., and participates at its committees and working groups. The Rural Broadband project was awarded in the framework of the European Broadband Awards 2017, in Category 3: "Territorial cohesion in rural and remote areas". It provides broadband infrastructure coverage to almost 45% of the Greek territory in white Rural Areas, covering 95.96% of the population with services of minimum 30Mbps. Secure networks are necessary to make the Digital Economy function. Greece has the honor to be the host country of ENISA (European Network Information Security Agency), the European Agency for Cyber Security, since 2004, obtaining now (under a new EU proposal) a permanent mandate which strengthens ENISA's role, enhances her responsibilities offering new capabilities, to prevent, detect and respond to cyber incidents in Europe. The existence of such an important and challenging Organisation is valuable for the whole area of South-East Europe and East Mediterranean Sea. Greece has a valuable cooperation with ENISA, through Greek research centers and universities and because of her position, it can contribute to become a safe and secure gate between the three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. Cyber threats have an impact on our democracy, prosperity, stability and security, thus, the European Agency's seat in Greece will serve in the global effort.

STRATEGIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

ICT Development and New Generation Networks

The General Secretariat of Telecommunications and Post of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, as the competent authority, considers broadband as a central pillar for ICT Strategy. A national intervention of 700 M € on building the infrastructure that will boost ICT development has started implementation and is financed by national resources and/or Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The NGA plan consists of activities/projects on building reliable fiber networks that will deliver gigabit connectivity to households and SMEs based on a voucher scheme, while the development of the infrastructure capable of offering NGA services will be implemented through the 350 M € large scale project Ultrafast Broadband (UFBB), based on a PPP scheme. Mapping of NGA white and grey areas in the territory to cover 90% of the population are the next steps forward. Having the vision to make Greece a Smart Nation and facilitate the transition to Smart Sustainable Cities, we have started the implementation of our National Broadband Plan, that encompasses broadband activities which provide coverage of over 90% to the population in rural areas, reflecting our vision.



Mobile communications and 5G

Greece has jointly agreed with Bulgaria and Serbia to develop experimental 5G cross-border corridors that will allow for the testing of driverless vehicles, enabling the testing and the deployment of 5G technology. The agreement has been signed on June 2018 in Sofia, at the closing ceremony of the Digital Agenda 2018, giving the opportunity to Greece to play a key role in the changes that the infrastructure of the future cities will bring.

Broadcasting

Greece is very active in promoting the digital policy in the region as well as in Europe, by participating in the fora and European committees concerning the liberalization of spectrum band for the Digital Dividend II (700MHz), working as well towards the 3.5GHz for the implementation of 5G technologies. In the framework of SEDDIF Multilateral Negotiations, Greece has successfully concluded bilateral agreements (Bulgaria, FYROM, Turkey, Montenegro) as well as with Italy under the context of Transadriatic-Ionian Group.

Space Technologies

Greece has been particularly active in the recent years in the field of space, with the submission and activation of filings in ITU for HELLAS SAT and the exploitation of satellite communications. Through our participation in the European Satellite Systems Galileo and Copernicus, we promote the use of satellite data and services for achieving sustainable communities. Furthermore, we support the development of new space technologies and products by encouraging Research and Development activities in the field of space, through our participation in intergovernmental organizations (ESA), international co-operations (MoUs, fora, etc.) and the recent establishment of the Hellenic Space Agency.



WOMEN and ICT

Greece created the Grand Coalition "Women and Girls Go Digital in Greece", an initiative that has been awarded by WITSA (World Information Technologies and Services Alliance), in October 2014. The "Women" project, funded by EEA Grants, was the unique project from Greece that is referenced in the Europe Digital Progress Report (EDPR) 2017 Country Profile Greece and has been assigned the title "Highlight of the year 2017".

Digital transformation and industry 4.0

In Greece, we have an active interest in fostering the ability of our Industry to adapt swiftly to the technological progress. Greece is working towards establishing a national "Industry 4.0" platform, aiming at capitalizing the strengths of Greece as a vibrant ecosystem of dynamic, extrovert, knowledge-intensive SMEs and start-ups, highly qualified researchers and scientists and a network of already established regional digital innovation hubs.

Capacity Building and Digital Skills

In Greece, with the establishment of the "Greek National Coalition on Digital Skills and Jobs", our efforts are geared towards establishing synergies among all stakeholders in education and training, employment and Industry, aiming at the promotion of e-skills through Research, Technology, Development & Innovation activities, including the establishment of Digital Innovation Hubs, and the creation of a national mechanism for mapping digital skills data in the Greek labour market and fostering digital skills for youth and women.

Child Online Protection - A safer internet for children

The Greek Center for Safer Internet started in July 2016, representing in Greece the pan-European Organisations INSAFE/INHOPE, drafting the European strategy for a safer and efficient Internet and focusing on raising awareness and understanding of safer internet issues and emerging trends, through the www.SaferInternet4Kids.gr portal, which is addressed to parents, teachers, teenagers and children, containing relevant multimedia material.

Greece in telecom's numbers as of 2017

The total active mobile subscribers that used Internet data services were 7.0 million at the end of 2017 compared to 5.9 million at the end of 2016, marking a 19% annual increase. Data services via mobile telephony networks, increased by 108% in 2017, reaching 98 billion MB. The majority of data (88%) was transferred via mobile telephony phones, while the remaining 12% through other portable devices using datacards. Based on yearly data, in 2017, for the first time, the majority of the mobile internet traffic (57%) relayed over 4G networks rather than 3G ones. The total ported numbers for 2017 stand roughly above 0.9 million. At the end of 2017, 62% of all the adult population in Greece (i.e. 18 years old and above) was making frequent use of Internet (i.e. daily or several times per week); the aforementioned percentage amounts to 79% for the ages 18-64 years. The penetration of the use of internet applications for messages and/or calls (e.g. Facebook Messenger, Viber, Skype, etc.) is estimated at 54% of all the adult (18 years and above) population.

