

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024

To: List of recipients

Ref. No.: 05

SUBJECT: On the necessity of tackling the issue of overbuilding on the islands of the Cyclades

Mister Prime Minister,
Ministers,
General Secretary,

The islands of the Cyclades are seriously faced with overbuilding, an issue that is becoming more and more pronounced and is impacting the local communities and economies. Said islands are under intense pressure regarding the carrying capacity of the environment, which is challenging the resilience of both our citizens and the personnel and infrastructure of our municipalities.

According to the provisions of articles 24, 79 par. 8 και 106 par. 1 of the Constitution of Greece, the spatial planning lies under the authority of the State, which shall establish the necessary regulations so as to ensure the protection of the environment along with the best possible living conditions for the population and the economic development, in the context of the principle of sustainable development. However, today, it's hard not to observe an asymmetric rise on holiday properties and hotel units on our islands that lead to the expansion and creation of new residential areas, without taking into account -in many cases- the measurements of the Tourism Carrying Capacity of the islands and the results from the use of other tools, such as the Tourism Operation Index (T.O.I.), the efficiency of road networks, etc.

As members of the Blue Municipalities Network, we believe that the growth perspectives of our islands and the cohesion of the local communities depend highly on safeguarding the sustainability of the natural environment and on reinforcing sustainable development. We also think that a fundamental step in this direction would be the establishment of a targeted, coherent and binding framework regarding urban planning. In fact, the current conditions show that it is required to proceed without delay with the development of new Spatial and Urban Plans that will regulate tourism activity not only in the islands but also in mainland Greece. Until the achievement of this goal, we strongly consider there is an urgent need to evaluate the existing conditions due to overbuilding on the islands of the Cyclades and take relevant initiatives to avoid the occurrence of "*faits accomplis*", especially in a period where urban planning on many islands is in progress.



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We look forward to having substantive and constructive discussions on the aforementioned issue.

Sincerely,

For the Blue Municipalities Network

The Members

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2	Antiparos	Faroupos Anastasios	Mayor	Vice-President of the BoD
3	Thira	Zorzos Anastasios Nikolaos	Mayor	Member
4	Kea	Velissaropoulou Irini	Mayor	Secretary of the BoD
5	Paros	Mpizas Kostas	Mayor	Member
6	Poros	Koutouzis Georgios	Mayor	Member
7	Skyros	Antonopoulos Kyriakos	Mayor	President of the BoD
8	Tinos	Krontiras Panagiotis	Mayor	Member
9	Aegean Rebreath Social and Cooperative Enterprise	Sarelakos Georgios	President	Member of the BoD

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