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01/03/2001 02:42 PM

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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
THE PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE**

**NIKOS THEMELIS
HEAD OF STAFF
HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Athens, 3 January 2001

**Re : Progressive Governance: One-day workshop on the topic: "How to
promote tolerance ^{and respect} for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity"**

Dear Colleagues,

As we decided in our last meeting in Stockholm in the context of the Progressive Governance Network, the German and Greek Governments have taken the initiative to organize a workshop focusing on topic 4 of the conclusions following the sherpas meeting in Lisbon on July 17, 2000. The workshop is aiming at the coordination of ideas and positions so that the crucial topic of "How to promote tolerance and respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity" can mature into a politically meaningful text for the Experts' conference in June.

Therefore, Greece invites 2-3 experts plus Sherpas per participating member to an one-day workshop in Athens on Monday the 19th of March 2001.

The workshop will take the form of two round tables, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning roundtable will focus on the subject "*Promotion and encouragement of diversity*" This session will cover the following separate questions of the Lisbon outline:

4.1 How to encourage cultural diversity and cosmopolitanism?

4.2 How to ensure for ethnic and religious diversity?

4.5 How to protect and to promote the rights of indigenous population?" and the afternoon roundtable will deal with the subject "*International movements of labour, asylum, integration of migrants*" This session will cover the following separate questions of the Lisbon outline:

4.3 How to adapt the policies of immigration and asylum to the new population trends?

4.4 How to reduce illegal work and to foster economic, social and political integration of migrants? "

The subject areas will be centered around a keynote paper, outlining the issues and setting forth the questions to be answered. Please find attached a draft outline of the issues to be examined at the workshop. Any additional questions of interest or further issues from your part will be welcomed.

The conclusions of the workshop will be submitted to the German sherpa Wolfgang Novak for the follow up, leading to the experts meeting in June.

We will be grateful to be notified at your earliest convenience of your nominations for participating experts, in order to expedite the arrangements. The Greek Government intends to provide accommodation for two nights for up to 3 experts per country plus sherpas. You will receive further information in due course.

Let me close by offering you my warmest wishes for the New Year.

Nikos Themelis