

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR 25 – Greece**  ***Belgian Intervention***  11th of May 2016 |

**M. Chairman,**

Belgium would like to welcome the efforts, made by the Government of Greece since its previous review in 2011, in particular the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2014 and the ratification of CED in 2015. However, progress is still possible. In this regard, my delegation wishes to focus on migrants and women’s rights.

Greece has achieved significant improvements with regard to the asylum and migration management system, but Belgium remains concerned about the detention of unaccompanied children and the security conditions in some reception centres on the Greek islands (‘hotspots’). We therefore recommend (**R1)** that the government prohibit the detention of unaccompanied children in law and end it in practice, and increase shelter capacity for unaccompanied children seeking asylum. We also recommend (**R2**) that the government give necessary attention to the safety of migrants and international staff deployed in the reception centres on the Greek islands.

We recommend (**R3**) that the Government of Greece ratifies the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

I thank you M. Chairman.