

EN

E-000970/2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.4.2026)

Regulation (EU) 2016/1191¹ aims to facilitate the free movement of citizens within the EU by abolishing legalisation or apostille requirements for certain public civil status documents, introducing multilingual standard forms and simplifying translation procedures. The Regulation is an important piece of legislation cutting red tape and costs for citizens, when they need to present in a Member State a public document issued in another Member State.

The Commission monitors the correct application of EU legislation by Member States and may decide to take appropriate actions in cases showing a persistent failure by a Member State to apply EU law correctly. In the case of Regulation (EU) 2016/1191, there are no concrete indications of such infringements by Greece to the knowledge of the Commission. If evidence comes to light of a practice of Greek administrative or consular authorities demanding apostilles, certified translations or other additional paperwork in violation of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 on a general and consistent basis, the Commission would, where appropriate, take the necessary steps.

Citizens who encounter problems which are allegedly caused by the misapplication of the Regulation by Greece can file a complaint to the Commission providing details of the alleged breach. On this basis the Commission is able to examine the matter and contact Greece if needed. The Commission is not able to examine the alleged breach on the basis of a general statement but would need further details.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1191/oj/eng>.