

TRANSLATION OF COMPLAIN TO BE FILED BEFORE THE CITIZEN'S  
ATTORNEY

With this petition we complain before you the acts and omissions of the organs of the O.T.A. Kythera: the mayor Mr. Efstratios Harhalakis, his associates and the competent and responsible Directorate of Technical Services, Building and Environment, regarding the (non-)operation of the water supply network of the Municipality.

We complain against the above legal entities and natural persons for their gross omissions, the omissions of the legal actions due on their part and the generally incomplete fulfilment of their basic duties regarding the water supply and sewerage network of the city, as these duties are provided and imposed by the provisions of Law No. 3643/2006 Article 75 I, point c) para. 1., as amended.

The omissions and failures of the above persons have resulted in the citizens and visitors to the island of Kythera experiencing unbearable suffering in the middle of the summer and the prolonged heatwave, endangering their health.

Specifically: In villages and settlements of the island of Kythera (Aloisianika, Kastrisianika, Frili-Gianika, Aroniadika, Pitsinades, Agia Pelagia, Spili, Stavros Kapsali, Mitata), already since mid-July 2024 there is zero or minimal water flow from the water supply network, having as a result that, the daily life and living on the island to become literally unlivable and threaten the immediate and serious health risk of all of us, residents and visitors.

At this point it should be explicitly stated that the mentioned problem in Kythera should not be associated and IS NOT due to the generally acknowledged current water scarcity, but has arisen for at least three (3) years, as an inevitable result of the many years of inadequate fulfillment of the obligations of the municipality in terms of maintenance and upgrading of the water supply network. This is proven and confirmed, moreover, by the Municipality of Kythera itself, through its repeated announcements on its website, on the interruption of water supply in various areas "due to damage" (see the relevant attached announcements of the Municipal Authority, electronically posted on its official website) ...

The lack of interest of those responsible for the maintenance of the water and sewerage infrastructure is the cause of the constant breakdowns and water shortages - not the general current water shortage.

We complain against the Municipality of Kythera, personally the Mayor Mr. Efstratios Harhalakis, his associates and the Technical Services Department of the Municipality, but also everyone else responsible for not fulfilling the basic obligations, as imposed by law, as stated above, citing the following situations and the following facts:

While the residents and visitors of the island have been left from almost the beginning of the summer season 2024 at the mercy of the disregard of the "persons responsible", the latter, now faced with the justifiably vehement expression of indignation of citizens, visitors and the entire opposition of the Municipal Council, came up, only now, at the end of August 2024, to announce and promise works, supplies and maintenance of the infrastructure...

Throughout this period of non-operation of the network, several residents and businessmen of the island were forced to resort to the solution of supplying water by tank trucks (with the encouragement of the Municipality and the Deputy Mayor), at a cost of 200 Euros per tank transfer, water of unknown, doubtful and precarious origin. They suggested, that is, the responsible parties themselves, as a "solution" to this major problem, the supply of water by tank trucks... a fact that, apart from the unfair financial burden on the citizens, raises justified concern as to the fulfilment of hygiene standards.

We the complainants, permanent residents and / or temporarily residing on the island of Kythera, strongly protest and complain against the Municipality of Kythera, the mayor Mr. Evstratios Harhalakis, the deputy mayors and his associates, the Technical Services Department of the Municipality and all other responsible persons for the fact that through their actions and, especially, through their omissions, they have deprived us and are depriving us of essential services such as water and sewerage, by not maintaining, as they should, the water supply and sewerage networks, leaving them in a state of disrepair, with constant breakdowns and leaks in the sewerage network and with repeated interruptions of our water supply, so that this year we have been deprived of water for more than five (5) weeks, which, combined with the non-operation of the sewerage network, creates an explosive mixture of insecurity and danger to our health,

that is to say: conditions that violate any concept of decent living and, consequently, conditions that violate our personality.

Furthermore, the situation described above also devalues our properties on the island of Kythera.

For these reasons, we appeal to you and request the immediate intervention of the Citizen's Advocate's Office, in order to control the administration of the Municipal Authority of Kythira, with regard to the above-mentioned problem, to ascertain its acts and omissions that have led to the situation described above and to oblige in every legal way the O.T.A. Kythira and every competent natural person and / or legal entity to immediately take every legal and due action to restore the smooth, safe and dignified living on our island.

Athens, 27.08.2024