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***Committee:***United Nations Environment Programme

***Topic***: Climate Action

***Delegation:***Greece

***Delegate:***:Doğa Beril YILDIRIM

Greece is a country which is located in the continent of Southeast Europe, Greece borders Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey. It has the Ionian Sea to the west, the Aegean Sea to the east, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Tourism is Greece's best source of income. Especially Athens, Mykonos, Santorini and Corfu are important tourism areas of Greece. Eighty percent of Greece is mountainous and the highest point of the country is Mount Olympus.

Climate change has been a critical, global issue for several years now, its impacts keep getting worse and worse and they are visible in every single country on the planet. It is clear that the main cause of Climate Change is anthropogenic. Ever since the Industrial Revolution in the XIX century, the Earth’s natural course has been infracted. Both in the past and now fossil fuels are the most common compounds to power plants and factories that is why carbon dioxide, as the product of burning the fuels.

  The world of Greece today has been declining in environmental sustainability. Urbanization within the country is continuing to rise where the country itself is having a very tough time trying to keep up. From the factories to the transportation systems, they all play a role in why the environment has become worse and worse. Although there are many issues that the country is facing, the biggest concerns are the air pollution, limited clean drinking water, and polluted coastlines.

     The first main issue with Greece is the lack of air quality. Because tourism is been so popular, and with transportation vehicles being the dominant source of going to places, the air simply continues to become more and more filled with toxic gas. The country is “among the 50 nations with the world's highest levels of industrial carbon dioxide” (Greece-Environment), where it has become a concern for families to live there knowing how much of the toxic air they are being exposed to each and every single day. Not only has the air pollution affected the people of Greece, but also all of the other living organisms as well. According to Nations Encyclopedia, “13 of Greece's mammal species and 10 of its bird species were endangered. Six types of reptiles and 16 types of freshwater fish were also endangered. Of the nation's 4,000-plus plant species, 446 were threatened with extinction. Endangered species include the Mediterranean monk seal, the hawksbill turtle, Atlantic sturgeon, and the large copper butterfly”. Air is something that people are constantly exposed to everyday and if it is contaminated with toxic chemicals, then that will only add onto the rapid increase of health issues.

     The second most important issue is the limited amount of clean drinking water in the country of Greece. A person cannot live without water and it has been a struggle for Greece to provide an abundance of an amount of clean water. With the uncertainty that the drinking waters are entirely pure, many health issues can arise because of that.

     The third main environmental issue in Greece is the pollution within the coastlines. The fact that the country is “overloading with nitrogen fertilizers, nitrates, pesticides, phosphorous and organic discharges from urban and agricultural wastewater are the main pollutants of rivers, lakes and wetlands in Greece….” , makes it a serious struggle for the government to keep an efficient system on trying to find better solutions. Where there is life, there is water, but the country is adding all sorts of different wastes to them. Whether it is all sorts of different chemicals, to the oil spills, they all add up to play a negative role towards pollution. With oil spills, the concern rises as the “Larger oil tankers will criss-cross the Aegean than those that can currently sail through the narrow and congested Bosphorus Straits, heightening the risk of oil spills and potential environmental disasters” (Greek beaches). Coastline contamination makes it all the more disturbing on how those coastlines are off limits, not allowing people to swim there because it is so contaminated.

     All in all, the air pollution, limited clean drinking water, and coastline pollution contribute as the main environmental issues in Greece. I determined air pollution to be the number one issue because this is something that every living organism in Greece has to deal with. Without clean air, there will be a huge impact on the longevity of life for everyone. I chose polluted drinking water to be the second most important issue because like air, people also need clean water to live and without that, drinking contaminated water only holds as a threat to the safety of the population’s health. Lastly, I ranked coastline pollution as my third most important issue because with the magnificent view of the coastlines, the people cannot enjoy their own country’s waters because they fear of what is dumped in it.

*The most important environmental problem that Greece faces every summer is the forest fires that burn hundreds of trees and destroy the ecosystem.But Greek Prime Minister Kriyakos Mitosotakis said that it is planned to procure more firefighting aircraft next year,and that a new unit will be created to better coordinate the teams that will respond to the fires.*

Climate change and intensive ecosystems pollution is likely to have a strong impact on the Greek environment due to its island nature. For this reason, acting to enhance eco-innovation has a significant importance. Environmental policy in Greece focuses on the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures that can promote eco-innovation. The country benefits from its substantial natural capital in renewable energies, growth in green and alternative tourism, and innovation in agriculture and the food industry. Research activities in the country depend heavily on EU funds, directed towards the promotion of innovative technologies for environmental protection and resource efficiency in the areas of waste management, water management, soil contamination and air pollution. The policy framework to support innovation is expected to improve significantly and to include the promotion of specific activities in relation to eco-innovation. An integrated policy framework to promote circular economy does not exist, but the first circular economy dialogue forum for businesses, SMEs, researchers, social entrepreneurs, etc. took place in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered several digital initiatives to address the challenges and barriers of the health crisis which accelerated the pace of digital transformation.

To slove these problems,animations or movies can be made to encourage people to protect the environment.In addition,campaigns can be organized that will attract the attention of the public and direct thetm to protect the environment.