



## PIAC Flash numéro 2

Council of Europe, October 31, 2013 - **European Convention of Human Rights**

### Court set for human rights judgment on Greece's civil unions

Eight Greeks, who claim the country's civil union law discriminates against same sex couples, will find out next Thursday if human rights judges back their protest.

The Grand Chamber judgment in the case of Vallianatos and Others v. Greece (applications nos. 29381/09 and 32684/09) will be made known at a public hearing on 7 November at 11h (CET)

The case concerns 'civil unions' introduced by Law no. 3719/2008, called 'Reforms concerning the family, children and society.' This Law made provision for an official form of partnership, allowing the persons concerned to register their relationship within a more flexible legal framework than that provided by marriage.

The applicants complain that this Law provides for civil unions only for different-sex couples, thus automatically excluding same-sex couples from its scope of application. They complain that the Greek State introduced a discriminatory distinction in their regard.

#### Principal facts

The applicants are eight Greek nationals living in Athens and an association based in Athens. Some of the applicants live as a couple, while others are in a relationship but do not live together.

On 26 November 2008 Law no. 3719/2008, called "Reforms concerning the family, children and society", came into force. It made provision for an official form of partnership called a 'civil union.' Under section 1 of that Law, a civil union could only be entered into by two adults of opposite sex.

