

# Motions and Declarations

Motion/Declaration number	2
<input type="checkbox"/> MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION	
Name of the person introducing the Motion/Declaration to the GA	Tsigdem Asafoglou
Member party	Friendship Equality Peace Party
Title (of the Motion/Declaration)	<b>The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace<sup>1</sup> recommends Greece to implement the provisions of international and bilateral conventions.</b>
<p>A) Juridical investigations that reveal the political intimidation and pressure against representatives of the Turkish Minority continued in 2019. Representatives of the Turkish Minority are summoned to the police station to testify with many charges and they are not being informed thoroughly of all charges.</p> <p>B) Hate-motivated attacks, crimes and hate speech are part of structural and systematic discrimination against persons belonging to Turkish Minority in Western Thrace. There are incidents of hate-motivated bias and hate speech against persons belonging to the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace</p> <p>C) The right of the Muslim Turkish Minority in Western Thrace to elect its own religious leaders is granted by the 1913 Athens Treaty and guaranteed by the 1923 Lausanne Treaty which determined the legal status of the Turkish minority in Greece and Greek minority in Turkey. Although the autonomy was in practice until 1985, there is a duality today, the Muftis appointed by the State and the Muftis elected by the Turkish Minority in the region. Greece doesn't still recognize the right to elect its own religious leaders and rather it appoints muftis on the ground that the muftis have legal authority on civic issues.</p> <p>D) The freedom of assembly and association or the Turkish Minority is violated. Although the Greek authorities claim that a large number of minority NGOs are officially registered and freely operate in Western Thrace, this claim is far</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Officially recognized as Muslim Minority.

from the reality. The “Pomak” and “Roma” groups are recognized and even welcomed and supported by the Greek authorities. However, the opposite applies to the NGOs that would like to use the word “Turkish” in their titles. In this vein, Xanthi Turkish Union, Komotini Turkish Youth Union and Western Thrace Turkish Teachers’ Union were dissolved in the late 1980s by the local courts. The three associations (Xanthi Turkish Union, Cultural Association of Turkish Women of the Region of Rodopi and Evros Prefecture Minority Youth Association) lodged a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights in 2005; the ECtHR held unanimously there had been a violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

- E) The autonomy in education was in practice until the Greek military junta regime in 1967, but was not restored after the return to democracy in 1974. The educational autonomy has been undermined and diminished by governmental practices over years which resulted in a special education system with complex legal provisions.

For this reason, EFA declares that:

- Greece should review her minority policies and to be more inclusive to prevent intolerance and discrimination.
- Greece should take, without any further delay, all necessary measures for the implementation for the ECtHR’s judgments in the Bekir-Ousta group of cases.
- Greek authorities should restore autonomy in education and religion granted to the Turkish Minority in Western. Concerning education, the Greek government should revise its policies concerning the minority primary and secondary schools, including their number and location, management of school councils, recruitment and training of teachers of both Greek and the Turkish curriculum, revision and modernization of textbooks and education materials to be used for both curriculums in co-operation with teachers at minority schools and relevant authorities in Turkey for the Turkish curriculum, and distribution of textbooks of Turkish curriculum in due time.