

Motions

Motion number	5
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Tsigdem Asafoglou
Member party	DEB-Partisi (FEP Party)
Title [of the Motion]	The human rights struggle of the Western Thrace [Muslim] Turkish Minority

A) About two years ago, an inter-party commission was established in the Greek parliament for the development of Thrace, since it is the poorest region of Greece, and it is among the poorest regions of Europe. However, it is possible to say that the commission's work was merely for show, as the drafted development plans lack concrete schedules and objectives for minority inclusion, while demographic considerations and the reinforcement of the region's Christian population have been emphasised as the commission's main goal by key commissioners. No proposals proposed by minority institutions, organisations, or minority leaders were considered. This demonstrates the fact that the dynamics of the region are not fully taken into account even in development commission, and this approach does not mean development, but the continuation of the policy of segregation, ignorance or exclusion that has been going on for many years. In this regard we urge Greece/ Greek authorities to act responsibly.

B) Based on international and bilateral conventions/agreements the Turkish Minority has an autonomous structure regarding religious and educational issues. However, the Greek authorities disregard the Minority's religious and educational autonomy. Legal regulations that ignore the rights of the minority enshrined by the treaties and that aim to undermine the minority's rights are unacceptable.

C) The Greek authorities deny the ethnic identity of the Turkish minority of Western Thrace. They prefer to define the Minority by its religious characteristics as opposed to its ethnicity. In practice all Greek citizens, including the members of the Minority, have the right to self-identification. However, the Turkish Minority is prohibited from establishing associations with the word "Turkish". As a result, it would not be exaggerating to conclude that the Turkish minority is deprived self-identification as well as the right to association by reason of its self-identity, both of which are fundamental citizenship rights.

Therefore the European Free Alliance declares that:

a) Greece should abandon its discriminatory attitude and segregation policy towards the Western Thrace Turkish Minority and include the minority in the decision-making processes.

b) Greece must ensure that the Turkish Minority fully and effectively enjoys their human and minority rights including the rights in education, religion and other areas.

c) Greece should respect the Minority's self-identification right and its collective usage. In addition, she should respect international norms and take steps to fulfil them (the most obvious example of this is the decisions of the ECtHR).