

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE  
-RIGHT OF REPLY-**

**Working Session 14: Fundamental freedoms II, including freedom of thought,  
conscience, religion or belief (1.10.2014)**

In reply to an NGO statement, I would like to stress that, in terms of comparative law and practice, there is not a single method for the selection of Muftis. Each country, be it Muslim or not, has the right to establish its own process, provided that such process is in accordance with the Islamic tradition and religious rights and freedoms.

The Greek law ensures the selection of notable, distinguished teachers of Islam who will perform their religious and judicial duties in the best and most responsible way.

The so-called “elected Muftis” are not officially recognised; however, the State does not obstruct their religious or other activities, showing maximum tolerance and restraint despite the evident disrespect for the existing legislation and an often non-constructive attitude.

Furthermore, it is obvious that there can be no analogy with the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Finally, our legislation has substantially enhanced the status of religious preachers who are free to choose whether or not to join the applicable legislative scheme and to benefit from it.