



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Albania – Right of Reply**  
**HDIM 2016, WS 10 - Tolerance and non-discrimination I**

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

I would like to use the right of reply to the so-called “Northern Epirus 1914” Association, because in their presentation in front of this respected audience they have presented disinformation and deformation of the Greek minority reality in Albania, simply, because, they do not operate in Albania and are not aware of the developments in this respect. The reality of the Greek minority in Albania and other national minorities in my country is quite different.

Albania has a positive record and remains committed to fulfil its international obligations with regard to the respect and protection of human and minority rights. Albania has ratified several conventions on human rights, as well the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

A climate of respect and tolerance prevails, generally, in Albania and inter-ethnic relations remain good, due to respect and protection of the rights of the national minorities. This has been noticed by the reports of international organisations as OSCE, CoE, EU etc.

The Constitution and domestic legal framework guarantee the rights of persons belonging to minorities, the Greek minority as well, including the right to declare their ethnicity, to maintain and develop their national identity, the right of education in the mother tongue, their culture, religion and fundamental freedoms.

As part of fulfilling the 5 key priorities for EU accession, Albanian institutions are committed to take concrete measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, including minority rights. Within the frame of minority protection, one of the main objectives is the adoption of a comprehensive legislative framework on minorities. The Albanian Government is working closely with the interested communities, academic circles and specialized international organisations, like CoE and HCNM. Greek minority associations in Albania are part of these consultations and are rendering their contribution in this respect, but, seemingly, the representatives of the so-called Association of the “Northern Epirus 1914”, are not aware of these important developments.

Thank You.