

ENGLISH only

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Freedom of Religion or Belief : Issues, Opportunities, and the Specific Challenges of
Combatting Anti-semitism and Intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and
Members of Other Religious
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE
- RIGHT OF REPLY- (Session III)

It is extremely surprising that the name of Ahmet Mete, the so-called “elected Mufti” was mentioned by the representative of ABTTF. Ahmet Mete has expressed racist views and has made racist statements in the recent past backing Hitler’s opinions and practices against the Jews, statements that provoked harsh reaction of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece.

In Greece, the Greek judicial authorities enjoy full independence, according to the principle of separation of powers in a democratic society. No Greek citizen is persecuted or convicted without a reason. In case of a prosecution that results in innocence, there is, of course, no crime conviction.

Finally, with regard to the allegations that Greece does not treat the Muslim minority as equal citizens of the country, I would like to stress that Greece aims at furthering their integration in social, economic, political and other structures, on both local and national level, but it is necessary to have residence in Greece.