

Intervention by the delegation of Greece  
(Working Group III: Regulations Regarding Political Parties in  
National Legislation)

Thank you Mr Moderator,

A quick word about the political representation of the Muslim Minority of Thrace in Greece:

We strongly believe that the principle of effective representation is fully adhered to. At the national level, and in virtually all parliamentary elections held in Greece since 1927, persons belonging to the minority have been elected as MPs - usually both with the government party and with the opposition. In the 2009 elections 16 members of the minority stood with various parties. These were not token candidacies, as voters can indicate their preference for individual candidates on any given electoral list.

At the local level effective representation has been recently further reinforced through the 2010 administrative reforms that give an enhanced decision-making role to local government – including on decisions relating to large-scale development projects.

Indeed Greece, like 22 other participating States of the OSCE, has set a percentage level of the vote needed for a party to enter parliament. This stands at 3%. Its sole purpose has always been to ensure the creation of stable parliamentary majorities, this being traditionally a key objective of Greece's electoral systems.

Thank you.