



**THE
CONSTANTINOPOLITAN
SOCIETY**

GREEKS EXPATRIATED FROM ISTANBUL
BY TURKISH COERCION

2012 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 24 September to 5 October 2012

Tuesday, 2 October 2012

Working Session 12 (specifically selected topic):

National Minorities

The Greek Minority in Turkey

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OSCE / ODIHR

Due to significant restrictions and serious limitations on human rights which are threatening the sustainable vitality, survival and vibrant future of the Greek Minority in Turkey, OSCE / ODIHR is called upon to urge Turkey -as an OSCE participating State- to:

Property rights

- Amend the Law on non-Muslim Welfare Foundations in such a way that would allow for, among others:
 - Putting an end to the fragmentation of minority Foundations as a result of the Wakifs system in force; allowing for the unification of the various Greek Minority Foundations is key to their survival as well as cost-effective functioning.
 - Returning those (24) fused Greek-Orthodox Foundations to their lawful owner,
 - Solving the question of property that was seized and sold to third parties, including by provide for proper compensations.
 - Recognizing the equality of the minority Foundations and all other Foundations, thus terminating discriminatory practices against them.

- Resolving pending issues of Greek Minority cemeteries and recognize their ownership by their communities (as clearly stated in Art. 42 of the Treaty of Lausanne).
- Ensure that Greek citizens are able to fully enjoy their rights over inherited patrimonial property, by implementing as of March 2010 recommendations of the Council of Europe Venice Commission on the protection of property rights. Turkey should conform to the relevant rulings of the European Court for Human Rights.

Educational rights

- Lift all educational restrictions regarding the Greek Minority, specifically:
 - Amend the Law on Private Schools Education, so as the diplomas of students of European and other nationalities are officially recognized and validated for their admittance in Turkish Universities etc.
 - Give decision-making power to the headmaster of minority schools.
 - Support financially minority schools, as it is foreseen by the Treaty of Lausanne.
 - Eliminate all anti-minority references in schoolbooks used for teaching in Turkey, as it forges historic realities, fosters discriminatory behavior against members of the minority and incites hate actions.

Human rights, non-discrimination in general

- Take specific measures to facilitate the return of the Greeks of Istanbul that have been forced to leave their homeland following systematic persecutions and violations of their human rights.
- Allow the admission of minority members to posts in the administration, the police forces, the army or the judiciary.
- Establish an effective national human rights institution, such as a national human rights commission or an Ombudsman, which –along with the civil society- may certainly enhance the ongoing efforts of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in Turkey. Such an institution may also contribute to the creation and effective implementation of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that is necessary.
- Give effect to ECRI's General Policy Recommendation N° 7 on National Legislation to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (13/12/2002) and ratify promptly Protocol N° 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Turkish government should spare no effort in identifying those shortcomings and reviewing accordingly both the relevant legislation and its implementation, with a view to eliminating racial discrimination in all areas and raising awareness for human rights in general._

