

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

**Working Session 6: Fundamental freedoms I, including address by the OSCE
Representative on Freedom of the Media (22.09.2016)**

In reply to what has been heard before by an NGO, I would like to clarify that in Greece only one group of persons is qualified as a minority, namely the Muslim minority in Thrace, consisting of three distinct groups whose members are of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin.

The status of the Minority, as a religious and not a national one, was established by the 1923 Lausanne Treaty.

Relying on solid and objective legal and factual grounds, Greece does not recognize other groups as minorities.

However, the members of groups which are not officially recognized as minorities for lack of objective criteria, fully enjoy their rights under the relevant Human Rights Treaties.