



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

19 to 30 September 2016

Warsaw –Poland

Working Session IV: (Specifically selected topic) Freedom of assembly and association

HDIM.NGO/0060/16/EN

21 September 2016

Contact Person: Pervin Chairoula
chairoulap@yahoo.com

Thank you Ms/Mr Moderator,

Distinguished Delegates,

The right to freedom of association is among the basic human rights. However, the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, that is the only officially recognized minority in Greece, cannot enjoy this right fully. As the Greek authorities banned the use of the word “Turk” / “Turkish” in the titles of associations by reason of these words constitute a threat to public order and territorial integrity.

Regarding the issue three cases had been brought before the ECtHR and the decisions were in favour of the Turkish Minority. However the Greek authorities impede the implementation of the decisions claiming that “the state considering the appropriate ways and means to implement the ECtHR decisions”. It is clear that Greece has no intention to implement the relevant ECtHR decisions, otherwise they should have taken measures instead of keeping on repeating that they are working on new regulations for amending the Greek domestic law so as to cease contradicting with the ECtHR’s jurisprudence.

Therefore Ms/Mr Moderator,

The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace calls upon the OSCE Participating States,

To pay a fact finding visit to Greece,

To take measures in order to eliminate double standards of the implementation of international human rights instruments,

And we call upon the Greek State,

To ensure that the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association is enjoyed by the whole society, either individually or as a group, without discrimination and restriction on the basis of ethnic or social origin,

To respect and implement the provisions of the international human rights instruments in which the freedom of assembly and association is safeguarded,

To repeal any restrictions on the right to freedom of association discriminating against Turkish minority of Western Thrace,

To respect the Turkish Minority’s self-identification and repeal its decisions regarding the banning of Turkish associations,