



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

10 to 21 September 2018

Warsaw – Poland

Working Session 11: Fundamental Freedoms I

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**Recommendations to Greece  
Regarding the Freedom of Expression in Western Thrace**

Thank you Ms/Mr Moderator,

Western Thrace Turkish Minority urges Greek authorities

To respect the right to self-identification of the persons belonging to Turkish minority whose rights are protected by the 1923 Peace Treaty of Lausanne and other international human and minority rights instruments and to promote the collective usage of this right;

To discontinue dictating newly created identities to the members of the Turkish Minority and respect and safeguard the individual and collective rights of its members;

To implement the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights regarding re-opening the Turkish Associations without any further delay;

To allow the establishment of new associations containing the words “Turkish” or “Minority” and respect the choices of the founding members while defining their associations either ethnic or any other type;

To respect the freedom of expression of the Turkish minority in order to protect and promote the diversity of opinions;

To amend the recent law regarding the associations that was put into practice on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, in such a way that it allows the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights’ decisions related to the freedom of association.

To ratify, without delay and reservations, the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities that Greece signed in 1997.

Thank you for your attention.