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The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece
Speech by Pervin Chairoula

Thank you Ms/Mr Moderator,

My name is Pervin Chairoula (Hayrullah) and I am representing the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace.

The Rule of Law should be a prerequisite for all democratic societies and should be monitored by the international community. However, in some countries, like Greece, it is just a utopic term. Within the administrative bodies in Greece the corruption rate was among the highest rates in the world and this was one of the reasons of the Greek economic crisis a couple of years ago.

It is easy to follow and understand from the arbitrary applications of the international legally binding documents' provisions that the rule of law is a descending value rather than being an ascending one in Greece. The Greek government is inadequate in managing the social and economic settings in the country and this creates a conflict situation. Therefore, today's Greece is in need of a stable social system, including rule of law, law enforcement, and social support for the ones who in need.

For the minorities, on the other hand, I may say that there is no 'rule of law' in Greece. The arbitrariness, political intolerance towards the minorities, non-protection of established minority rights, non-transparent policy towards the minorities, and ignoring the minorities like the Turkish and the Macedonian ones create a distrustful atmosphere in the country. The Minority people don't know the next step and which minority rights will be usurped tomorrow. The recent laws regarding the religious leaders of the Turkish Minority and Minority education are the concrete examples of the arbitrariness in the country. These laws were prepared for the minority but without considering the minority's will and opinions.

The Greek state violates minority rights that guaranteed by international and bilateral treaties and She doesn't ensure the implementation of international human and minority rights protection standards.

Ms/Mr. Moderator,

Western Thrace Turkish Minority calls upon the Greek State

- To implement the provisions of international and bilateral treaties that She is a party,
- To have a concrete dialogue with the Turkish Minority representatives during the legislation process,

Thank you for your attention.