

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE**-RIGHT OF REPLY-****Working session 8 (specifically selected topic): Tolerance and non-discrimination**

In reply to two more statements about the situation in Greece, which bring the total number of, repetitive *ad nauseam*, interventions by the same three organizations to 12 for this year's HDIM, and counting, I would like to stress the following.

During the last years, we have developed a robust legislative and operational framework against racism, hate crimes and hate speech. We are encouraged that the progress accomplished so far has been recognized by all human rights mechanisms.

The region of Thrace is an example of successful living together of a Christian majority and a Muslim minority. Any incident which may -or may not-be identified as hate crime is thoroughly investigated.

However, gratuitous insinuations about a "suspicious fire in a historic mosque", despite the fact that, according to the investigation, the fire outbreak was due to an accident and despite the commitment expressed by the authorities to restore the damage as soon as possible, speak volumes about the fanaticism and lack of credibility of those who disseminate them.