



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

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Rule of law in Greece
“Rule of law in Greece is under threat...”¹

Thank you very much Ms/Mr. Moderator,

My name is Pervin Chairoula, I am representing the Turkish Minority in Greece.

The rule of law is a fact of justice, there can be no arbitrariness in the application of laws/legal rules, or international provisions. However, in some countries, like Greece, it is unachievable, as the government officials do not conform to the law.

The leader of the New Democracy (ND) Party, now he is Prime Minister, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis stated that the separation of powers, and even democracy in Greece, are being undermined by government intervention in the judicial system. On 3 January 2019 he said that *“Rule of law in Greece is under threat. Prosecutors involved in Novartis case are publicly threatened by top Minister. ...The next elections will be about the economy, but also the quality of our democracy”*.

From the minority perspective it is possible to say that in Greece “the rule of law” is inaccessible, unthinkable, or even unimaginable. The Greek authorities do not take into consideration the Turkish minority during the legislative process, so the minority policy is not inclusive but entirely exclusive. In September and October 2017, the Greek Parliament voted legislation regarding freedom of association that allowing the reopening of proceedings after the ECtHR decisions. The first attempt in September failed. In the second attempt, admissibility for reopening of the cases was restricted. The Turkish minority associations that are considered to be threat to national security and public order were excluded from the reopening procedure. This was clearly stated during the debates in the parliament. After the adoption of the new law, the Greek authorities expressed that legislation was voted by the 85% of the MPs. However, they did not consider that all four MPs of the Turkish Minority, that is 100%, voted against the law.

Therefore; The Turkish Minority calls upon the OSCE Participating States

- To monitor and identify the problems regarding the rule of law and judicial independence in Greece,
- To encourage the Greek authorities to review her minority policies and to be more inclusive,

Thank you for your attention.

¹ Leader of the New Democracy (ND) Party, Kyriakos Mitsotakis (@kmitsotakis) said in a tweet on 3 January 2019.