

Statement

made by Mr.Zoran Todorov, member of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia,
delivered in exercising the right of reply during the morning session on October 11th
(national minorities)

Mr. Moderator,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia, first and above all, I would like to reiterate what I have already explained the day before yesterday in my reaction to the statement of the distinguished representative of Greece to this meeting.

Even though, in this reaction, I would refer to a document of an organization different from the OSCE – the Council of Europe, in our view, the facts seem self-evident and self explanatory. At least, for all of us gained in this room under the auspices of the OSCE.

Especially when we put the question in the context of international law and obligations of the states parties on particular documents. Let me present the following example:

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe in one of its opinions appeals for more extended application of Article 3 of the Framework Convention advising that this right should not be denied to the citizens of Greece who identify themselves as ethnic Macedonians.

Mr. Moderator,

It is undeniable fact that we face dynamic development of the demography everywhere in the world which means that no country or region is immune to certain changes and fluctuation of the population, which from this perspective brings to certain changes in the structure and the ethnic substance of the population.

In this sense, Greece is not an exception in today's globalized and well connected world of communications. Each denial of those facts is a clear signal of anachronism and lack of sense of adaptability to the new situations, referred exactly in this manner by the relevant international organizations in the context of the undergoing discussions for the new minorities in the European countries.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.