

**THE
CONSTANTINOPOLITAN
SOCIETY
Est. 1928**

GREEKS EXPATRIATED FROM ISTANBUL
BY TURKISH COERCION

Non-Governmental Organization

117 Dimosthenous Str., 176 72 Kallithea
Athens, Greece
Tel.: (+30) 210 951 7072 Fax: (+30) 210 959 8967
e-mail: cpolitan@otenet.gr

OSCE / ODIHR Conference

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,
Warsaw, 28 September 2009 - 9 October 2009

Wednesday, 30 September 2009
Working session 5: Tolerance and non-discrimination I
National minorities

RECOMMENDATIONS

In its E.U. accession process, Turkey has a clear obligation to respect human and minority rights, as it is the case of the Greek Minority, in other words an obligation towards its own citizens. Turkey has also to abide by relevant International Treaties and especially the Lausanne Treaty. The following measures could make a significant contribution to allow Minority to continue its existence and expatriated people to return at their native land.

In light of these obligations, Turkish authorities are invited to:

- take immediate action so as to redress all current injustices and to build, both politically and in daily life, a sense of tolerance and safety within the members of the Minority

- resolve the question of the “mazbut” (occupied) non – Muslim Foundations along with their properties, as well as those properties confiscated since 1974, which must be returned to their owners or to the entitled persons or, where the return of the assets is impossible, to provide for fair compensation. Law 5737/2008 should be improved.
- minority’s new foundations should be set up without any legislative or administrative impediment
- fully implement Law no. 3998, which provides that cemeteries belonging to minority community cannot be handed over to municipalities.
- Minority’s foundations elections should not be subjected to prior authorization by the Istanbul Prefecture.
- Allow without any obstacles the appointment of minority teachers. review the decision-making power of the deputy head in minority schools, and put no limitations or restrictions of students’ registration
- The officially approved schoolbooks in the public educational system should have no references to the Ecumenical Patriarchate that might evoke any hostile impressions against the Patriarchate and the Greek Minority

Turkey is invited to redress all current injustices, provide strong support and take initiatives to facilitate the unhindered return of the expatriated members of the Greek minority of Turkey that have been forced to leave their native land.

There should be also no limitations as far as the acquisition of property is concerned on the part of foreign citizens and last, but certainly not least, Greek citizens succession rights should be fully respected with the view of having them enjoyed the possession of their inherited property.