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الجمعية العامة



مجلس حقوق الإنسان

الدورة الثانية والثلاثون

البند ٣ من جدول الأعمال

تعزيز وحماية جميع حقوق الإنسان، المدنية والسياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية، بما في ذلك الحق في التنمية

مذكرة شفوية مؤرخة ١ تموز/يوليه ٢٠١٦ موجهة من البعثة الدائمة
لليونان لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف إلى مفوضية الأمم
المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان

تُهدي البعثة الدائمة لليونان لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف وسائر المنظمات الدولية في سويسرا تحياتها إلى مفوضية الأمم المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان، وتشرف بأن تقدم طيه تعليقات حكومة اليونان على البيان المكتوب المقدم من "اتحاد أتراك تراقيا الغربية في أوروبا"، وهو منظمة غير حكومية ذات مركز استشاري خاص (A/HRC/32/NGO/74)، إلى مجلس حقوق الإنسان في دورته الثانية والثلاثين في إطار البند ٣ من جدول الأعمال (انظر المرفق).

وترجو البعثة الدائمة لليونان من المفوضية السامية أن تعمّم هذه المذكرة الشفوية والنص المرفق بها* باعتبارهما وثيقة من وثائق الدورة الثانية والثلاثين لمجلس حقوق الإنسان، في إطار البند ٣ من جدول الأعمال.

* يُعمّم كما ورد، وباللغة التي قُدم بها فقط.



الرجاء إعادة الاستعمال

GE.16-12666(A)



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**Annex to the note verbale dated 1 July 2016 from the
Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at
Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Submission by the Permanent Mission of Greece, on the Muslim
Minority in Thrace and Freedom of Association, HRC 32, 1 July 2016**

Greece attaches great importance to implementing coherent, comprehensive, and effective policies that guarantee, inter alia, equality before the law, respect for human rights /religious freedoms and equality of opportunities for all. The same principles and goals apply with reference to the protection of and full respect for the rights of Greek citizens members of the Muslim minority in Thrace. With regard to question of "ethnic self-identification" of the minority, we recall our standing position on the free individual self-identification. Moreover, the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne established the status of the Muslim minority in Thrace/ Greece identifying it on the basis of the only common denominator i.e the Muslim faith of the three -otherwise distinct- groups (Greek citizens of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin) that comprise it. Each of these groups has its own language and cultural traditions/heritage.

With regard to the link between self-identification and the freedom of assembly and association, we would like to underline that over 50 associations which are active among minority members, have been legally registered by the relevant Courts since 2008. The Greek Justice fully complies with the acquis of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments, under the rule of law.

With regard to the references of the shutdown of two "minority associations' annexes" in Komotini, we stress that there were not "annexes", but informal kindergartens, which were operating illegally, housing activities for children of preschool age, with the cover of the activities of that specific minority association and under its auspices. The operation of those kindergartens, which had not applied for a legal permission from the competent authorities, on the one hand goes against the principle of legality. On the other hand, it has put at risk the physical integrity of the children, since there were no guarantees for the rules of establishment, operation and implementation of all appropriate security measures. Although the objective of the Court's decision has been the implementation of the Law and the provision of the appropriate operation measures, the NGO so-called "Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe" attempts to present this issue as a violation of minority rights, thus distorting the true facts.

We would also like to highlight that according to the journalist Mr. Dede, correspondent of the minority newspaper "Trakyanin Sesi", those annexes "were justifiably shut down since there was no official permission".
