



人权理事会

第三十二届会议

议程项目 3

促进和保护所有人权——公民权利、
政治权利、经济、社会和文化权利，包括发展权

希腊常驻联合国日内瓦办事处代表团 2016 年 7 月 1 日致联 合国人权事务高级专员办事处的普通照会

希腊常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织代表团向联合国人权事务高级专员办事处致意，并谨此提供希腊政府对“欧洲西色雷斯土耳其人联合会”（一个具有特殊咨商地位的非政府组织）在人权理事会第三十二届会议议程项目 3 之下提交的书面声明(A/HRC/32/NGO/74)作出的评论(见附件)。

希腊常驻代表团谨请高级专员办事处将本普通照会及其附件^{*}作为人权理事会第三十二届会议议程项目 3 之下的文件分发。

^{*} 附件不译，原文照发。



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".