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Version for UPR Extracnet

**UPR 21<sup>st</sup> Session  
Review of Turkey – 27.01.15  
Intervention by Greece**

Thank you Mr President,

Greece welcomes the Turkish Delegation.

We have the following questions :

How does Turkey evaluate the work insofar of the Reform Action Group, taking into account that efforts to align Turkish legislation with the requirements of the Copenhagen political criteria and the EU acquis are characterized by “sharp contrasts” ? The European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament have all voiced concerns regarding the rule of law reform efforts and respect of fundamental rights in law and the actual situation on the ground in Turkey. We recommend that Turkey address these shortcomings and narrow the existing gap between provisions within the legal framework and its effective implementation

The progress report on Turkey, the December General Affairs Council Conclusions on Enlargement and Association & Stabilisation Process and the European Parliament’s resolution on freedom of expression in Turkey, underline the need for further efforts to be made in the area of rule of law and fundamental rights and their implementation. Greece would like to know what Turkey intends to do in order to proceed with such reforms, in particular : 1) freedom of expression and of the media (European Parliament resolution), 2) rights of women, children and persons belonging to minorities, freedom of religion and property rights, the implementation of all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Council Conclusions para 19) and 3) the development of a strong civil society in Turkey in conjunction with the right of assembly , the right of association and the right of freedom of expression (Commission Progress Report).

We have the following recommendations :

- Comply with the judgments of the ECtHR concerning violations of human rights in the areas of Cyprus which are under effective control of Turkey.
- Comply with the judgments of the ECtHR with regards to the rights of the Greek citizens to inherit immovable property in Turkey
- Comply with relevant international treaties and universal and regional standards protecting and providing for the full enjoyment of the rights of the members of the non-Muslim communities and their institutions,

- End all limitations that preclude participation of non-Muslim Turkish citizens in the organized life of their communities and enjoyment of their cultural and religious heritage – in particular in the fields of education, property, religion and belief ,

- Introduce legislation to allow non-Muslim religious communities to self-govern; the General Directorate of Foundations to end the situation of the two-year regulatory gap and promulgate new electoral regulations so that Turkish citizens, belonging to non-Muslim communities be able to manage their charitable foundations, pursuant to art. 40 of the Treaty of Lausanne.

-Grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate an adequate legal personality, consistent with its ecclesiastical importance, universal mission and spiritual symbolism,

-Take all necessary measures to find a solution to a number of problems the non-Muslim minorities are facing, such as difficulties in training the clergy, caused by the closing of the Halki (Heybeliada) seminary for 44 consecutive years,

-Allow children of Greek citizens working in Istanbul to attend the Greek minority schools as fully-fledged students. So far, only children of the employees of the Consulate of Greece in Istanbul are allowed.

-Reopen –in the forthcoming school year- the Greek minority High School on Imvros (Gokceada) island, thus honouring a long-lasting commitment of the Turkish Government to Greek minority families.

-Adopt appropriate policies that will allow the repatriation of Greeks of Istanbul as well as Imvros (Gokceada) and Tenedos (Bozcaada) islands and take positive legislative measures that will provide for the revitalization of the dwindling Greek communities,

Thank you Mr President