**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**39th SESSION**

**REVIEW OF GREECE**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(1 November 2021)**

Madam President,

Turkey welcomes the Greek Delegation and **recommends** the following:

1) Take necessary steps to recognize the ethnic identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and comply without any further delay with the ECHR judgements of 2008 on 3 Minority associations which were banned because of the words “Turkish” and “Minority in their names.

2) Conduct research about historical mosques in Greece which have been converted into churches through the demolition of their minarets and original architectural structures and revert the holy status of the ones which are currently being used against their original functions and sanctity.

3) Reconsider the demands of the Turkish Muslim communities in Imathis/Alexandria and Thessaloniki to establish their own worshipping places or let the historical mosques in the region to be re-opened for worshipping.

4) Meet the demands of Muslim communities to set up Muslim graveyards in Athens and Thessaloniki.

5) Comply with Article 40 of the Lausanne Peace Treaty by letting the Turkish Muslim Minority to establish and run their own schools, permitting the opening of Turkish-Greek bilingual kindergartens, ending the systematic closing down of the Minority primary schools.

6) Respond to the Minority’s request of enhancing infrastructure and physical capacity of the Minority schools in Western Thrace (among which some urgently need extra facilities to function properly and safely).

7) Take necessary steps to terminate the involvement of the State into religious affairs of the Turkish Muslim Minority such as insisting on appointing or imposing their religious leaders, recognize their elected Muftis.

8) Introduce the necessary conditions for the Turkish Muslim communities in Western Thrace and in the Dodecanese to self-govern their Waqfs’ properties, prevent eradication and liquidation of Waqfs’s properties.

9) Comply with the 2012 decision of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (1867/2012) by setting up a healthy dialogue with the NGOs of the Turkish communities in Rhodes and Kos for the solution of their long-standing problems in the fields of religious freedom and education in their mother tongue.

10) Take necessary steps to protect the human rights and dignity of refugees and put an end to systematic illegal pushbacks in compliance with 1951 Geneva Convention and other international human rights conventions.

Thank you.