



Assemblée générale

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Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme,
civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels,
y compris le droit au développement**

Note verbale datée du 29 mars 2018, adressée au Haut- Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

Note du secrétariat

La Mission permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et, en référence à la communication soumise par l'« ONG » « Fédération des Turcs de Thrace occidentale en Europe » (A/HRC/37/NGO/157), a l'honneur de faire tenir ci-joint sa réponse (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente de la Grèce prie le secrétariat de bien vouloir distribuer le texte de la présente note verbale et de son annexe* comme document de la trente-septième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme.

* L'annexe est reproduite telle quelle, dans la langue originale seulement.



Annex to the note verbale dated 29 March 2018 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

Comments of the Greek Government in relation to the written statement A/HRC/37/NGO/157

It is deplorable that the “NGO” “FWTTE” continues to make biased and inaccurate references to a “Turkish community” in Thrace, thus clearly displaying not only a total ignorance of the international legal order but also lack of good faith on minority issues. It is in fact not the Greek Authorities but the 1923 Lausanne Peace Treaty, to which Greece fully abides by, that officially recognizes a Muslim minority in Thrace, not a Turkish one.

Greece fully respects international law, fundamental human rights, as well as minority rights and religious freedoms, a commitment carried out by both the State and civil society.

We have proven time and again our unwavering dedication to addressing issues pertaining to the Greek citizens that are members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, with full respect to the principle of equality and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1923 Lausanne Peace Treaty, the Greek Constitution and the religious and cultural background of the minority.

Furthermore, rule of law and freedom of association are fundamental principles of the Greek legal order, and as such apply to all citizens without any ethnic, cultural or religious discrimination, in compliance with the existing national and international legal frameworks. The Greek citizens belonging to the Muslim minority in Thrace are considered equals before the law and are treated as such.

The progress that Greece has achieved towards the full implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the recommendations of the Council of Europe, is clear for all to see. The recent amendment of our Code of Civil Procedure, with the adoption of Law 4491/2017 is evidence that we keep addressing any issues which the muslim minority might have.

With regard to specific cases mentioned by the “NGO” “FWTTE”, we note that it falls within the discretion of the associations in question to pursue any legal action pertaining to the recognition of their legal status before a domestic court or before the European Court of Human Rights.

Greece, for its part, will continue to step up its efforts in pursuing comprehensive minority policies for the Muslim minority of Thrace.
