



Assemblée générale

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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Vingt et unième session

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 24 septembre 2012, 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 et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse

La Mission permanente de la Grèce auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint les observations formulées par le Gouvernement grec au sujet de la déclaration écrite (A/HRC/21/NGO/74) présentée au Conseil des droits de l'homme au titre du point 3 de l'ordre du jour de la vingt et unième session du Conseil*, par la «Fédération des Turcs de Thrace occidentale en Europe», organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial.

La Mission permanente de la Grèce saurait gré au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme de faire distribuer le texte ci-joint en tant que document de la vingt et unième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 3 de l'ordre du jour.

* L'annexe est reproduite telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.

Annexe

[English only]

The Greek region of Thrace has always been a place of harmonious coexistence between Christians and Muslims. All citizens, irrespectively of their religious beliefs or cultural backgrounds, enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations, without any discrimination. Religious freedoms, human and minority rights are fully respected and protected by the highest international standards.

There were very few isolated incidents in Thrace this year, as indicated in the written statement of the NGO "ABTTF", which could be seen as acts of intolerance. These sporadic incidents are regrettable and have been condemned in the strongest terms.

The authorities, the local society and the overwhelming majority of the Greek people disapprove and reject similar acts, considering them as direct attacks to our democratic principles, institutions and values.

It should be noted that when incidents involving members of the Muslim minority occur, these are dealt with the required sensitivity, in full compliance with the relevant Greek legislation and in accordance with international standards. This was also the case with the incidents in question. The competent authorities reacted swiftly and effectively, restoring order and tranquility, and thus preventing possible escalation. Necessary Investigations were duly launched by the police.

No modern society is totally free from acts of violence and hate crimes. Nevertheless, attempts to present isolated incidents as "*part of a broader pattern of growing intolerance and an increasing trend of hate crimes against persons, properties and places of worship belonging to the members of the Muslim minority in Thrace*" are misleading, distorting reality.

Greece remains committed to safeguarding all human rights and fundamental freedoms of every individual. The efforts of the Greek authorities have intensified regarding the fight against incidents of intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes of any form.
