



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

30º período de sesiones

Tema 3 de la agenda

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos,
civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales,
incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

Nota verbal de fecha 2 de octubre de 2015 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza

La Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales con sede en Suiza saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitir adjuntas las observaciones del Gobierno de Grecia en relación con la declaración escrita (A/HRC/30/NGO/95) presentada por la “Federación Europea de Turcos de Tracia Occidental”, una organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad de carácter consultivo especial, al Consejo de Derechos Humanos en su 30º período de sesiones en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda (véase el anexo).

La Misión Permanente de Grecia ruega a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que tenga a bien distribuir la presente nota y el texto adjunto* como documento del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce en el anexo tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Muslims on Rhodes/Kos

Greek citizens of Muslim faith residing on Rhodes and Kos enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations as all Greek citizens. No Treaty or other international instrument designates them as minority. Nevertheless, their religious and cultural rights are fully respected. Greece regrets the fact that unsubstantiated allegations with regard to their rights and status are promoted within international organisations, such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Human Rights Council.

The Greek State reinstates Greek citizenship to those people who were deprived of it in the past, according to the, currently revoked, Art. 19 of the Citizenship Code. The interested persons may apply to the competent Greek authorities and applications are examined individually based upon the relevant provisions of the Citizenship Code.

With regard to the teaching of Turkish, it is to be noted that despite the fact that there were lessons provided by the Association “Brotherhood”¹ on Kos, they have been suspended, due to low attendance. At the moment, Turkish language, among others, is provided by a learning institution for foreign languages in Kos, and here again only 10 students are following the lessons.

On Rhodes, there are 6 mosques, including Ibrahim Pasa Mosque, which fully covers the religious needs of the limited muslim population on the island. Similarly, there are 2 mosques operating on Kos (Gasi Hasan and Defterdar) for the religious needs of the muslim population of the island. On both islands, Muslim citizens enjoy full support of their rights and have their own associations, cemeteries and libraries.

Historical monuments belong to the State, as a general rule all around the world, given that they constitute part of its national cultural heritage, and, in some cases, part of the world cultural heritage. Despite the current dire financial situation, the Greek State has spent more than 26 million euros, within the last few years, for the restoration of Ottoman or other muslim monuments, thus stressing the importance given to cultural heritage monuments in Greece.

The information provided about the muslim foundations is entirely preposterous: there was neither such a regulation-called “Katalipsis”, nor the rest of the facts stated in the FUEN-document are accurate. As far as the registration of real estate property to the Cadastre Office is concerned, there is no different practice or legislation than the one in force for all Greek citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion or other discrimination.

Who pays for the minority schools?

According to data provided by the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace, during the financial year 2013, EUR 18,571,629.53 was spent for the operation of Minority schools in Thrace. EUR 17,963,686 was allocated for teacher salaries and EUR 607,943.53 was paid by the State for operational expenditures of schools. Payment of such considerable amounts of money, particularly in this economic juncture, requires reforms for more rational and effective utilization of this significant investment for the benefit of students attending Minority schools.

Salaries of teachers in the sector of the Greek-language program (both, in elementary and in the two minority secondary schools) have always been charged to the national budget and not to the Muslim communities.

Statistical data for minority schools

The tables below give an overview of the Minority education during school years 2013-14 and 2014-15:

A. Number of Schools by Level of Education

| Region | Elementary Schools | | Middle Schools- High Schools | | Medresses | |
|--------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|-----------|------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Xanthi | 52 | 49 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Rodopi | 92 | 83 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Evros | 15 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 159 | 146 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

B. Number of students

B1. School Year 2013-2014

| Region | Elementary Schools | | Middle Schools- High Schools | | Medresses | |
|--------|--------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Rodopi | 1.397 | 1.305 | 328 | 366 | 157 | 127 |
| Xanthi | 1.345 | 1.315 | 225 | 309 | 23 | 16 |
| Evros | 211 | 207 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2.953 | 2.827 | 553 | 675 | 180 | 143 |
| | | 5.780 | | 1.228 | | 323 |

B2. School Year 2014-2015

| Region | Elementary Schools | | Middle Schools- High Schools | | Medresses | |
|--------|--------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Rodopi | 1.358 | 1.248 | 360 | 417 | 158 | 117 |
| Xanthi | 1.353 | 1.279 | 248 | 324 | 20 | 23 |
| Evros | 210 | 205 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2.921 | 2.732 | 608 | 741 | 178 | 140 |
| | | 5.653 | | 1349 | | 318 |

C. Number of teachers in minority primary schools

| | Elementary school teachers | | Elementary school substitute teachers | | Graduates of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki | | Graduates of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki (substitutes) | | English teachers | | P.E. Teachers | |
|--------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|--|------|--|------|------------------|------|---------------|------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Rcdcp: | 160 | 162 | 7 | 10 | 137 | 140 | 25 | 29 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| Xanthi | 136 | 147 | 4 | 5 | 111 | 110 | 31 | 28 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 14 |
| Evros | 28 | 20 | 1 | 9 | 26 | 24 | 5 | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 324 | 329 | 13 | 24 | 274 | 274 | 61 | 61 | 30 | 25 | 29 | 22 |

D. Number of teachers in minority schools of secondary education

| | <i>Number of Teachers</i> | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | Greek-Language Program | | Minority Program | |
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Medresses | 26 | 23 | 9 | 9 |
| Minority Middle Schools- Minority High Schools | 29 | 36 | 35 | 37 |

Establishing and operating minority middle schools and high schools is not part of the obligations established by the Lausanne Peace Treaty.

Law 4310/2014 was the result of a lengthy consultation with members and representatives of the minority as well as the majority. The Association of Graduates of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki for the regional units of Rodopi and Evros states in their letter (ref.num. 14/18-02-2015) addressed to the Minister of Education: ".We are puzzled indeed and the whole of the Minority is puzzled about the purpose and the content of this document (i.e. the document of the Association of Graduates of the Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki for the regional unit of Xanthi denouncing Law 4310/2014), since as we have officially set out to you in a previous document, the changes that have occurred in the minority education have the universal acceptance of the Minority. The provisions of the amendment have been our long-standing demands and we therefore thank the Greek State for responding for the first time in a serious manner and with an honest intention to provide equal rights and equality before the law by intergrading teachers-members of the minority in the system of Education Management. It is worth asking who are those who speak on behalf of the Minority and why, opening discussions which damage the interests of the minority education presenting themselves as arbiters of issues and situations that have resolved continuing institutional problems of education".

By law 4301/2014 the Supervisory Board for Medresses in Thrace is established. Three Muftis of Thrace (one of whom shall be appointed as President) and three Muslim Theologians will participate in this institution which shall set out all issues regarding the religious education of the Muslim minority. Law 4310/2014 has established for the first time two posts of Educational Counselors for the minority program in which solely members of the minority shall be appointed. Thus, an institution aiming to support scientifically and pedagogically the minority program of minority schools is established, in line with the public education.