

FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES

8TH SESSION 24-25 NOVEMBER 2015

ITEM 5- INTERVENTION BY GREECE

Thank you Mr Chair,

Greece aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union on previous items.

We appreciate the discussion under this agenda item on addressing the root causes of discrimination in the administration of justice. In our view, the identification of root causes is crucial for the development and implementation of effective strategies to combat this kind of discrimination.

As to best practices, Greece is pursuing and enhancing inclusive policies and positive measures in favour of Greek citizens, members of the Muslim minority in Thrace. These policies aim at deepening its integration –social, economic, political-at all levels, local regional and national.

The national judiciary system promotes tolerance and frowns upon any form of discrimination. Minority members face equal treatment with all Greek nationals, in the Greek criminal justice system and they fully enjoy all legal rights as anyone else.

We fully agree with previous speakers from the Panel on the importance of removing obstacles for persons belonging to minorities entering public administration including law enforcement agencies. In this regard we would like to stress that a 0,5% quota is reserved to Greek citizens of Muslim faith from Thrace in the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection which includes law enforcement personnel.

Finally as to the issue raised earlier on registration of certain associations in Greece following decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, we would like to inform the audience that there has been a new recourse on this matter to the same Court by the same associations and the decision of the Court is expected to be delivered in the near future. In the meantime, since the previous decisions in 2008, the Greek Courts respect the spirit of those decisions and have registered more than 50 minority associations.

Thank you Mr Chair