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Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN

## FUEN member Turkic organizations are at the OSCE 18/09/2017

Turkic organizations, which are members of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) participated at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting organized in Warsaw, Poland. Western Thrace Turks, Rhodes-Kos Turks, Ahıska Turks and Crimean



Tatars who are member of FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) and Kosovo Turks which is not yet a member of FUEN but attended at the FUEN TAG Annual Meeting in 2016 participated at the OSCE meeting, which is the largest conference in Europe in the field of human rights and democracy.



At the meeting while Western Thrace Turks were represented by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) and Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA), Rhodes-Kos Turks by Rhodes, Kos and Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROİSDER), Ahıska Turks by International Society of Meskhetian Turks VATAN and Crimean Tatars by Crimean Tatars Community, Kosovo Turks by the Kosovo Youth Union which FUEN Vice-President Halit Habip Ođlu visited in April 2017, attended

the OSCE meeting for the first time. FUEN member organizations that participated at the meeting raised the significant problems they encounter in their countries during the speeches they delivered at the meeting.

## **Western Thrace Turks and Rhodes-Kos Turks raised the problems they face in Greece**

Western Thrace Turks and Rhodes-Kos Turks with many speeches they made in different sessions of the meeting criticized the minority policy of Greece. On behalf of Western Thrace Turks, ABTTF and WTMUGA, along with the problems of Western Thrace Turks in the field of education and religion articulated the hatred discourse and hate-motivated attacks against Western Thrace Turks covered in Greek media which is one of the prominent headings of the meeting about hate discourse and hate crimes.



And ROİSDER stated that Turkish community living in Rhodes and Kos are recognized as “Greek Muslims” not as “Turks” and these Turks living on those islands are subjected to discrimination. ROİSDER criticized that cultural heritage left from the Ottoman Empire on the islands are not protected and indicated recently that Murat Reis Complex was closed down.



## **Crimean Tatars brought up political detentions and torture in Crimea under invasion of Russia to the agenda**

Crimean Tatars Community brought up the problem of political detentions and missings regarding the Crimean Tatars in Crimea under invasion of the Russian Federation to the agenda. And they informed that Renat Paramalov, a Crimean young person was recently detained and tortured by the Russian FSB in Crimea

## **Ahiska Turks told about the problems on the repatriation to their homeland in Georgia**

International Society of Meskhetian Turks VATAN told about their problems on the repatriation process to their homeland in Georgia.