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Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN

FUEN brought non-diplomatic language of Greece to the UN ziyaret 26/06/2017

Federal Union of European Nations (FUEN) presented a written statement at the 35th Session of UN Human Rights Council held in Geneva on 6-23 June 2017 and criticized the tone of the response of Greece to two written statements related to the problems of the Western Thrace Turks and the Turks in Rhodes and Kos presented in the previous session by FUEN. In the 34th session held in March, Greece against diplomatic practices used a rude, derogatory and slanderous tone as a response to FUEN that brought the problems of the Western Thrace Turks and Turks in Rhodes and Kos on the agenda.

FUEN in its written statement at the 35th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council reminded that the problems related to the Western Thrace Turks and Turks in Rhodes and Kos mentioned in the two written statements presented in the previous session are based on the observations of FUEN in the region and the information provided by the organizations representing these two minority groups. FUEN stated that Greece in its three responses it gave to FUEN, had used a language not complying with the UN standards and it is unacceptable that Greece accuses FUEN for being a governmental NGO serving for Turkish foreign policy. FUEN criticized Greece for targeting Loránt Vincze, President of FUEN and Halit Habip Ođlu, Vice President of FUEN and using indecent and slanderous language and showed as an example the case of Greece claiming that Vice President of FUEN Halit Habip Ođlu defends the Turkish foreign policy and FUEN exploits Greek citizens of Muslim faith. FUEN stated that expression of "iron ball on the feet of FUEN" referring to Halit Habip Ođlu, Vice President of FUEN by Greece cannot be accepted by FUEN and this non-diplomatic tone should be condemned by all UN Human Rights Council.

FUEN underlined that FUEN is an independent civil society organization which represents the interests of the European minorities at regional, national, European and international level and expressed that FUEN pays significant importance to small minority groups and endangered linguistic groups. The organization noted that one of the few options for representation of interests of these small groups including the Western Thrace Turks and Turks in Rhodes and

United Nations

A/HRC/35/NGO/35



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 May 2017
English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth session
6-23 June 2017
Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

**Written statement* submitted by the Federal Union of
European Nationalities, a non-governmental organization in
special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in
accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 May 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Kos at European and international level is FUEN and stated Halit Habip Ođlu, Vice President of FUEN and President of the Federation of the Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) has been a strong advocate of the Western Thrace Turks for more than 20 years and criticized indecent statements about Halit Habip Ođlu.

FUEN responded to allegations of Greece regarding registry process of three Pomak organizations which made application for membership and FUEN explained that these three organizations made their applications to FUEN through Chief Consulate of Greece in Hamburg which is not a frequent situation however FUEN has contacted with these organizations, informed these organizations about membership process and conditions, but these organizations could not complete the necessary documents for membership application.

FUEN stated that one of the fundamental objectives of FUEN is to promote the dialogue between majority and minorities and expressed for a dialogue to be formed there is a need for two parties ready to listen the other party. FUEN noted that states need to listen to the groups in need otherwise there would be disappointments and disagreements between the majority and minorities and expressed this is the situation between Greece and the Western Thrace Turks and Turks in Rhodes and Kos.

FUEN responded to the claim of FUEN not having paid attention to the rights of Orthodox Greek minority in Turkey during the tenure of Loránt Vincze and stated that Vincze articulated explicitly the deficiencies in minority policy of Turkey at the conference he participated in Athens upon the invitation of Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans (Ec.Fe.Con) in September 2016.

FUEN indicating that new ways should be sought for cooperation and dialogue based on the lessons learned from history stated the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are the two important tools in this field however Greece approves neither of them. Lastly FUEN implied it will continue utilizing all kinds of opportunities to make heard the problems of minority groups which are the members of FUEN and underpinned the EU, European Council, OSCE and the UN will sustain their efforts for resolving the problems of national minorities.

You may access the complete written statement of FUEN presented at the UN Human Rights Council 35th Session at the link

<http://daccessods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/HRC/35/NGO/35&Lang=E>.