

Motions

Motion number	1
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Tsigdem Asafoglou
Member party	Dostluk-Eşitlik-Barış Partisi
Title (of the Motion)	The EU must be a democracy project that includes all its citizens. Since the 1980s, when Greece stepped into the EU project, the Turkish minority in Western Thrace has been systematically excluded from democratic practices.
Campaign topic	Democracy for all
<p>A) Although Greece claims that all issues regarding the Turkish Minority are in order, democracy and rule of law are unaccounted for the Turkish minority when it comes to freedom of association, assembly, expression and fundamental freedoms. ECHR decisions on the Turkish Associations-known as Bekir-Ousta Group of Cases have not been implemented since 2008. European Parliament expressed severe concerns about very serious threats to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in Greece with its resolution of 7 February 2024. It is noteworthy that DEB Partisi/FEPP, Turkish minority representatives, human rights defenders expressing rights violations, injustices, social and economic problems of the minority are targeted and demonized by Greek local press and Greek authorities. Minister of Citizen Protection of Greece defined the DEB Partisi/FEPP as fanatic and marginal in January 2024, upon a Parliamentary Question directed to him regarding the attendance of DEB Partisi/FEPP to the conference held by United Macedonian Diaspora on the theme the problems of minorities in Greece.</p> <p>B) Qualified education is a fundamental right, prerequisite for democracy and well-being that must be enjoyed by all citizens of the EU. The Turkish minority education is far away from the EU standards in terms of quality and infrastructure, despite the fact that Greece is financially supported with millions of Euros by the EU in this area. Greek governments violated the Lausanne Peace Treaty by undermining the autonomous structure and quality of Turkish-Greek bilingual minority education. Additionally, throughout the last two decades, more than 150 minority schools were shut down by Greek governments. Greece considers it appropriate for the Turkish minority to receive education in unhealthy and inhumane conditions, in violation of the EU legislation.</p> <p>C) Since the 1990s, the political representation of the minority in Athens has been carried out by minority members elected from mainstream parties due to the 3% undemocratic national threshold applied to parties and independent candidates. Greek government openly criminalized democratic choice of the Turkish minority during the</p>	

national-election period of May-June 2024. Tired of economic, social and authoritarian minority policy of the government the Turkish minority voted minority MP candidates from then main opposition party SYRIZA. Upon this democratic choice of the minority, Ms. Bakogianni, who threatened the Turkish minority by stating “if the minority does not vote the ND, things will be very difficult for it”. In addition, Mr. Mitsotakis the Prime Minister of Greece demanded that the minority MP candidates declare that they are not representing the “Turkish minority”. Both instances exemplify authoritarian tendencies against the Turkish minority in addition to long lasting intolerant, national anti-minority policies of Greek governments.

Therefore our Party declares that:

- A) Greece must respect the Rule of Law in terms of execution of ECHR decisions regarding Turkish Associations. Greece must cease demonizing/marginalizing the Turkish identity and representatives of the Turkish minority.
- B) Greece must cease discrimination against the minority in terms of a qualified education. Greece must respect provisions of the Lausanne Peace Treaty regarding autonomous structure of the minority education. Greece must conform to EU legislation regarding physical conditions of the minority schools.
- C) The EU does not need more authoritarian member states/governments. The EU must be voice of all its people. Anti-democratic electoral thresholds should therefore be abolished, such as the 3% barrier hindering the Turkish minority’s independent representation in Greek Parliament and European Parliament must be abolished. “Secured seats-special quotas” must be provided by the EU for minority parties in the European Parliament, to make democracy of the EU for all.

Please see Article 7 of EFA's [Rules of Internal Order](#) for full details regarding motions.