

27 October 2008

Protection of human and minority rights of the indigenous Greek population of the islands Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos)

On 27 June 2008 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted Resolution 1625 (2008) 'Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos): preserving the bicultural character of the two Turkish islands as a model for cooperation between Turkey and Greece in the interest of the people concerned'. In this Resolution, PACE considers that 'a positive attitude towards the ethnic Greek islanders and their descendants would also be an excellent example of Turkey's willingness to embrace European values of good neighbourliness'. It also signals the urgent need for the adoption of 'positive measures in order to stem or, at least partly, reverse the departure of the ethnic Greek population so that the bicultural character of the islands can be sustainably preserved' and proposes a number of specific measures to this effect.

Whereas the European Union institutions have to maintain a close cooperation with the Council of Europe on matters concerning protection of human and minority rights, the following questions are addressed to the Commission in the framework of the evaluation of Turkey's accession process: – Which form of cooperation does the European Commission intend to have with the Council of Europe for preserving the bicultural character of the islands Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos) and supporting their indigenous Greek population?

– What sort of action does the European Commission intend to take, in the context of Turkey's course towards accession, for making the most out of the content of the text and for monitoring the implementation of the measures proposed by the Resolution?

Answer:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2008-5765&language=EN>