

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3031/05
by Antonis Samaras (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Right of EU nationals to enrol in Greek schools in Turkey

Nationals of the Hellenic Republic who go to Istanbul to work do not have the right to enrol their children in Greek private schools in Turkey (for primary and secondary education) because the Turkish authorities do not grant them authorisation. The workers concerned either do not take their families with them or are forced to enrol their children in schools where they are not taught their mother tongue. At the same time, the Greek schools are operating below capacity with a minimal number of pupils following the departure of most of the Greek minority in response to persecution by the Turkish State.

1. Has the Commission raised, or does it intend to raise immediately, in the EU's dialogue with Turkey the question of the freedom to enrol pupils who are EU nationals in Greek private schools for primary and secondary education in Turkey?
2. What measures will the Commission take to persuade the Turkish authorities to put an end to this practice, which prevents EU nationals from setting up and working in Turkey?