

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3032/05
by Antonis Samaras (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Property rights of minorities living in Turkey

Despite the hopes of the Greek minority in Istanbul and the Ecumenical Patriarchate that the Turkish authorities will begin to return the properties which they have systematically confiscated since 1923, Turkey's Directorate-General for Foundations (Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü) has continued to sell off the remaining Greek properties. Over the last few weeks it has endeavoured to finalize the confiscation of the School of the Community of Agios Giorgios Antiphonitis which belongs to the pious foundation of the Virgin of Mouchlio in Fanari and two properties belonging to the pious foundation of Balouklis.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What steps does it intend to take vis-à-vis the Turkish government so that the Directorate-General for Foundations ceases to confiscate properties belonging to minorities?
2. How will it ensure the restitution of the property rights of minorities living in Turkey, given that existing regulations perpetuate the violations committed and Turkey does not show any inclination to meet its obligations?