

**Question for written answer E-001593/2021/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Loránt Vincze (PPE)**

**Subject:** Promotion of human rights through the EU's external action programmes – the case of Istanbul's Greek Orthodox minority

The Greek Orthodox minority of Istanbul is presently living as an expatriate community; 98 % of the community lives outside of Turkey instead of their native city of Istanbul. This religious minority's population in Istanbul has been depleted against its wishes, dramatically declining to 1 200 people over the last few decades.

The Commission confirmed that 'the promotion and consolidation of human rights in the EU's external action is an obligation under the Lisbon Treaty' and underlined that the EU 'calls on all states to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of persons belonging to minorities'<sup>1</sup>.

1. Taking UN Resolution 60/147 concerning the remedies and reparations to victim communities into account, should the survival of this minority be considered a human rights issue?
2. Would the VP/HR agree that it is imperative to support community revitalisation, including the repatriation of young members of the expatriate community, in order to prevent the total disappearance of this minority?
3. Would he consider taking action in the framework of its external policies to ensure the protection of this minority, and could such action serve as a good example for similar cases?

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<sup>1</sup> Answer of 9 February 2021 given by Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell on behalf of the Commission to written question P-006618/2020.