

Question for written answer E-001964/2023/rev.1

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Ethiopia's deplorable actions against the local Greek community

The Greek community in Addis Ababa has reported a coordinated effort by the Ethiopian government to seize the local Greek school.

The Greek community of Addis Ababa was founded in 1910 and it established a primary school with donations from the city's Greek residents. In 1950 it established a high school comprising six year groups. Greek residents gave every last penny they had to help purchase the land on which the Greek school was built, while the school buildings, including the community's boarding house, were built with donations from prominent Greek benefactors from Addis Ababa. The school is now English speaking and with its 1 400 pupils, including 20 Greeks, it is one of the largest educational establishments in the country.

The deplorable actions the Ethiopian government took to appropriate the local Greek school by making arbitrary changes to the board of directors, whose members are Greek, drove the Greek community to seek legal assistance and the case is currently pending. Following these attempts, armed police officers stormed the school complex and threatened the Greek ambassador.

In view of this:

1. Has the Vice-President / High Representative been informed about what has been going on in Addis Ababa?
2. What action will he take to prevent the Ethiopian government from appropriating the local Greek school complex, which was purchased by and is the property of the Greek community?

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