

**Question for written answer E-001018/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Greek ethnic minority in Istanbul

On 16 March 1964, Türkiye violated the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne by expelling the Greek population from Istanbul. Under the treaty, all members of the Greek ethnic minority who were permanent residents on 30 October 1918 had the right to remain as *établis*. However, Türkiye, a founding member of the UN and a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights (Rome, 1950), failed to honour its promise to protect the rights of the Greek minority in Istanbul. The expelled were treated as enemies of the state and their properties confiscated until 1987 when Türkiye's candidacy for EU membership forced Turgut Özal's government to lift this measure.

The Greek minority has dwindled from 125 000 people in 1923 to fewer than 1 000 people today, most of whom are aged over 60, live outside the city (99 %) and endure repressive measures and the confiscation of property belonging to charitable foundations and private individuals. With the expulsions of 1964-1965 the minority population dropped to 30 000 people and in 10 years it will drop even further to just a few hundred.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. In the context of Türkiye's accession path, will the issue of the Greek ethnic minority be put on the table?
2. Will it raise the issue of the violations made against the charitable foundations of the Greek ethnic minority in Istanbul?

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