

**Statement of the  
ECUMENICAL FEDERATION OF CONSTANTINOPOLITANS**

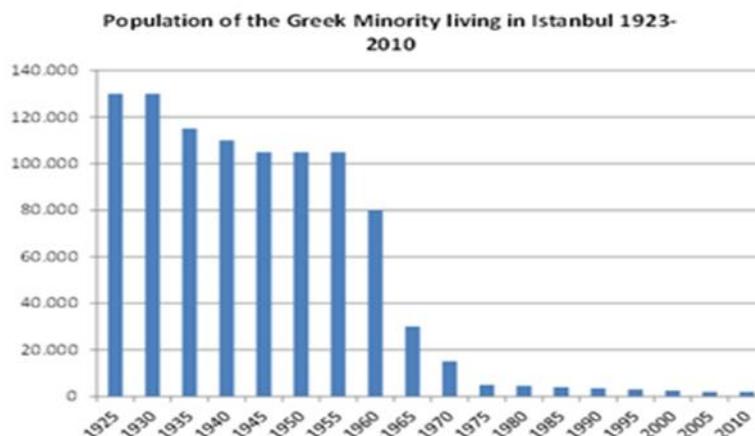
**(Ec.Fe.Con)**

**At the FUEN Annual Conference 2013 at Brixon-Italy**

**Requests of the Expatriated Autochthonous Minority Greek-Orthodox Community from the  
Turkish State**



The historic minority community of Istanbul presently is living as an expatriated community, up to 98% of its member in various countries of the world as a result of the persecutions and anti-minority measures that were exercised after the Treaty of Lausanne (1923). The most severe violations were: (a) the mobilization to work battalions of 18-45 aged minority men in 1941, (b) the “welfare tax” of 1942-44 aiming the economic destruction of minorities, (c) the massive scale Pogrom of the 6-7 September 1955 in Istanbul especially against the religious institutions, (d) the forced deportation of members of the Greek Community of Istanbul holding the Etablis status according to Lausanne Treaty. All these despite the fact the Republic of Turkey endorsed the European Convention of Human Rights as early as 1954. The total population of the Greek Communities within Turkey being 135.000 in the year 1923 presently is approximately 3.000 in total. Only recently the Government of Republic of Turkey accepted to start discussions on the subject of remedy and reparation with the Ec.Fe.Con.



Following the two years discussions with Turkish officials which started in May 2010, Ec.Fe.Con submitted to the Government of Turkey specific proposals in September 2012. These proposals are focused on the issues:

- Restitution of citizenship to the members of Greek Minority of Istanbul which was taken off in the aim to reduce the population of the Minority.
- Legal support to reclaim the property rights in Istanbul.
- Respect the religious, educational and minority rights of the Greek Community of Istanbul such as the abolishment of the prohibition of the operation of the Chalki Theological School, return of the Minority welfare foundation properties and support to Minority education.
- Formulation and implementation of a Project to support the repatriation of members of the Minority with emphasis on young generation.
- Return of the books and archive of the famous Greek Literary Society of Istanbul to a Minority Foundation in Istanbul.
- Cooperation on the establishment of research centers and institutions in Istanbul with the active support of expatriated Greek scientists of Istanbul.

There has been no response to these proposals up to now. The Ec.Fe.Con is expecting a sincere and open minded response from the Government of Turkey in the framework of its Constitutions, Laws and the International Treaties signed by her.

The Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations 60/147 on the “Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law” as well as the unanimous Resolution of the FUEN General Assembly on 19 May 2012 in Moscow after the proposal of Ec.Fe.Con. is a valuable guide to the issue of remedy and reparations towards the Greek Community of Istanbul.