

INTERVENTION BY GREECE DECEMBER 15TH, 2010

DISCRIMINATION AND POSITIVE MEASURES / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(statement delivered by Mrs. Fotini Sianou, Representative of
Greece to the UN on Gender Equality)

1. The State approach to minority issues, the State perspective is very important. Legislation and recognition are key issues; and still they are the starting points.
2. In order to reinforce and implement legislation in the daily lives of citizens and to ensure equality, in the process and in the outcome, special policies are required to overcome obstacles (stereotypes, labeling, traditional practices). These special measures and policies are the preconditions to substantive equality for all.
3. The muslim minority in Greece has the right to self identification on the basis of ethnic origin (Turkish, Pomak, Roma). The right to speak their own languages. The right to perform their religious and traditional duties. The right of political participation on the local and the national level.
4. Greek legislation entails special policies and measures of affirmative action. In the critical area of education: 242 minority primary schools are operating in Thrace where the Greek and the Turkish languages are taught. 400 minority educators. 2 minority high schools. 2 minority upper secondary high schools, 2 religious schools.
5. Law 2413/96 introduces intercultural education in the schooling system and this legislation became the legal basis for the implementation of programmes that have made a difference especially in the lives of the minority youth and in the lives of women.
6. Of utmost importance is the issue of the language upon which Thalia Dragona deliberated yesterday, the introduction of the Turkish language into the public education system in Thrace.
7. The 0.5 percent quota for students into universities and higher technical education.
8. In the area of employment

0.5 permil employment in public administration

Ministry of Labour policies integrating special measures for the most vulnerable

Regional Development Programme for Eastern Macedonia and Thrace and of the remote mountain villages in this area, benefiting all citizens equally.

The National Mechanism for Gender Equality established a special pillar for projects to be submitted by NGOs under the title of gender equality and the empowerment of women facing multiple discrimination.