The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), adopts at its meeting in Eisenstadt/Željezno, Austria of 3 June 2011 the following resolution,

submitted by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe and Western Thrace Minority Graduates Association:

Former Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code (Legislative Decree (Law) 3370/1955) (applied from 1955 until 1998) provided for the denationalisation of ‘citizens of different [non-Greek] descent’ (‘alloyenis’, as opposed to ‘omoyenis’, that is, ‘of the same [Greek] descent’) who left Greece ‘with no intent to return’. According to the reply by the Greek Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Order to the notice of question asked by İhan Ahmet in May 2005, MP for Rodopi in the Greek Parliament, 46,638 Turks (Muslims) in Western Thrace and the Island of Rhodes (Dodecanese Islands) were deprived of citizenship until 1998.

- Recalling the Greek Constitution that all Greeks are equal before the law and that all persons possessing the qualifications for citizenship as specified by law are Greek citizens.
- Recalling the Greek Constitution that withdrawal of Greek citizenship shall be permitted only in case of voluntary acquisition of another citizenship or of undertaking service contrary to national interests in a foreign country, under the conditions and procedures more specifically provided by law.
- Reminding that former Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code was in contradiction to, inter alia, the Article 12, paragraph 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by Greece by Law 2462/1997) which provides that ‘No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country’, as well as to the Article 3, paragraph 2 of the Fourth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (this Protocol has not as yet been ratified by Greece) which provides that ‘No one shall be deprived of the right to enter the territory of the State of which he is a national’.

FUEN calls upon the Greek State to:

- Take steps to ensure the immediate rectification of the unfortunate consequences arising from deprivation of Greek citizenship on the basis of former Article 19 of the Citizenship Code for all persons concerned, although they no longer live in Greece, even they have acquired citizenship of another country. In particular, Greece should genuinely facilitate these persons’ recovery of their citizenship by removing any obstacle, including the need for them to go through the naturalisation procedure.
- Establish without any delay the Citizenship Committee to inspect the pending applications of the persons belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace who lost their Greek citizenship under former Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code.
- Resolve immediately the cases of the persons still affected by the withdrawal of their Greek nationality in pursuance of Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code including the persons who became stateless in application of the said article although they no longer live in Greece, and provide special care to any of these stateless persons in Greece, who are elderly and/or with limited financial means to cover welfare and medical services of which they are in need.