

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003185/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(6 August 2025)**

Subject: Defending the integrity of Thrace

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused (28/06/2025) Greece of ‘violating the rights and freedoms of the Muslim minority of Thrace’. ⁽¹⁾

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within the framework of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, has repeatedly claimed that the ‘Turkish minority of Thrace’ is ‘deprived of fundamental rights’. ⁽²⁾

The so-called ‘Association of Turkish Women of Xanthi’ and the KIEF party state that they are ‘under pressure and being targeted because they proclaim Turkish identity’, ⁽³⁾ a fact that Türkiye finances and uses to claim that it fulfils the role of ‘protector of the Turks of Thrace’.

There are well-established indications of organised, settlement-type acquisition of real estate in Thrace by Turkish investors, through shadow companies and Golden Visas, with institutional interventions by Greek authorities.

The overseas funding of the Presidency of Religious Affairs (DIYANET) in Thrace specifically pays 3 500 to 4 000 people. Approximately 1 234 people in Xanthi alone are allegedly paid illegally by the Turkish consulate.

DIYANET is accused of clandestine actions and the recruitment of imams internationally as informants, with activity especially against dissidents of Erdoğan. It is accused of manipulating the Turkish diaspora in Europe, promoting Ankara's political agenda and violating religious neutrality (DITIB). Germany, the Netherlands and Austria have limited their cooperation with DIYANET, citing a lack of independence and risks to social cohesion.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission recognise the organised Turkish plan to ‘Turkify’ Thrace?
2. The Greeks, in the spirit of justice, want to link Turkish provocations with immediate and effective common European sanctions. How could this plan be developed?

Submitted: 6.8.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(10 October 2025)**

The EU has recurrently underlined its strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

The EU remains vigilant to any analogous attempts to influence through covert funding. The EU Security Union Strategy ⁽¹⁾ recognises ‘hybrid threats’ as including a mixture of coercive and subversive activity by state or non-state actors aimed at influencing public opinion and policy. This encompasses illicit streams of funding, political corruption and manipulation of diaspora networks to sway decision-making both inside and outside the EU.

¹ <https://www.capital.gr/diethni/3927171/gia-parabiaseis-ton-dikaionaton-tis-tourkikis-meionotitas-se-thraki-kai-dodekanisa-mila-o-x-fintan/>

² <https://www.liberal.gr/amyna-diplomatia/thema-toyrkikis-meionotitas-sti-thraki-proothei-i-toyrkia-kai-stin-islamiki>

³ <https://www.liberal.gr/amyna-diplomatia/thema-toyrkikis-meionotitas-sti-thraki-proothei-i-toyrkia-kai-stin-islamiki>

⁽¹⁾ COM(2020)605 final.