

RESOLUTION 2016-05

Resolution on the failure to fulfil the obligation imposed by the Council of Europe in relation to the repatriation back to the homeland of Meshketian Turks who were deported in the Soviet Union in 1944

submitted by the International Society of Meshketian Turks “VATAN”

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

On the failure to fulfil the obligation imposed by the Council of Europe in relation to the repatriation back to their homeland of Meshketian Turks who were deported in the Soviet Union in 1944.

Since 1995 at the FUEN Congresses several resolutions were adopted about the difficult situation of the Meshketian Turks. Committees established by FUEN visited the areas of origin and talked with the President of Georgia about the issue of effective repatriation of the Meshketian Turks back to their homeland. After persistent and consistent efforts undertaken by FUEN, the Republic of Georgia accepted its obligations towards the Council of Europe to repatriate the Meshketian Turks back to their homeland.

However, these obligations were not fulfilled until the present day, despite the adoption of the “Law on the repatriation of person deported by the former Soviet Union from the former Socialist Republic of Georgia in the 1940s” in 2007 and the end of the period of validity of this law in 2010.

The Delegates of FUEN repeatedly pointed at the serious flaws and contradictions of this law, already before its adoption by the Parliament of Georgia, and also afterwards, during its period of implementation.

Just as predicted by experts, the principles laid down in the law, the limitations and possibilities foreseen in the law did not offer a solution to the problems at stake.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN expresses hereby its deep concern about the failure in solving the problems in relation the repatriation of Meshketian Turks to their homeland in the Republic of Georgia. The practical results of the repatriation programme confirm the destructive character of the actions on the part of the Georgian authorities.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls upon the Council of Europe to demand the effective implementation of the obligations accepted by the Republic of Georgia.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN furthermore demands from the authorities of the Republic of Georgia to revive the programme and the procedures to repatriate the Meshketian Turks. It is useful as a first step to define reasonable and realistic procedures and conditions for the repatriation of the deported persons, and to create infrastructure for the implementation of the elaborated procedures for rehabilitation and repatriation of interested persons within the responsible authority.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls upon the President, the Parliament and the Government of Georgia:

- to show a consistent and principled approach vis à vis their former co-citizens and grant them, as one of the peoples of Georgia who were criminally deported by the former Soviet Union, a real and humane chance for coming back to their homeland without discriminatory provisions and without a time limit;
- to make amendments to the already adopted law in order to remove discriminatory provisions;
- to maintain the time limit for applications for repatriation only for those people, who need the financial help of the state.