



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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VERY URGENT

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The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to its Verbal Note No. LA COD/4, dated June 4, 2008, has the honor to inform the latter of the following:

I. As regards the damage to vehicles belonging to personnel of the Turkish Embassy and Consulate in Athens:

a) Police investigation is still underway. Criminal proceedings have not been concluded yet. There is no evidence whatsoever, that the incidents were terrorist acts, as these are defined in the Greek criminal law, which is harmonized in this respect, with the relevant E.U. common position and framework decision. The evidence gathered so far in the context of the police investigation, points to delinquent behavior of a marginal group of individuals, who defy public order and try to draw public attention. Similar incidents involving damages to vehicles of Greeks and foreigners indiscriminately, have taken place occasionally, which shows that no political motives are involved. Efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice are being continued.

b) Greece provides adequate protection to the Turkish diplomatic and consular Missions in Greece, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the respective Vienna Conventions. More specifically, all premises of the Turkish Embassy and the Consular authorities in Greece are guarded permanently on a 24-hour basis.

Furthermore, Greece provides –well beyond her obligations as receiving state stipulated in the Vienna Conventions- additional protection, including police escort, to the vehicles of high-ranking members of the Turkish diplomatic and consular staff.

In total, 135 police officers and 10 police escort vehicles are provided by the competent Greek authorities for these purposes.

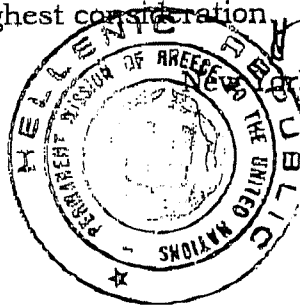
c) In addition to the above, the competent Greek authorities are currently considering, as an extraordinary precaution measure, the replacement of the special licence plates of all vehicles of the Turkish diplomatic and consular authorities in Greece and their staff with regular ones.

II. As regards the allegations contained in the report submitted by the Permanent Mission of Turkey in relation to the protection offered by the Greek police in cases of demonstrations outside the premises of the Turkish Missions:

a) Greece responds promptly and efficiently to relevant requests put forward by the Turkish Embassy in Athens, for intensified security measures in case of demonstrations taking place in front of the premises of Turkish diplomatic and/or consular missions. In the period since January 2007, twenty-five (25) requests of this kind have been submitted and the Greek authorities responded adequately and swiftly. In all these cases no incident putting in jeopardy the safety of the Turkish missions occurred.

b) On no occasion has Greek police "negotiated" with demonstrators, as purported in the said Verbal Note of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations. However, it is the duty of police to ensure that protests, including the communication of protesters with foreign missions, take place in a peaceful manner, without disturbing public order or anyhow compromising the security of the mission in question.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 30 June 2008

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