

RESOLUTION 2023-05

Interregional Society of Meskhetian Turks “Vatan”

The Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) adopted the following resolution at their Assembly of Delegates in Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh, Hungary on 9 September 2023:

Resolution about the accession of Georgia in the European Union (EU)

The issue about return of the Meskhetian Turks, the indigenous population of the southern regions of Georgia, forcibly deported by the USSR leadership in 1944, has not yet been resolved.

The Republic of Georgia is currently a candidate country for the EU. The public organization of Meskhetian Turks «Vatan» supports Georgia’s desire to become a member of the European Union. However, solving the problem of Meskhetian Turks should be one of the conditions for Georgia’s admission to the family of European states. The basic principles and values of the European Union are incompatible with a situation where the consequences of such a crime as forced deportation are still a tragedy for an entire nation.

Despite the commitments made before joining the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia didn’t solve this problem. The legal mechanisms adopted by the Parliament of Georgia for the repatriation of the population deported from the territory turned out to be a formal satisfaction of the requirements of the Council of Europe and had no result in the return of Meskhetian Turks. In addition, in recent years, the Georgian authorities have stopped allowing representatives of the public organization “Vatan” the entry to Georgia, as well as members of organizations of Meskhetian Turks from other countries, which practically stopped the negotiation process on repatriation.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls on Georgia

to fulfill its obligations, to repatriate the deported population, taking into account reasonable, realistic procedures and conditions of return, with the adoption of necessary legislative measures to restore the rights of the illegally deported population.

FUEN calls for the European Institutions and the EU member States

to identify a complete solution to the problem of Meskhetian Turks, as a criterion for Georgia’s membership in the EU and demand its implementation.