



PP Congress

Warsaw, 29-30 April 2009

Freedom of Religion – Safeguarding the Role and the Prerogatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The European People's Party,

Having regard the Dialogue between Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats and the Orthodox Church.

1. Welcomes the adoption in February 2008 of the Law on Foundations in Turkey and appreciates the Commission's assessment that this law addresses a number of outstanding property-related issues concerning Christian communities,
2. **Urges the Turkish government** to ensure that the law be implemented in line with the ECHR case-law and tackle unresolved issues of properties seized and sold to third parties as well as properties of foundations fused before the adoption of the new legislation,
3. Reiterates that a legal framework developed in line with the ECHR case-law is

still needed so as to enable all religious communities to function without undue constraints, in particular as regards their legal status, training of clergy, election of their hierarchy, religious education and the construction of places of worship,
[\(περισσότερα...\)](#)