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ENGLISH only

**The Union of Armân Women World Wide**  
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**OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding - Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance**  
**Romania, Bucharest, 7 - 8 June 2007**  
**Plenary Session 6**

Honored Gathering,

For the preservation and integration of the Armân language and culture into the common patrimony of eastern Latinity and the European cultural patrimony, the parliamentary gathering of the European Council adopted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1997, the Recommendation No. 1333, which requires the Balkan States where Armâns live to offer them support, especially through:

- a. education in their mother language
- b. religious service in Armân in their churches
- c. c. newspapers, magazines, radio and TV shows in the Armân language
- d. financing their cultural associations

Despite the fact that this recommendation was also been adopted by the governments of member states in the European Council through the Decree of the Committee of Ministers published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1999 – Document No. 8438 – the governments of the States from the Balkan Peninsula, where are some still surviving compact Armân communities, these governments not only do not strive to apply it, but they tolerate, encourage and even give support to contrary actions.

Such a case was that of the years-long penal pursuit of the president of an Armân Association from Athens, Architect Sotir Bleta, for “broadcasting of false news” that in Greece there still are Armân speakers.

In the name of the UFAP Armân Women Association, that strive to preserve and transmit their heritage to their children, firstly their macedo-latin language, (closely connected to the Romanian but totally distinct), we address you with the request to engage in all necessary action so that the governments of the States from the Balkan Peninsula to facilitate the enforcement of Recommendation No. 1333/1997, regarding the Armân language and culture (this year it is 10 years since the obtaining of this recommendation). This should happen not “ad calendas graecas”, but now, while still are vlachian and latin-origin communities in the Balkan Peninsula.

We hope that Romania will be the first to set the example in this respect for other states.

We allow ourselves to remind the high gathering of OSCE in Bucharest that, the leaders of the states in the Balkan Peninsula and the leaders of United Europe cannot allow themselves to see this people perish. Because these rulers are not only responsible for what they are doing but also for what they should and are not doing.

Respectfully yours,  
President

Bucharest  
7<sup>th</sup> of June 2007

Meghea Chirata