



Strasbourg, 6 November 2009

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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF
NATIONAL MINORITIES
(DH-MIN)**

ANNOTATED ORDER OF BUSINESS

**10th meeting
9-10 November 2009**

**Strasbourg
Council of Europe
Room G.2, Agora Building**

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009

10:00 – 12:30

Item 1: **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

Item 2: **Examination of the final text of the the expert study of the replies to the questionnaire on the ethnic data collection with the view to its publication**

At its ninth meeting in March 2009, the Committee continued its discussion on the theme of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data. In the light of this discussion and the additional contributions which followed, Mr Patrick Simon, researcher at the *Institut national d'études démographiques* (INED) updated his report. This report was sent out to the Members in July 2009.

Member States are invited to take a decision on the possible publication of this updated report.

Item 3: **Exchange of views on the theme of the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations (including preliminary examination of responses to the questionnaire)**

At its last meetings in October 2008 and March 2009, the Committee discussed the content of the questionnaire on the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations (organisations). It invited delegations to submit to the Secretariat responses to the questionnaire by the end of September 2009. A compilation of these replies will be prepared, with a view to examining them at the 10th meeting of DH-MIN.

The Committee is invited to hold an exchange views on the existing practices, criteria and models in the field of the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations and to take a decision on possible future work on this theme.

14:30 – 17:30

Item 4: **Expert presentations of the promotion of the use of languages of persons belonging to national minorities in minority communities on behalf of Croatia and Norway**

At its last four meetings, the Committee heard testimonies on good practices in the field of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities in the Slovak Republic, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary and Moldova and on the “Position of France on the use of languages of origin and mother tongues in the field of education”.

The Committee decided to continue to examine this topic and to invite other States, to introduce their case-studies of good practices in this field at the forthcoming meetings.

Ms Ana Vodvarka, representative of the Czech primary school J. A. Komensky in Daruvar (Croatia) will make a presentation on the school on Czech language and the official use of Czech language in Croatia.

Ms Ninni Kate Rognli, Deputy Director General of the Department of Sami and Minority Affairs at the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion of Norway will make a presentation on “the Plan of Action to strengthen Sami languages. Experiences from Norway”.

Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme.

Item 5: Exchange of views on the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere

At its 9th meeting in March 2009, the Committee agreed in respect of the proposal of the representative of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to consider at its 10th meeting the theme of the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere for further discussion, on the basis of the document submitted by the representative of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The Paper of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere was sent to the Delegations in April 2009 for information (in English only).

Mr Krzysztof Drzewicki, Senior Legal Adviser in the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities will present the Paper. Delegations from those Member States, which adopted legislation on the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere, are invited to make presentations on their domestic legislation and practice in this field.

Following these presentations the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme.

Item 6: Tour de table on recent developments regarding national minorities

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009

9:30 – 12:30

Item 7: **Exchange of views on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

The Bureau of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages proposed to hold an exchange of views on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by those states which have already done so and those which are preparing to do so, and on the Charter "menu", as well as the classification of minority languages.

Ms Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages will make a presentation on the ratification of the Charter.

The Committee is invited to hold an exchange views on the legal and practical obstacles impeding progress with the ratification of the Charter and on measures which could be envisaged to assist member States with the ratification process.

Item 8: **Exchange of views on the status of the Yiddish language and of other languages in a similar situation**

Acting on the proposal of the Delegation of Germany to discuss at the 10th meeting of the Committee the situation of the Yiddish language in Europe, the Committee decided to invite representatives of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) and the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to discuss the status of the Yiddish language and of other languages in a similar situation.

Ms Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages will make a presentation on the Committee's case-law on the preservation of the Yiddish language and other languages in a similar situation.

The Committee is invited to hold an exchange views on the legislative safeguards and existing practices aiming at the protection of the Yiddish language and of other languages in a similar situation and to take a decision on possible future work on this theme.

Item 9: **Exchange of views on the situation of Roma, in particular on the participation of Roma in decision making processes**

At its 9th meeting, the Committee decided, in respect of the proposal to discuss the situation of Roma in Europe, to invite representatives of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention and the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) to its next meeting with a view of holding an exchange of views, in particular on the participation of Roma in decision making processes.

Mr Ian Naysmith, representing the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) will present the conclusions of the discussion on the forms of participation and

representation of Roma and Travellers in decision-making processes held by that Committee on 16 October 2009.

The Committee is invited to hold an exchange views on the existing practices, criteria and models in the field of the participation of Roma in decision making processes and the possible future work on this theme.

14:30 – 17:00

Item 10: Election of new Chairperson and vice Chairperson (subject to renewal of the mandate of the DH-MIN)

Item 11: Discussion on the measures adopted by Member States to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory and on the progress registered in the implementation of the Council of Europe 2008 White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue

At its previous meeting, the Committee decided, in respect of the proposal to discuss intercultural dialogue with regard to national minorities, to discuss measures adopted by Member States to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, as stipulated by Article 6 of the Framework Convention.

The Committee further asked the Secretariat to prepare an overview of the progress registered in the implementation of the Council of Europe 2008 White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and other initiatives taken at the Council of Europe, to serve as a basis for the discussion, at the 10th meeting of the DH-MIN;

Mr Ulrich Bunjes, Deputy to the Director of the Youth Department, Directorate of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport will make a presentation on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Council of Europe 2008 White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and other initiatives taken at the Council of Europe in this area.

Following this presentation, the Committee is invited to hold an exchange views on the measures adopted to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, as stipulated by Article 6 of the Framework Convention and to take a decision on possible future work on this theme.

Item 12: Consideration of future themes to be addressed by the DH-MIN on the basis of proposals by DH-MIN members

The Delegations are invited to submit in writing to the Secretariat proposals for future themes to be addressed by the Committee two weeks ahead of the meeting

Item 13: Other business

Item 14: Dates of the next meetings

Item 15: Approval of the list of decisions adopted during the meeting