



Strasbourg, 10 November 2009

DH-MIN(2009)009

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

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

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

During its tenth meeting held on 9-10 November 2009 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. Subject to the approval of its new Terms of Reference by the Committee of Ministers, the DH-MIN elected Mr Bjørn Olav Megard (Norway) as its Chair (subject to the approval of the CDDH) and Mr Domenico Morelli (Italy) as Vice-Chair, both for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2010.
2. The DH-MIN decided to publish on the Secretariat website the report “Summary of replies on Ethnic Data Collection” (ref.: DH-MIN(2009)002rev) prepared by Mr Patrick Simon of the *Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques*.
3. The DH-MIN agreed to return to the discussions on the issues of the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations (organisations) at its 11th meeting. It invited the members, who have not yet done so, to submit responses to the questionnaire, by the end of December 2009. It further instructed the Secretariat to commission an expert thematic analysis of responses which would, without engaging in the monitoring of the situation in the individual member States, identify *inter alia* good practice with regard to the system for the allocation of funding, applied criteria and the actors involved.
4. The DH-MIN agreed to pursue further its work on the promotion of the use of languages of persons belonging to national minorities. The DH-MIN instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the delegations of the interested member States to determine the order of introducing new case-studies of good practices in this field at the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.
5. The DH-MIN agreed to pursue its reflection on the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere on the basis of the document elaborated by the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE. It invited the members, who wish to do so, to submit to the Secretariat by the end of January 2010, the relevant information updating the document, with a view of this information being transmitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the OSCE.
6. The Committee decided to continue to be informed regularly about the preparations for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and to exchange related experiences. The Committee decided to discuss, where appropriate, specific issues pertaining to the promotion of regional or minority languages.
7. Further to the information provided on the work of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) in particular on the participation of Roma in decision making processes, the Committee invited its members to provide relevant information, where appropriate, to the Secretariat, with the view this information being transmitted to the Secretariat of the MG-S-ROM to assist that Committee with the elaboration of the Opinion on political participation and representation of Roma and Travellers in Europe.

8. Further to the information provided on the progress registered in the implementation of the Council of Europe “White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue” and other initiatives taken at the Council of Europe in this area, the Committee decided to continue discussions on the promotion of spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue among all persons living on their territory, as stipulated by Article 6 of the Framework Convention. The Committee further instructed the Secretariat to invite representatives of the MG-S-ROM to inform the Committee of their work, especially in the field of education and with the delegations of the interested member States to determine the order of introducing case-studies of good practices, especially in the field of intercultural dialogue in the education systems, at the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

9. As regards the dates of its future meetings, the DH-MIN agreed that, subject to the approval of its new mandate by the Committee of Ministers, the Committee will hold its 11th meeting on 5 and 6 May and it provisionally agreed that the 12th meeting will be held in the week of 15 to 19 November 2010.

10. As regards future work, the DH-MIN instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the delegations of Norway, Montenegro, Austria and the ACFC which expressed their wishes to introduce new themes for discussion in order to allow the Bureau to introduce them in the agenda of future meetings.