



Strasbourg, 13 March 2009

DH-MIN(2009)OB001

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

ANNOTATED ORDER OF BUSINESS

**9th meeting
1 – 2 April 2009**

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

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2009

10:00 – 12:30

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

Item 2: **Examination of the new terms of reference of the DH-MIN**

Mr Alfonso de Salas, Secretary of the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) will inform the Committee about of the new Terms of Reference of the DH-MIN adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 11-12 February 2009 and their particular implications for the work of the Committee

Item 3: **Presentation of the expert study of the replies to the questionnaire on the ethnic data collection, discussion and consideration of future work to be carried out on this theme**

At its seventh meeting in March 2008, the Committee continued its discussion on the theme of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data. It requested that an expert analysis of the responses to the questionnaire on ethnic data collection be elaborated with a view to discussing it at a future meeting.

Mr Patrick Simon, researcher at the *Institut national d'études démographiques* (INED) will present his analysis of the responses to the questionnaire in question.

Following this presentation, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme, and will take a decision on the possible publication of this report.

Item 4: **Examination of the final text of the report prepared by Mr David Hine, Director, Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in Oxford on the “Electoral systems, party law and the protection of national minorities” (doc.ref.: DH-MIN(2006)013 prov3; English version only) with the view to its publication**

At its seventh meeting in March 2008, the Committee continued its discussion on the theme of electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant for national minorities. In the light of this discussion and the additional contributions which followed, Professor David Hine, Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in Oxford updated his report. This report was sent out to the Members in February 2009.

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

14:30 – 17:30

Item 5: **Expert presentations of the promotion of the use of languages of persons belonging to national minorities in minority communities on behalf of Croatia, Moldova and Hungary**

At its last three 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 and Italy 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 Mr Furio Radin, President of the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Minority Rights in the Sabor (Parliament) of Croatia will make a presentation on the measures applied to protect the rights of the Italian minority in Croatia.

Ms Ewa Ślaba-Rónay, Director of the Polish School in Budapest will inform the Committee about the education system for lesser-used languages in Hungary on the example of the Polish education facilities in Hungary.

Ms Ala Nikitcenko, expert at the Ministry of Education and Youth in Chisinau, Moldova will speak about measures taken to protect the rights of the national minorities in the education sphere in the Republic of Moldova.

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, including as regards signatures and ratifications of Council of Europe treaties relating to the protection of national minorities**

THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2009

9:30 – 12:30

Item 7: **Examination of the draft questionnaire on the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations, followed by the consideration of future work to be carried out on this theme**

At its last meeting, in October 2008, the DH-MIN agreed, in respect of the proposal of Austria, to hold at its 9th meeting an exchange of 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.

In addition, the Committee decided to examine the draft questionnaire on this theme.

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 the draft questionnaire and possible future work on this theme.

Item 8: **Presentation of the expert study of the replies to the questionnaire on the access of national minorities to the new media in the information society, discussion and consideration of future work to be carried out on this theme**

At its seventh meeting in March 2008, the Committee continued its discussion on the access of national minorities to the new media in the information society. It requested that an expert analysis of the responses to the questionnaire on access of national minorities to the new media in the information society be elaborated with a view to discussing it at a future meeting.

Mr Tom Moring, Professor, Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki and Mr Tarlach McGonagle, researcher at the University of Amsterdam will present their analysis of the responses to the questionnaire in question.

Following this presentation, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme, and will take a decision on the possible publication of this report.

Item 6: **Tour de table on recent developments regarding national minorities (continuation)**

14:30 – 16:30

Item 9: **Presentation of the NGO declaration on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted on the occasion of the Conference “Enhancing the Impact of the Framework Convention: Past Experience, Present Achievements and Future Challenges” held in Strasbourg on 9 and 10 October 2008**

At its last meeting, in October 2008, Mr Alan Phillips, President of the Advisory Committee summarised debates and conclusions reached at the Conference on “Enhancing the Impact of the Framework Convention: Past Experience, Present Achievements and Future Challenges” held in Strasbourg, 9-10 October 2008. The Committee also heard a statement by Mr Hans Heinrich Hansen, President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) on the discussions held by the civil society and minority representatives on the scope of application of the Framework Convention.

Ms Snjezana Bokulic, Head of Europe and Central Asia Programmes at the London and Budapest-based NGO Minority Rights Group International and Mr Patrick Yu, Executive Director of the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities, will make a presentation on behalf of the European Minority Rights Network of the NGO declaration on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities made on the occasion of the Conference.

Item 10: **Consideration of future themes to be addressed by the DH-MIN on the basis of proposals by DH-MIN members**

Item 11: **Other business**

Item 12: **Dates of the next meetings**

Item 13: **Approval of the list of decisions adopted during the meeting**