



Strasbourg, 2 April 2009

DH-MIN(2009)005

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

**9th meeting
1-2 April 2009**

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

During its ninth meeting held on 1 – 2 April 2009 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. Noting that its decisions, including the possible extension of invitations to observers, will be taken as far as possible during its plenary meetings, the DH-MIN confirmed that its Bureau, in accordance with the applicable Rules of Procedure, is expected to supervise the preparation of its meetings and to ensure continuity between meetings as necessary, with the understanding that new items on the agenda of the forthcoming meetings will be introduced by the Bureau, in principle, only if there are new developments occurring between meetings of the Committee which would warrant the inclusion of such new items. The President, with the help of the Secretariat will communicate such new proposals to the members of the DH-MIN in good time for possible comments from their side.
2. The DH-MIN decided to publish on the Secretariat website the report on “Electoral Systems, Party Law and Protection of Minorities” (ref.: DH-MIN(2006)013) prepared by Professor David Hine of the Oxford University.
3. The DH-MIN, having discussed the expert analysis of responses to the questionnaire on ethnic data collection, invited the members to submit all clarifications and corrections to the Secretariat before 31 May 2009 with a view of enabling the expert to finalise his report by 30 June 2009. The DH-MIN agreed to take a decision on the possible publication of this updated report at its 10th meeting.
4. The DH-MIN decided to publish on the Secretariat website the expert analysis of responses to the questionnaire on access of national minorities to new media in the information society (ref.: DH-MIN(2009)003prov) prepared by Professor Tom Moring and Dr. Tarlach McGonnagle. The Committee further decided to continue to collect information, to follow new developments and to revisit this issue when appropriate.
5. The DH-MIN agreed to pursue further its work 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 their comments on a revised questionnaire (to be finalised by the Bureau, and the Austrian delegation which submitted the proposal) by 31 May 2009. It further invited the members to submit 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.
6. 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 Croatia, Norway and other 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.
7. The DH-MIN agreed that the Committee will hold its 10th meeting on 9 and 10 November 2009.
8. As regards future work, the DH-MIN agreed
 - (i) in respect of the proposal of Germany, to discuss at its 10th meeting, the situation of the Yiddish language in Europe, the Committee decided to invite representatives of

the Advisory Committee of 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;

- (ii) in respect of the proposal of Croatia to discuss the situation of Roma in Europe, the Committee decided 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;
- (iii) in respect of the proposal of Moldova to discuss intercultural dialogue, with regard to national minorities, the Committee decided 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;
- (iv) in respect of the proposal of the representative of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to discuss the use of symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere, the Committee decided to consider this theme for further discussion at its next meeting, on the basis of the document submitted by the representative of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.