



Strasbourg, 21 March 2007

DH-MIN(2007)OB001

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

ANNOTATED ORDER OF BUSINESS

**5th meeting
Wednesday, 21 March (10am) – Friday, 23 March 2007**

**Strasbourg
Council of Europe
Room 2, Palais de l'Europe**

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2007

10:00 – 12:30

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

Item 7: **Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1772 (2006) on the rights of national minorities in Latvia**

The Committee of Ministers invited the CDDH/DH-MIN to provide comments by 1 April 2007. The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements prepared by the Secretariat.

Item 3: **Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1775 (2006) on the situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed Peoples**

The Committee of Ministers invited the CDDH/DH-MIN to provide comments by 1 April 2007. The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements prepared by the Secretariat.

14:30 – 17:30

Item 4: **Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1735 (2006) on the concept of “nation” (incl. the question of support of national minorities by the kin-state)**

The Group of Rapporteurs on Human Rights (GR-H) discussed a draft interim reply of the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1735 (2006) on the concept of “nation” on 14 September and 31 October 2006 without reaching a consensus. The Committee of Ministers invited on 18 January 2007 the CDDH/DH-MIN to provide an opinion on the Recommendation by the end of 2007.

The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements prepared by the Secretariat. In this context, the Committee is invited to consider whether it would be advisable to prepare a Committee of Ministers Recommendation on kin-state support to national minorities.

Item 5: **Follow-up to the examination of the theme on the impact of international non-discrimination norms relevant to the protection of national minorities in Europe and discussions on the future work to be carried out by the DH-MIN in this field**

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Committee discussed the reports on the impact of international non-discrimination norms relevant to the protection of national minorities presented by Professors Rainer Hofmann, Olivier de Schutter and Kristin Henrard.

The Committee is invited to participate in an exchange views on the comments on these reports submitted by delegations.

THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2007**9:30 – 12:30****Item 6: Examination of the theme of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data**

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Committee decided, in respect of the proposal of Germany on the issue of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data, to invite representatives of the international actors active in this field to inform the Committee of their work, to assist the DH-MIN in deciding on its possible future work.

Mr Timo Makkonen, lawyer and researcher based in Helsinki, Finland, will present the 'European Handbook on Data Collection'. The Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) will present the study on the existing legal and practical framework for ethnic data collection in member States prepared by Mr Patrick Simon (*Institut national d'études démographiques*, INED). Directorate General III – Social Cohesion will make a presentation on censuses and other related issues.

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

Item 2: Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1740 (2006) on the place of mother tongue in school education

The Committee of Ministers invited the CDDH/DH-MIN to provide comments by 1 April 2007. The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements prepared by the Secretariat.

14:30 – 17:30**Item 8: Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1773 (2006) on the 2003 guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance co-operation and synergy with the OSCE**

The Committee of Ministers invited the CDDH/DH-MIN to provide comments by 1 April 2007. The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements prepared by the Secretariat.

Item 9: Follow up to the examination of the theme on the specific regulations contained in electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant for national minorities

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Committee discussed the report prepared by Mr David Hine, Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in Oxford on the specific regulations contained in electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant for national minorities.

The Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities will inform the DH-MIN on progress with regard to updating the 'OSCE Guidelines to assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process'.

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

Item 10: Follow up to the examination of the theme on access of national minorities to new media

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Committee discussed the report prepared by Mr Tom Moring, Professor, Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki and the comments provided by Mr Karol Jakubowicz, ex-Chairperson of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) and Mr Tarlach McGonagle, researcher at the University of Amsterdam, on access of national minorities to media.

The Secretariat, assisted by the experts elaborated a questionnaire on the access of National Minorities to the "new media" in the information society.

Member States are invited to discuss/present their replies on the questionnaire and to share their ideas and/or experience with regard to their national situation.

FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2007

9:30 – 12:30

Item 11: Proposal to examine the theme of use of the existing binding and non-binding instruments concerning the protection of national minorities and non-discrimination in relation to new communities

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Committee agreed to discuss, in respect of the use of the existing binding and non-binding instruments concerning the protection of national minorities and non-discrimination in relation to new communities, whether it should address this question in its future work.

The Delegation of Poland which proposed this theme will elaborate on the scope and methodology to be applied. The Secretariat of the Venice Commission will present the Report on Non-citizens and Minority Rights adopted by the Venice Commission at its 69th plenary session (Venice, 15-16 December 2006).

Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the proposal and provide the Secretariat with possible guidance.

Item 12: 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

Item 13: Dates of the next meeting

14:30 – 17:00

Item 14: **Examination of the theme of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities**

At its last meeting in October 2006, the Delegation of Hungary proposed to address the theme of promotion of use of native languages in minority communities.

The Bureau of the DH-MIN will present a streamlined proposal to the Committee for further consideration.

Item 15: **Decision on granting of observer status to the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)**

Item 16: **Other business**

Item 17: **Approval of the list of decisions adopted during the meeting**