

Strasbourg, 16 October 2008

DH-MIN(2008)007

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

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**LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS**

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**8th meeting  
15-16 October 2008**

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



## LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

During its Eighth meeting held on 15-16 October 2008 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions, with the understanding that the envisaged future activities are subject to the adoption of a new mandate by the Committee of Ministers:

1. The DH-MIN **elected Ms Milena Klajner (Croatia) as its Chair** (subject to the approval of the CDDH) and Ms Bilge Tekin Befrits (Sweden) as Vice-Chair, both for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2009.

2. Further to a request by the Committee of Ministers, the DH-MIN examined the issue of the potential added value of elaborating **new guidelines on procedures for developing relations between a state and kin-minorities** residing in a different state, as compared to existing international documents. Having analysed the work carried out so far in this field, an overwhelming majority of the members of the Committee was of the opinion that the existing Council of Europe and OSCE standards are of complementary character and lay down the basic principles to guide States in this field.

The DH-MIN considered that, for the time being, there is no necessity of elaborating new guidelines. The Committee decided to continue to collect information, to follow new developments and to discuss how member States make use of the existing standards in their policies, and to revisit this issue when appropriate.

3. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN agreed on a comment (doc. ref.: DH-MIN(2008)004) on the **Recommendation 222 (2007)** of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on "Language education in regional or minority languages" and the draft reply of the Ministers' Deputies and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies.

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 Croatia, Moldova and Hungary to determine the order of introducing new case-studies of good practices in this field at the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

5. Further to the information provided by the President of the **Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention** on the thematic Commentary on "The Effective Participation of Persons belonging to national Minorities in Cultural, Social and Economic Life and in Public Affairs" and the outline for third cycle state reports under the Framework Convention, the DH-MIN decided to ask, the States concerned to draw the attention of the authorities to the Commentary and to have it translated into the State languages and, as much as possible, into minority languages. The Committee further asked for feedback on member States' evaluation of the Commentary and for suggestions for areas which could be subject of similar commentaries in the future.

6. The DH-MIN adopted **a report outlining its activities** over the last two years (ref: DH-MIN(2008)005) , and decided to submit it to the CDDH, proposing that the latter would bring it also to the attention of the Committee of Ministers in an appropriate manner.

7. The DH-MIN agreed to return to the discussions on the issues of **ethnic data collection** and appropriate methods for gathering such data and on **access of national minorities to new media** at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

8. **As regards the date 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 9<sup>th</sup> meeting between 1 and 3 April 2009 and it provisionally agreed that the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the week of 9 to 13 November 2009.

9. As regards the **future work**, the DH-MIN agreed in respect of the proposal of Austria, to discuss **the distribution of public financial support** for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations, and to hold at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting an exchange of views on the existing practices, criteria and models in this field. In addition, it decided to examine the draft questionnaire to be formulated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and the Austrian delegation.