



Strasbourg, 20 March 2008

DH-MIN(2008)002

**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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**7th meeting  
12-13 March 2008**

***NBGEN Room G3*  
Strasbourg  
France**

During its seventh meeting held on 12-13 March 2008 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. Further to the Committee of Ministers reply adopted on 20 February 2008 to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1735 (2006) on “the concept of ‘nation’”, the DH-MIN tentatively agreed, pending an invitation from the CDDH, to start considering at its next meeting in October 2008, the potential added value of guidelines on procedures for developing relations between a state and kin minorities residing in a different state. The Committee further instructed the Secretariat to collect existing national and international standards and invite representatives of those bodies which have been working on this issue to present their work. The Secretariat was also instructed to keep the Committee informed of any developments in this field, especially with regard to the forthcoming Recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE on the role of states on establishing and maintaining links with minorities abroad.
2. The DH-MIN agreed to continue to discuss the issue of access of national minorities to new media at its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. It invited the members, who have not yet done so, to submit responses to the questionnaire, by the end of April 2008 with a view of expert analysis and conclusions being drawn up before the Committee’s meeting in October 2008. The DH-MIN further invited delegations to liaise with the Secretariat to suggest an appropriate expert qualified to prepare the report referred to above. The Committee authorised the Secretariat to publish on its website the compilation of replies to the questionnaire on the access of national minorities to the new media in the information society.
3. 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, Switzerland, Italy, Moldova and Hungary to determine the order of introducing up to three case-studies of good practices in this field at the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.
4. Further to the information provided by the President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention on the recent adoption of the thematic Commentary on “The Effective Participation of Persons belonging to national Minorities in Cultural, Social and Economic Life and in Public Affairs”, the DH-MIN decided to discuss the issue of effective participation and to invite a representative of the ACFC to present the Commentary at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee in October 2008. The Committee further decided to discuss with the representatives of the Advisory Committee the new outline for third cycle state reports under the Framework Convention, with respect to those states which are State Parties to this Convention.
5. The DH-MIN decided to postpone the publication of 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. It invited all the delegations to submit their comments to the revised text of the report before the end of April 2008, so as to enable the Secretariat to circulate the final report, and to publish it if no new questions are raised by the delegations.
6. The DH-MIN agreed to continue to discuss the issue of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data at its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee further invited the members, who have not yet done so, to submit responses to the questionnaire on ethnic data collection, by the end of April 2008 with a view of expert analysis and conclusions being drawn up before the Committee’s meeting in October 2008. The DH-MIN further invited delegations to liaise with the Secretariat to suggest an appropriate expert qualified to prepare the report referred to above.

7. The DH-MIN instructed the Secretariat to look into the possibilities of making the existing website more user-friendly and transparent. It further encouraged the Secretariat to develop a database and a search engine allowing easy access to the information stored at the website of the Secretariat, in particular the monitoring results under the Framework Convention.

8. The DH-MIN agreed that the Committee will hold its 8th meeting from 15 to 17 October 2008.