

Strasbourg, 19 October 2007

DH-MIN(2007)010

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

**6th meeting
17-19 October 2007**

**Palais de l'Europe
Strasbourg
France**

During its sixth meeting held on 17-19 October 2007 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. The DH-MIN agreed to continue to discuss the issue of access of national minorities to new media at its 7th meeting. It invited the members, who have not yet done so, to submit responses to the questionnaire, by the end of February 2008.
2. In respect of the proposal of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) to develop a model law on minorities, together with an expert commentary, the DH-MIN decided to authorise the Chair to respond to ECMI by noting with interest its work in this field. The Committee further decided to invite ECMI to keep it informed on the outcome of its work with a view to reexamining the issue when the draft model law has been developed.
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 Serbia, Romania, Croatia, Switzerland and Italy to determine the order of introducing up to three case-studies of good practices in this field respectively at the 7th and 8th meetings of the Committee. The secretariat will also liaise with France to agree on a possible presentation on the use of languages of origin and mother tongues in the field of education.
4. In respect of the request by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) to be granted an observer status, the DH-MIN, having not reached unanimity on the matter given that three delegations expressed serious reservations, decided in conformity with the applicable regulations to transmit it to the CDDH for decision.
5. The DH-MIN decided to pursue further its reflection on the specific regulations contained in electoral law and the law of political parties that are relevant for national minorities. It invited the members, who wish to do so, to submit relevant information in writing to the secretariat by the end of December 2007, with a view to enabling Professor David Hine, of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in Oxford, to update his report on “Electoral systems, party law and protection of minorities” (ref.: DH-MIN(2006)013 prov2). The DH-MIN agreed to take a decision on the possible publication of this updated report at its 7th meeting.
6. The DH-MIN noted a diversity of opinions in respect of the proposal of Poland to examine the use of the existing binding and non-binding instruments concerning the protection of national minorities and non-discrimination in relation to new communities. It also noted that a majority considered that the examination of this topic was not the primary task of the Committee. However, taking into account the Opinions of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention and of other international bodies to adopt a flexible approach to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the DH-MIN instructed the Secretariat to keep it informed of evolving standards relevant for the DH-MIN, and invited its members to monitor evolving circumstances at the domestic level.
7. The DH-MIN agreed to continue to discuss the issue of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data at its 7th meeting. The Committee decided to invite Mr Patrick Simon, of the *Institut national d'études démographiques* (INED) in Paris to present his study on the existing legal and practical framework for ethnic data collection in member States prepared for ECRI. The Committee further decided to continue to cooperate with the Consultative Committee established under the Convention ETS n° 108 (T-PD) and invited delegations to submit by 30 November 2007 to the secretariat their proposals for questions with a view to including them in a questionnaire to be finalised by the Bureau, and the German delegation which submitted the proposal, and sent out to the members.

8. The DH-MIN re-elected Ms Judit Solymosi (Hungary) as its Chair (subject to the approval of the CDDH) for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2008. It subsequently elected Ms Bilge Tekin Befrits (Sweden) as Vice-Chair for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2008.
9. The Committee authorised the Secretariat to publish on its web-site a list of participants in DH-MIN meetings, without mention of e-mail addresses.
10. As regards the dates of its future meetings, the DH-MIN agreed that the Committee will hold its 7th meeting from 12 to 14 March 2008 and provisionally agreed to hold its 8th meeting on 15 - 17 October 2008.