

Strasbourg, 23 March 2007

DH-MIN(2007)007

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

**5th meeting
21-23 March 2007**

**Palais de l'Europe
Strasbourg
France**

During its fifth meeting held on 21-23 March 2007 in Strasbourg, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN agreed on a comment (DH-MIN(2007)004) on the Parliamentary Assembly's Recommendation 1772 (2006) on "the rights of national minorities in Latvia" and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies.
2. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN agreed on a comment (DH-MIN(2007)005) on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1775 (2006) on "the situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed Peoples" and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies.
3. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN agreed on a comment (DH-MIN(2007)002) containing a Committee of Ministers' draft reply, on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1735 (2006) on "the concept of 'nation'" and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies. In this connection, it agreed to consider, as part of its work programme, the potential added value of activities related to "kin states" and national minorities.
4. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN agreed on a comment (DH-MIN(2007)003) 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" and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies.
5. Further to a request by the Ministers' Deputies, the DH-MIN, agreed on a comment (DH-MIN(2007)006) on the Committee of Ministers' draft reply to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1740 (2006) on "the place of mother tongue in school education" and decided to transmit it to the CDDH, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Deputies.
6. The DH-MIN agreed to make public the papers on the theme of impact of international non-discrimination norms relevant to the protection of national minorities as DH-MIN information documents. These texts would be posted on the internet, together with related comments by the Governments, and they will clearly indicate that the views expressed are that of the authors and do not engage the responsibility of the DH-MIN or its members.
7. The DH-MIN agreed to pursue further its work on access to national minorities to new media. It invited the members to submit responses to the questionnaire, formulated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, by the end of May 2007. A compilation of these replies will be prepared, with a view to examining them at the 6th meeting of DH-MIN.
8. The DH-MIN agreed to continue to discuss the issue of permissibility of data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data at its 6th meeting. It will take into account the 'European Handbook on Data Collection' drafted by Mr Timo Makkonen and the forthcoming study on the existing legal and practical framework for ethnic data collection in member States prepared for ECRI by Mr Patrick Simon, but the DH-MIN will focus its future work, in the general framework of norms and guarantees, on minority-specific issues in the area of data collection and data protection. This work will take into account that state practice and approaches vary in this field. The committee further decided to invite a representative of the Consultative Committee established under the Convention for the Protection

of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS N° 108) to present the work of that committee, at the next DH-MIN meeting.

9. 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, the DH-MIN agreed to invite the representatives of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) to its 6th meeting in order to obtain further information on the on-going work carried out in this sphere. It will also invite information from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and other pertinent bodies on their related activities.

10. In respect of the proposal of Hungary to address the promotion of use of languages of persons belonging to national minorities, the DH-MIN decided to invite States to introduce case-studies of good practices in this field, starting with the presentations to be prepared by Serbia and Slovakia at the 6th meeting of the Committee. In addition, the Committee decided to invite the President of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to provide information on its work in this field.

11. Further to a request by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) to be granted an observer status, the DH-MIN agreed to seek further written information on the statute, financing and specific activities of the said organisation and to invite its President to the 6th meeting in order to obtain full background information needed for a decision on the matter.

12. As regards the date of its future meetings, the DH-MIN agreed that the Committee will hold its 6th meeting from 17 to 19 October 2007 and provisionally agreed to hold its 7th meeting during the week of 10 March 2008.