

Council of Europe

Conseil de l'Europe



Strasbourg, 29 January 1998

DH-MIN (98) 1

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING
TO THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

(DH-MIN)

Specific Terms of Reference

APPENDIX 6
(item 4.5)

SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Name of Committee: COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES (DH-MIN)
2. Type of Committee: Committee of experts
3. Source of terms of reference: Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)
4. Terms of reference:
 - i. to act as a forum for the exchange of information, views and experience on policies and good practices for the protection of national minorities at the domestic level and in the context of international instruments;
 - ii. to identify and assess ways and means of further enhancing European co-operation on issues relating to the protection of national minorities and, where appropriate, to make proposals to this effect for consideration by the CDDH;
 - iii. in so doing it shall, where appropriate,
 - carry out or commission relevant policy-research;
 - involve in its work representatives of national minorities and non-governmental organisations with recognised competence in this field.
5. Membership of the Committee:
 - a. The governments of all member States are entitled to appoint members with the following desirable qualifications: persons having expertise and experience in the field of protection of national minorities. The Council of Europe's budget bears travelling and subsistence expenses for one expert per member State (two in the case of member States whose expert is elected to the Chair);
 - b. The Parliamentary Assembly is entitled to designate one representative;

- c. The European Union may send a representative, without the right to vote or to defrayal of expenses;
- d. The following States may send a representative, without the right to vote or to a refund of expenses¹ to meetings of the Committee: Armenia*, Azerbaijan*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Canada, Georgia*, Holy See, Japan and United States of America;
- e. The following organisations may send a representative, without the right to vote or to a refund of expenses:
 - OSCE

6. Working structures and methods:

Within its terms of reference, DH-MIN will have the possibility, as the case may be, to establish groups of specialists, working parties etc. of limited membership for the consideration of specific issues. It will also have the possibility to have whatever contacts or consultations with other bodies and organisations it deems necessary for the implementation of its terms of reference. DH-MIN, in carrying out its mandate, shall further establish working relations with other Council of Europe bodies dealing with minority issues, such as the Specialist Group on Roma/Gypsies (MG-S-ROM).

7. Duration:

The present terms of reference shall be reviewed before 31 December 1999.

¹ Subject to specific rules for States marked *.