



Strasbourg, 17 October 2007

DH-MIN(2007)OB002

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

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**ANNOTATED ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

**Strasbourg  
Council of Europe  
Room 10, Palais de l'Europe**



**WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2007**

**10:00 – 12:30**

**Item 1:**           **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

**Item 2:**           **Secretariat information on the developments concerning the DH-MIN Opinions on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 1735 (2006), 1740 (2006), 1772 (2006), 1773 (2006) and 1775 (2006)**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee adopted Opinions on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 1735 (2006), on the concept of “nation”, 1740 (2006) on the place of mother tongue in school education, 1772 (2006) on the rights of national minorities in Latvia, 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 1775 (2006) on the situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed Peoples, with a view of forwarding them to the CDDH for further transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

Mr Alfonso de Salas, Secretary of the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) will inform the Committee of the CDDH’s decisions with regard to the above-listed Opinions.

**Item 3:**           **Follow up to the examination of the theme on access of national minorities to new media**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee examined the questionnaire on the access of national minorities to the “new media” in the information society and held a preliminary exchange of views on the topic.

The Committee subsequently invited the members to submit responses to the questionnaire, with a view to examining them at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DH-MIN.

*Member States will present their replies on the questionnaire and share their ideas and/or experience with regard to their national situation. Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme.*

**Item 4:**           **Examination of the initiative of the European Centre for Minority Issues to develop a model law on minorities**

In a letter addressed on 6 June to the President of the DH-MIN, Mr Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues based in Flensburg, Germany proposed to develop a model law on minorities together with an expert commentary. He further indicated that ECMI would very much like to pursue this initiative in contact and cooperation with the DH-MIN and the Secretariat of the Framework Convention

*The Chairperson of the DH-MIN will inform the DH-MIN of ECMI's work with a view to holding a discussion on the Committee's possible involvement in this undertaking.*

**14:30 – 17:30**

**Item 5:**      **Examination of the theme of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee decided to invite States, starting with Serbia and the Slovak Republic, to introduce case-studies of good practices in the field of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities.

Mr Ján Hero, Director of the Private Primary School in Kremnica, Slovak Republic, will present case-studies of good practices in respect of the Slovak Republic.

The name of the expert making a presentation in respect of Serbia will be confirmed later.

In addition, Professor Stefan Oeter, President of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages will provide information on its work in this field.

*Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme.*

**Item 6:**      ***Tour de table* on recent developments regarding national minorities, including as regards signatures and ratifications of Council of Europe treaties relating to the protection of national minorities**

**THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2007**

**9:30 – 12:30**

**Item 7:**      **Decision on granting of observer status to the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee discussed the request by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) to be granted an observer status with the DH-MIN. The Committee agreed to seek further written information on the statute, financing and specific activities of the said organisation and to invite its President to the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to obtain full background information needed for a decision on the matter.

Mr Hans Heinrich Hansen, President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) will address the Committee and present FUEN's request.

*Following this presentation, the Committee is invited to exchange views on the request and make a decision.*

**Item 8:**      **Follow up to the examination of the theme on the specific regulations contained in electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant for national minorities**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee decided to continue to discuss the theme of electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant for national minorities at forthcoming meetings and asked all member States to update their contributions.

Professor David Hine, Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in Oxford will present the updated report on electoral laws and the laws on political parties that are relevant to national minorities.

*Member States are invited to discuss/update information on their national situation in this regard and to provide the Secretariat with possible guidance on the possible future work on this theme.*

**Item 6:**      ***Tour de table on recent developments (continuation)***

**14:30 – 17:30**

**Item 9:**      **Follow up to the examination of the theme of the use of the existing binding and non-binding instruments concerning the protection of national minorities and non-discrimination in relation to new communities**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee discussed the Polish proposal to examine the issue of the use of the existing binding and non-binding instruments concerning the protection of national minorities and non-discrimination in relation to new communities.

Without making a decision whether the DH-MIN was the appropriate forum for discussing the issue of new communities, composed mainly of migrants, the Committee agreed to invite the representatives of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) to its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to obtain further information on the on-going work carried out in this sphere.

Mr Chris Hedges, Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), Assistant Director of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate at the Home Office, United Kingdom, will inform the Committee on the work of the CDMG.

Mr Vincent De Graaf, Legal Officer in the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE will provide information on the related activities of the High Commissioner.

*Following the presentations by the representatives of the CDMG and the OSCE HCNM, the Committee is invited to make a decision on the possible future work on this theme.*

**Item 10: Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the DH-MIN for 2008 (subject to the approval of the CDDH)**

At its fourth meeting in October 2006, the DH-MIN elected its Chair and Vice-Chair, both for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2007.

It is recalled that in accordance with Article 12e of the Resolution Res(2005)47 of the Committee of Ministers on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair may be renewed once for a period of one year. In accordance with Article 12a of the said Resolution the Chair of a subordinate body (such as the DH-MIN) may be appointed by the steering committee to which it is answerable (CDDH, in the case of the DH-MIN).

**FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2007**

**9:30 – 12:30**

**Item 11: Examination of the theme of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data**

At its last meeting in March 2007, the Committee started to examine the issue of permissibility of ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data. The Committee heard presentations from Mr Timo Makkonen (Finland) on the ‘European Handbook on Data Collection’ and from Ms Isil Gachet, Executive Secretary of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on the main findings of the forthcoming study on the existing legal and practical framework for ethnic data collection in member States.

Mr Patrick Simon, researcher at the *Institut national d’études démographiques* (INED) and author of the above-mentioned study will present the final results of the study.

Ms Eva Souhrada-Kirchmayer, Director, Department for Data Protection, *Bundeskansleramt*, Austria, Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee established under the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS N° 108) will present the work of that committee.

*Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the possible future work on this theme.*

**Item 12: Dates of the next meeting**

**Item 13: Other business**

**Item 14: Approval of the list of decisions adopted during the meeting**