



Strasbourg, 2 September 2008

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

DRAFT AGENDA

**8th meeting
15 – 16 October 2008**

**Strasbourg
Council of Europe
Room G.2, Agora Building**

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008

10:00 – 12:30

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

Item 2: **Examination of the potential added value of elaborating guidelines on procedures for developing relations between a state and kin minorities residing in a different state**

In its reply to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1735 (2006) on the concept of “nation”, adopted on 20 February 2008, the Committee of Ministers invited the DH-MIN, 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, taking into consideration the work currently carried out in this field, notably by the Venice Commission, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention, the Expert Committee of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Mr Krzysztof Drzewicki, Senior Legal Advisor and Mrs Natalie Sabanadze, Senior Adviser at the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities will present the recently adopted Recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE on the role of states on establishing and maintaining links with minorities abroad.

Ms/Mr XX *[name to be confirmed]* will outline the findings and conclusions of the Report on the Preferential Treatment of National Minorities by their Kin-State adopted by the Venice Commission in 2001 and subsequent developments in relation to protection of national minorities by their kin-states. *[to be confirmed]*

Ms/Mr XX *[name to be confirmed]* will present the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages findings on kin-state relations in the context of the Charter.

Delegations from those Member States, which adopted legislation on kin-minority relations, are invited to make presentations on their domestic legislation and practice concerning their kin-minorities.

Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views on the potential added value of elaborating the Council of Europe guidelines on procedures for developing relations between a state and kin-minorities residing in a different state and will provide the Secretariat with guidance on the possible future work on this theme.

14:30 – 17:30

Item 3: **Examination of the theme of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities**

At its last two meetings, in October 2007 and March 2008, the Committee heard testimonies on good practices in the field of the promotion of use of native languages in minority communities in the Slovak Republic, Romania, Serbia and on the “Position of France on the use of languages of origin and mother tongues in the field of education”.

The Committee decided to continue to examine this topic and to invite other States, to introduce their case-studies of good practices in this field at the forthcoming meetings.

Mr Furio Radin, MP in the Sabor (Parliament) of the Republic of Croatia and the president of the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Minority Rights, will make a presentation on the Promotion of the Italian Language in Croatia.

Mr Ivo Berther, Head of the Languages Promotion Service (Sprachenförderung) at the Graubünden (Grisons) Cantonal Office of Culture will present the plan of the government of the Canton of Graubünden (Grisons) for the Rumantsch Grischun language at schools.

Dr. Roland Verra, Head of Ladin School Education Board in Bolzano will make a presentation on "A multilingual model for the Ladin minority".

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

Item 4: Examination of the draft DH-MIN comments on the Draft Reply of the Ministers' Deputies to the Recommendation 222 (2007) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on "Language education in regional or minority languages"

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted on 1 June 2007 the Recommendation 222 (2007) on "Language education in regional or minority languages". On 2 July 2008, the Ministers' Deputies examined a draft reply prepared by the Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) and decided "to communicate Congress Recommendation 222 (2007) on "Language education in regional or minority languages", as well as the relevant draft reply, as it appears in document [CM/Cong\(2008\)Rec222 prov](#), to the following committees, for comments by 1 September 2008: Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) and the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN)."

The Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers' informed subsequently, that taking into account that no meeting of the DH-MIN has been scheduled between 2 July and 1 September 2008, the deadline indicated in the decisions should be considered as having an indicative character.

The Committee is invited to agree on possible comments taking into account elements which shall be prepared by the Secretariat.

Item 5: Tour de table on recent developments regarding national minorities

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2008

9:30 – 12:30

Item 6: Exchange of views between the DH-MIN and the representatives of the ACFC

At its 7th meeting in March 2008, the DH-MIN decided to discuss with the representatives of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention a number of issues of common interest for the DH-MIN and the ACFC.

Mr Alan Phillips, Acting President of the Advisory Committee, Ms Ilze Brands-Kehris Acting first vice-President of the Advisory Committee and Mr/Ms NN *[to be confirmed]* will present the ACFC's thematic Commentary on "The Effective Participation of Persons belonging to National Minorities in Cultural, Social and Economic Life and in Public Affairs", inform the DH-MIN about the Conference on "Enhancing the Impact of the Framework Convention: Past Experience, Present Achievements and Future Challenges" to be held in Strasbourg on 9-10 October 2008 and will present a new outline for third cycle state reports under the Framework Convention, with respect to those states which are State Parties to this Convention.

Following these presentations, the Committee will exchange views with the representatives of the Advisory Committee and will provide the Secretariat with guidance on the possible future work in these areas.

Item 5: Tour de table on recent developments regarding national minorities (continuation)

14:30 – 17:30

Item 7: Examination of the DH-MIN activity report (2007-2008)

The Committee is invited to discuss and adopt the DH-MIN Activity Report (2007-2008) taking into account the draft which shall be prepared by the Secretariat.

Item 8: Information on the development of the database and the search engine

The Secretariat will make a presentation of the new database and the search engine.

Item 9: Election of new Chairperson and vice Chairperson (subject to renewal of the mandate of the DH-MIN)

Item 10: Approval of the list of decisions adopted during the meeting

Item 11: Dates of the next meeting (subject to renewal of the mandate of the DH-MIN)

NB: The expert analysis of replies to the questionnaires on the access of national minorities to new media and on ethnic data collection and appropriate methods for gathering such data could not be completed in time for the 8th meeting of the DH-MIN. These themes will be discussed at the 9th meeting of the DH-MIN in March 2009 (subject to renewal of the mandate of the DH-MIN).