



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Working document  
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**SECRETARIAT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**COMPILATION OF OPINIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RELATING TO ARTICLE 21 OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION**

**FIRST CYCLE**

**“Article 21**

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.”

Note: this document was produced as a working document only and does not contain footnotes. For publication purposes, please refer to the original opinions.

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In some cases, the Advisory Committee considered that the implementation of the article at issue did not give rise to any specific observations.

This statement is not to be understood as signalling the adequate measures have now been taken and that efforts in this respect may be diminished or even halted. On the contrary, the nature of the obligations of the Framework Convention requires a sustained and continued effort by the authorities to respect the principles and achieve the goals of the Framework Convention.

Furthermore, a certain state of affairs may be considered acceptable at one stage but that need not necessarily be so in other cycles of monitoring.

Finally, it may be the case that issues that appear at one stage to be of relatively minor concern, prove over time to have been underestimated.

## **1. AZERBAIJAN**

See Article 20

### **In respect of Articles 20**

See Article 20

## **2. LITHUANIA**

See Article 19