



Strasbourg, 1 December 2014

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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**50th meeting
Strasbourg, 19-22 May 2014**

***Council of Europe – Agora building
Room G04***

MEETING REPORT

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities held its 50th meeting from 19 to 22 May 2014 in Strasbourg. Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, President of the Advisory Committee opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the Committee. She also informed the Committee of the absences of Mr Eero J. Aarnio and Ms Iivi Anna Masso, who had sent their apologies.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The agenda, as reproduced in Appendix II, was adopted.

Item 3: Approval of the report of the 49th meeting of the Advisory Committee

3. Having examined the report of its 49th meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the final text of the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2014)001.

Item 4: Examination of draft Opinions and their adoption

4. The Committee examined the draft 4th cycle Opinions on Denmark and Liechtenstein.

5. During the plenary session on 20 May 2014, the Advisory Committee decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on Denmark to vote on the text.

6. During the plenary session on 21 May 2014, the Advisory Committee decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on Liechtenstein to vote on the text.

7. The voting was organised in accordance with Rule 34 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, stipulating that Opinions should be adopted by a majority of ordinary Committee members, as well as with Rule 34 of Resolution (97) 10 to the effect that "Additional members shall sit in an advisory capacity; they shall not have the right to take part in a possible vote. The same shall apply to ordinary members regarding the report of the Party in respect of which they have been elected to the List".

8. The 4th cycle Opinions on Denmark and Liechtenstein were adopted unanimously.

Item 5: Examination of draft 9th Activity Report

9. The draft 9th Activity Report, covering the period between 1 June 2012 and 31 May 2014, was considered and adopted, in view of its presentation to the Committee of Ministers by the outgoing President of the Advisory Committee on 17 September 2014.

Item 6: Discussion of the Ad Hoc Report on Ukraine

10. The plenary reflected on the ad hoc visit to Ukraine, organised from 21 – 26 March 2014 and thanked the members of the Advisory Committee who had agreed to participate in the working group at short notice. It welcomed the publication on 1 April 2014 of the ad hoc report adopted by written procedure after the visit, following its presentation to the Committee of Ministers. A discussion ensued on the possible follow-up to the ad hoc report, in particular with

regard to the continued grave concerns related to the situation in Crimea. It was decided to issue an open statement to express again the deep concern of the Advisory Committee and emphasise its continued availability to assist in developing and strengthening effective minority protection in Crimea in line with the Framework Convention and in consultation with representatives of all affected groups. In addition, it was decided to underline in the Statement that the Advisory Committee was concerned exclusively with the protection of the human rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Crimea and that it did not wish to, nor was mandated to, engage in discussions related to the status of the territory.

Item 7: Thematic commentary on the personal scope of application of the FCNM

11. The plenary was briefed on the ongoing engagement of the working group to proceed with the draft outline. The process had, however, been delayed due to the developments in Ukraine. It was decided that the working group would take into account all the points raised during the brainstorming organised in February 2014 and would seek to present a revised structure to the 51st plenary to introduce the intention to prepare a fourth thematic commentary to the nine new members of the Advisory Committee and jointly discuss with them.

Item 8: Recent and future developments

12. The Advisory Committee was briefed about recent developments and upcoming future developments, including the country visit to Spain in July 2014 and to Slovakia in September 2014, for discussion of the draft Opinions during the 51st plenary. Information was further provided regarding a day of meetings with government and non-governmental representatives from Portugal to be held in Strasbourg in September 2014, as Portugal had again not agreed to the organisation of a country visit.

Item 9: Appointment of President *ad interim* of the Advisory Committee

13. President Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark warmly thanked the eight members of the Advisory Committee whose term, like her own, would come to an end on 31 May 2014, for their commitment and their valuable contribution to the monitoring to the Framework Convention. In addition, she thanked the members of the Committee and in particular the Bureau for their effective and friendly cooperation during the last two years.

14. On behalf of all members of the Advisory Committee, Ms Francesco Palermo, the 1st Vice-President, thanked the President and congratulated her for her commendable activities on behalf of the Advisory Committee throughout many years, as well as for her long-term commitment to the protection of national minorities.

15. In this context, it was unanimously decided that Mr Francesco Palermo would serve as acting President of the Advisory Committee between 1 June and the next plenary meeting in December 2014, when a new President of the Advisory Committee would be elected from among its members.

Item 10: Dates of next meetings

16. The date for the 51st meeting was confirmed for 1 – 5 December 2014. The plenary was further informed that the following weeks in 2015 had been identified according to the calendar of other meetings in Strasbourg as suitable for plenary sessions: 52nd plenary 16-20 March, 53rd

plenary 15-19 June and 54th plenary 16-20 November 2015. It was decided to propose these dates to the new members of the Advisory Committee during the 51st plenary meeting.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms Athanasia SPILIOPOULOU ÅKERMARK (Sweden)	President
Mr Francesco PALERMO (Italy)	1 st Vice-President
Ms Lidija BASTA FLEINER (Serbia)	2 nd Vice-President
Mr Eero J. AARNIO (Finland)	(excused)
Ms Arzu AGHDASI-SISAN (Azerbaijan)	
Mr Grigor BADIRYAN (Armenia)	
Ms Aleksandra BOJADJIEVA (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)	
Ms Anastasia CRICKLEY (Ireland)	
Ms Emilia DRUMEVA (Bulgaria)	
Ms Aliona GROSSU (Republic of Moldova)	
Ms Helena HOFMANNOVÁ (Czech Republic)	
Ms Ivana JELIĆ (Montenegro)	
Ms Milena KLAJNER (Croatia)	
Ms Iivi Anna MASSO (Estonia)	(excused)
Mr Einar NIEMI (Norway)	
Mr Valery OVCHINNIKOV (Russian Federation)	
Mr Gjergj SINANI (Albania)	
Ms Edita ŽIOBIENĖ (Lithuania)	

Directorate of Democracy (DG II)

Ms Maria OCHOA-LLIDO, Director of the Department of Anti-Discrimination and Social Cohesion

Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Ms Michèle AKIP, Head of Secretariat
 Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN, Administrator
 Ms Sarah BURTON, Administrator
 Ms Charlotte ALTENHÖNER-DION, Administrator
 Ms Nicola MARKES, Documentalist
 Ms Danijela GERDIJAN, Assistant
 Ms Geneviève HALLER, Assistant

ANNEX II

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the meeting report of the 49th meeting of the Advisory Committee

Examination of individual state reports and drafting of opinions, including in country-specific working groups

Report from the Bureau meeting

Exchange of views with the Chair of the GR-H

Discussion of the 4th cycle outline of Opinions

Discussion of follow-up meetings

Discussion of a thematic commentary on the personal scope of application of the FCNM

Exchange of views with the President of the Venice Commission

Recent and future developments

Dates of next meetings