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

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**COMMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK  
ON THE FOURTH OPINION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES  
BY DENMARK**

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(received on 14 January 2015)

## **Comments of the Government of Denmark**

### **on the opinion of the Advisory Committee on the report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Denmark.**

The Danish Government is pleased to respond to the invitation of the Advisory Committee on the report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities to comment on the Fourth opinion on Denmark, adopted on 20 May 2014.

The Danish Government would like to draw the Advisory Committees' attention to the previous state party reports and comments and would like specifically to reiterate that the international obligations that Denmark has assumed according to the Framework Convention only relate to the German national minority in South Jutland.

As the German minority in South Jutland has been identified as the only existing national minority in Denmark, there are no grounds for reviewing the articles of the Convention in consultation with other groups as these groups do not constitute or represent a national minority within the meaning of the Framework Convention.

Other minorities enjoy the same fundamental rights as all other Danish, including the rights contained in international human rights instruments which Denmark is party to.

Denmark has amongst others also ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Denmark's implementation of these conventions is overseen by the monitoring bodies established under the conventions.

The legal framework and good practices of the government thus results in an equal and fair treatment of all types of minorities residing in the territory of Denmark.

The Danish Government would like to point out to the advisory committee that the Danish Government is continuously working to promote all human rights – economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political.

The Danish Government continues to hold the view that Denmark is in full compliance with the international obligations laid down in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In saying this, the Danish Government would also like to stress its appreciation of the constructive dialogue, which has been developed between the Advisory Committee and the Danish authorities.

The Danish Government will ensure that both the Framework Convention and European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are discussed at the yearly meetings of the Contact Committee, thus ensuring that the German Minority are able to make the Government and the Parliament aware of any potential challenges at the highest level.

Furthermore, a meeting of the special working group will be arranged and will take place in the early part of the coming monitoring cycle.

The Danish Government has the following comments to Article 4:

With regards to paragraph 27 and 29 Denmark would like to make the following comments:

Paragraph 27: In 2013 the number of cases decided upon by the Board of Equal Treatment was 263 of which 36 (and not 41 as it is stated) concerned allegations of discrimination based on race or ethnic origin.

Paragraph 29: The Anti-Discrimination Unit was established in April 2014 and is a part of the National Social Appeals Board and not the secretariat of the Board of Equal Treatment, as it is stated.

Paragraph 38: In 2012, the Institute's budget for its activities in Denmark was increased with 10 million DKK, in line with the new mandate. In 2014, the budget was further increased with 0,9 million DKK. Each year when the Finance Act is negotiated, the Institute's financial situation is assessed. In light of this, the Government of Denmark does not find it necessary to undertake a formal review of the implementation of the mentioned act."