

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 10 October 2016

ACFC/MR(2016)002

56th meeting
Strasbourg, 23-27 May 2016

*Council of Europe – Agora building
Room G06*

MEETING REPORT

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities held its 56th meeting from 23 to 27 May 2016 in Strasbourg. Mr Francesco Palermo, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the Committee.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

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

Item 3: Approval of the report of the 55th meeting of the Advisory Committee

3. Having examined the report of its 55th meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the final text of the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2016)001

Item 4: Examination of draft Opinions and their adoption

4. The Committee examined the draft 4th cycle Opinion on Armenia. During the plenary session on 26 May 2016, it decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on Armenia, to vote on the text.

5. 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".

6. The 4th cycle Opinion on Armenia was adopted unanimously.

7. The Committee examined the draft 4th cycle Opinion on the United Kingdom. During the plenary session on 25 May 2016, it decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on the United Kingdom, to vote on the text.

8. 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.

9. The 4th cycle Opinion on the United Kingdom was adopted unanimously.

10. The Committee examined the draft 4th cycle Opinion on the Republic of Moldova. During the plenary session on 25 May 2016, it decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on the Republic of Moldova, to vote on the text.

11. 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".

12. The 4th cycle Opinion on the Republic of Moldova was adopted unanimously.

Item 5: Examination of the Draft 4th Thematic Commentary on the Scope of Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Draft 4th Thematic Commentary on the Scope of Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was discussed and adopted by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee decided that the launch of the commentary would take place on 11 October.

Item 6: Adoption of the 10th Activity Report

The 10th Activity Report was adopted by the Advisory Committee.

Item 7: Recent and future developments

13. The Advisory Committee was informed of recent developments linked to the Framework Convention since the previous meeting concerning the status of receipt of State Reports, country visits, opinions published, submission of government comments, resolutions adopted as well as events in which the ACFC and/or Secretariat members have participated.

14. The Advisory Committee decided on the Working Groups in respect of Austria, Malta and Norway. Delegation visit dates were decided in respect of Austria and Norway.

15. As to the invitation received from the Presidential Palace signed by Mr. Pantelis Pantelides of the Secretariat to the President of the Republic of Cyprus, transmitted via Mr Yiannis Chrysostomis, to organise a conference in Cyprus in 2016, after a discussion, it was decided to have the meeting after the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, which ends in May 2017, and that this meeting would also be an ideal opportunity to cover the 4th cycle follow-up procedure.

Item 8: Appointment of President *ad interim* of the Advisory Committee

16. President Mr Francesco Palermo warmly thanked the eight members of the Advisory Committee whose term, like his own, would come to an end on 31 May 2016, for their commitment and their valuable contribution to the monitoring to the Framework Convention. In addition, he thanked the members of the Committee and in particular the Bureau for their effective and friendly co-operation during the last two years.

17. On behalf of all members of the Advisory Committee, Ms Petra Roter, the 1st Vice-President, thanked the President and congratulated him for his commendable activities on behalf of the Advisory Committee throughout his mandate, as well as for his long-term commitment to the protection of national minorities.

18. In this context, it was unanimously decided that Ms Petra Roter would serve as acting President of the Advisory Committee between 1 June and the next plenary meeting in October 2016, when a new President of the Advisory Committee would be elected from among its members.

ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Advisory Committee for the Protection of National Minorities

Mr Francesco PALERMO (Italy)	<i>President</i>
Ms Petra ROTER (Slovenia)	<i>First Vice-President</i>
Ms Ms Ivana JELIĆ (Montenegro)	<i>Second Vice-President</i>
Mr Eero J. AARNIO (Finland)	
Mr Reinis ĀBOLTIŅŠ (Latvia)	
Ms Arzu AGHDASI-SISAN (Azerbaijan)	
Mr Neven ANĐELIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	
Mr Grigor BADIRYAN (Armenia)	
Ms Brigitta BUSCH (Austria)	
Mr Yiannis CHRYSOSTOMIS (Cyprus)	
Ms Emilia DRUMEVA (Bulgaria)	

Ms Helena HOFMANNOVÁ (Czech Republic)
Mr Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)
Ms Tove H. MALLOY (Denmark)

Ms Tatjana MURAVJOVA (Estonia)
Mr Craig OLIPHANT (United Kingdom)
Mr Valery OVCHINNIKOV (Russian Federation)
Ms Carmen SANTIAGO REYES (Spain)

Advisory Committee's additional member

Ms Aliona GROSSU (Republic of Moldova)

Council of Europe

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO, Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department

Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Mr Marco LEIDEKKER, Head of Secretariat
Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN, Administrator
Ms Charlotte ALTENHÖNER-DION, Administrator
Ms Gisella GORI, Administrator
Ms Nicola MARKES, Documentalist
Ms Danijela GERDIJAN, Assistant
Mr Anthony ISKENDERIAN, Assistant

Interpreters

Ms Katia DI STEFANO
Mr Rémy JAIN (26-27/05)
Mr Luke TILDEN (23-24/05)
Ms Elisabetta BASSU (23-24-25/05)
Ms Sara WEBSTER (25-26-27/05)

ANNEX II - ANNOTATED AGENDA

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the agenda

Approval of the 55th meeting of the Advisory Committee

Examination of draft Opinions and their adoption

Examination of the Draft 4th Thematic Commentary on the Scope of Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Adoption of the 10th Activity Report

Recent and future developments

Appointment of President *ad interim* of the Advisory Committee