



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality
Sweden



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2ND MONITORING CYCLE OF
THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL
MINORITIES**

5 – 6 February 2009

**Rotundan (7th floor), Rosenbad 4
Stockholm**

PROGRAMME

The aim of this meeting is to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Sweden and to discuss the steps taken and/or foreseen to implement the recommendations contained in the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee adopted in November 2007 and in the corresponding Resolution of the Committee of Ministers adopted in June 2008.

Four main areas will be examined during this meeting, in the presence of the responsible authorities, minority associations, NGOs as well as experts in the field of minority rights.

- Institutional and legal framework
- Minority participation in decision-making
- Minority education

It is expected that the results of the discussions at the meeting will be instrumental to the on-going process of the implementation of the findings of the Framework Convention's monitoring bodies.

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2009

12:30-13:00 Registration of participants

13:00-13:30 Opening speeches

Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Minister of Integration and Gender Equality

Mr Rainer Hofmann, 2nd Vice President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe

GENERAL EVALUATION SESSION

Chair: Ms Stéphanie Marsal, Secretariat of the Advisory Committee, Council of Europe

13:30-13:45 Main findings of the Advisory Committee's 2nd Opinion in respect of Sweden

Mr Francesco Parlemo, member of the Advisory Committee

13:45-14:00 Response on behalf of the Swedish Government, including information on recent developments

Ms Charlotta Wickman, Director of the Division for Discrimination Issues, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality

14:00-14:15 Questions

14:15-14:30 Coffee break

THEME 1: INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Chair: Mr Lennart Rohdin, Political Advisor to Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality

14:30-14:50 Developments in the area of non-discrimination

To include:

Reform of the Ombudsman structure and its impact on national minority protection

Extending the scope of legislative guarantees against discrimination: towards a comprehensive law on non-discrimination

Ms Katri Linna, the Ombudsman against Discrimination

- 14:50-15:10 Working with and for Roma in the councils**
Tiina Kiveliö, Secretary, Delegation for Roma Issues
- 15:10-15:30 Developments concerning the national minority policy**
Ms Kaisa Syrjänen-Schaal, Desk Officer, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality
- 15:30-16:00 Comment by representatives of the national minorities**
Open floor
- 16:00-16:30 Discussions on theme one issues**
- 16:30-16:45 Coffee break – Sandwich**

THEME 2: PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

- Chair:** Ms Maria Leissner, Chair of the Delegation for Roma Issues
- 16:45-17:00 Introduction to the Advisory Committee’s Thematic Commentary on Participation**
Mr Francesco Parlemo, member of the Advisory Committee
- 17:00-17:15 The role of the Sami Parliament in decision-making processes: the experience so far**
Mr Olof T Johansson, second vice chair of the Sámi Parliament
- 17:15-17:45 Comments and discussion on the topic above**
- 17:45-18:00 Participation of national minorities in decision-making at local/regional level**
Mr Hans Landberg, County Administration of Norrbotten
- 18:00-18:15 Comment by representatives of the national minorities**
Open floor
- 18:15-18:30 Discussion on the topic above**
- 19:00- Dinner at Rosenbad**

FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2009

THEME 3: MINORITY EDUCATION

- Chair:** Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director, Åland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn, Åland, former Second Vice-President of the Advisory Committee
- 9:00-9:15** **Introduction to the Advisory Committee's Thematic Commentary on Education**
Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director, Åland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn, Åland, former Second Vice-President of the Advisory Committee
- 9:15-9:30** **Presentation on education**
Mr Bertil Östberg, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research
- 9:30-10:00** **Comments by national minority representatives**
Open floor
- 10:00-10:15** **Discussion**
- 10.15-10.30** **Coffee break**

CONCLUDING SESSION

- 10:30-10:45** Mr Lennart Rohdin, Political Advisor to Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality
- 10:45-11.00** Mr Rainer Hofmann, 2nd Vice President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe
- 11.00-11.20** Closing