



FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

PROGRAMME

**Bratislava, Slovak Republic Government Office
7 December 2007**

Slovakia as a State Party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities since 1998 undertook to implement the provisions contained in this international treaty. These measures and their level of implementation were for the second time by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention on the basis of the State report submitted by the authorities of Slovakia in December 2004 and other sources as well as on the basis of information gathered during the second visit of the Committee to the country in April 2005. This resulted in a second Opinion adopted in May 2005 and in the adoption of the corresponding Resolution of the Committee of Ministers in June 2006. The Opinion and Resolution identified strengths in the implementation of the Framework Convention in Slovakia but also highlighted areas where improvements could be made.

The aim of this meeting is to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Framework Convention and to discuss the steps taken and/ or foreseen to implement the recommendations contained in the Opinion of the Advisory Committee and Committee of Ministers' Resolution. These discussions will also be instrumental in opening up a public debate on the implementation of the Framework Convention before the submission of the third State report under this treaty due in February 2009.

Two main areas could be examined during this meeting, in the presence of the responsible authorities, minority associations, NGOs as well as international organisations.

- Participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs, cultural, social and economic life;
- Stocktaking of policies and measures to promote equal opportunities for the Roma.

It is expected that following the discussions relating to the above-mentioned topics, general conclusions will be drawn providing the platform of a work programme to be implemented in order to further promote and respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Slovakia.

Simultaneous translation into English and Slovak will be provided.

08.30-09.00 Registration of participants

09.00-09.30 Opening of the seminar

Marek Lisánsky, Section of Human Rights and Minorities,
Slovak Republic Government Office

Dušan Čaplovič, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak
Republic for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights
and Minorities

09.30-11.00 GENERAL EVALUATION SESSION

Chair: Anna Lamperová, Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, t.b.c.

**09.30-10.00 Overview of the main findings of the Advisory Committee's Opinion
on the implementation of the FCNM in Slovakia**

Anastasia Crickley, Former Member of the Advisory Committee
on the Framework Convention

**10.00-10.30 Response of the Government of Slovakia to the findings of the Advisory
Committee**

Igor Grexa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, t.b.c.
Ivana Kasárová, The Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic
to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

10.30-11.00 General discussion (open to the floor)

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00

THEME 1 – PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE

Chair: Marek Lisánsky, Section of Human Rights and Minorities,
Slovak Republic Government Office

**11.30-12.00 Participation of persons belonging to national minorities
in public affairs, cultural, social and economic life**

Jana Kresáková, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Katarína Ondrášová, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, t.b.c.

12.00-13.00 Discussion

Issues to be discussed:

- Participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making;
- Participation in cultural, social and economic life and in education in the context of decentralisation.

13.00-14.00 Buffet Lunch

14.00-15.30

THEME 2 – STOCKTAKING OF POLICIES AND MEASURES TO PROMOTE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ROMA

Chair: Marek Lisánsky, Section of Human Rights and Minorities,
Slovak Republic Government Office

14.00-14.30 Stocktaking of policies and measures to promote equal opportunities for the Roma:

Anina Botošová, Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government
for Roma Communities

Marek Lisánsky, Section of Human Rights and Minorities,
Slovak Republic Government Office

14.30-15.30 Discussion

Issues to be discussed:

- Implementation of the Antidiscrimination Act;
- Stocktaking of policies and measures:
 - in the social field;
 - in the field of housing;
 - in the field of education.

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.45 CONCLUDING SESSION

16.00-16.20 Summary of the meeting

Anastasia Crickley, Former Member of the Advisory Committee
on the Framework Convention

16.20-16.45 Concluding remarks by the organisers

Dušan Čaplovič, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government
of the Slovak Republic for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs,
Human Rights and Minorities
Marek Lisánsky, Section of Human Rights, Minorities, Slovak Republic
Government Office