

Framework Convention  
for the Protection of National Minorities

Convention-cadre  
pour la protection des minorités nationales

fem



## ENHANCING THE IMPACT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

past experience,  
present achievements  
and future challenges

Conference, 9-10 October 2008  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

PROGRAMME



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## IMPACT-ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE

9 - 10 October 2008  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
(Room 9)

### **9 OCTOBER 2008**

*8:00 - 9:00 Registration of participants of the  
NGO meeting (Room 9)*

9:00 – 13:00 NGO meeting: Drawing up an NGO  
Declaration on the Framework  
Convention for the Protection of  
National Minorities  
Meeting coordinated by Minority  
Rights Group International (*Room 9*)

*13:00 -14:00 Registration of participants of the  
conference (Room 9)*

**14: 00** **Opening of the Conference**  
(*Room 9*)

*Chairperson: Mr Rainer Hofmann, former  
President of the Advisory Committee  
on the Framework Convention and  
current member*

Mr Philippe Boillat, Director  
General, Directorate General of  
Human Rights and Legal Affairs,  
Council of Europe

Mr Alan Phillips, Acting President of  
the Advisory Committee on the  
Framework Convention

Mr Thomas Hammarberg,  
Commissioner for Human Rights of  
the Council of Europe

14:45 – 17:30 **Implementation of the  
Framework Convention:  
Main Substantive Challenges**

The end of the second monitoring  
cycle and the opening of new  
perspectives for the third monitoring  
cycle: Ms Ilze Brands-Kehris, Acting  
First Vice-President of the Advisory  
Committee on the Framework  
Convention

Presentation of the NGO Declaration  
by Ms Aleksandra Bojadžieva, Roma  
Democratic Development  
Association SONCE, Tetovo

*Coffee break* 15:40 – 16:00

**Sharing Experiences on the Impact  
of the Framework Convention**

Ms Bilge Tekin-Befrits, Desk  
Officer, Ministry of Integration and  
Gender Equality, Sweden, Vice-  
Chairperson of the Committee of  
Experts on Issues relating

to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN)

Ms Anna-Mária Bíró, Senior Consultant, Managing Multiethnic Communities Program, LGI-Open Society Institute, Dublin/Budapest

Mr Kemal Eyup, Chairman, the Commission for the Protection against Discrimination, Bulgaria

Selected themes to be discussed:

- FCNM as a tool for promoting dialogue between the authorities and national minorities
- FCNM: balance between the promotion of minority rights and the integration of national minorities into society
- FCNM and its use by civil society

Wrap up: Ms Isabela Mihalache, Senior Programme Manager, Open Society Institute, Budapest

**17:30 End of the first day of the Conference**

*18:00 – 20:00 Launch of the exhibition “National Minorities, Breath of Diversity, Breath of Europe” & Reception (Venue: Palais de l’Europe, lobby of the hemicycle, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)*

**10 OCTOBER 2008**

9:00 –12:30 Workshops (with coffee break)

**Workshop 1: The Impact-Assessment of the Framework Convention in the State Parties**

*(Room 9)*

*Chairperson:* Ms Mirjam-Angela Karoly, Member of the Board of the Roma Association “Romano Centro”, Vienna, and, currently, Community Policy Advisor in the OSCE Mission to Kosovo

- Presentation of a study on “Indicators for Assessing the Impact of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in its State Parties” by Ms Emma Lantschner, Ms Tove Malloy, Mr Joseph Marko and Ms Roberta Medda-Windischer from the European Academy of Bolzano, Institute for Minority Rights
- Presentation of a report on “The Role of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Selected Countries of South-Eastern Europe after Two Monitoring Cycles” by Mr Florian Bieber, Lecturer of East European Politics at the University of Kent and a Senior non-resident Research Associate at the European Centre for Minorities Issues (ECMI)
- Presentation of a report on “The Impact of the Framework Convention for the Protection

of National Minorities in Selected Countries of Western Europe after Two Monitoring Cycles” by Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director, Åland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn, Åland, former Second Vice-President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention

Discussants:

Ms Tatjana Perić, Senior Research Coordinator, European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest  
Mr Thede Boysen, Head of Secretariat of the Four Autochthonous Minorities, Germany

General discussion

*Rapporteur: Mr John Packer, Director of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex*

**Workshop 2: The Framework Convention and Other International Actors (Room 6)**

*Chairperson:* Ms Judit Solymosi, Chairperson of the the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN)

- Presentation of a report on “The Use of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Other International Actors, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations” by Ms Zdenka Machnyikova, independent consultant, Ottawa/Prague

- Presentation of a report on “The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Union” by Mr Christophe Hillion, Professor, University of Leiden
- Presentation of a report on “The Use of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Other Council of Europe mechanisms” by Ms Rianne Monique Letschert, Associate Professor and Research Director, International Victimology Institute, Tilburg

Discussants:

Mr Morten Kjærum, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna

Mr Knut Vollebaek, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, The Hague

Mr Ljubomir Mikić, Director of the Center for Peace, Vukovar

Ms Ilona Klímová-Alexander, Associate Human Rights Officer, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

General discussion

*Rapporteur: Mr Giorgio Malinverni, Judge at the European Court of Human Right, Strasbourg*

**Workshop 3: The Advisory Committee's Thematic Work (Room 11)**

*Chairperson:* Mr Alexander Osipov, Programme Co-ordinator, Human Rights Centre MEMORIAL, Moscow

- Presentation of a report on “The Work of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on Thematic Commentaries, and the Potential Impact of These Commentaries” by Mr Asbjørn Eide, Norwegian Institute of Human Rights, Oslo, Norway and former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention
- Presentation on “Dual Meaning of Participation: The Advisory Committee’s Thematic Commentary on the Effective Participation of Persons belonging to National Minorities in Cultural, Social and Economic Life and in Public Affairs” by Mr Francesco Palermo, Member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention

Discussants:

Ms Lidija Basta-Fleiner, Director of International Department, Institute of Federalism, Fribourg and Former First Vice-President of the Advisory Committee

Mr Patrick Yu, Executive Director, Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities, Belfast



## General discussion

*Rapporteur: Mr Marc Weller, Director of the  
European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI),  
Flensburg*

## PLENARY SESSION

### **15:00 – 17:45 Roundtable discussion: Conclusions of the Impact-Assessment of the Framework Convention (Room 9)**

*Chairperson: President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention*

Conclusions of the Workshops presented by the rapporteurs and followed by discussions:

- Workshop 1: Mr John Packer, Director of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex
- Workshop 2: Mr Giorgio Malinverni, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg
- Workshop 3: Mr Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg

General discussion

**17:45 – 18:00 Closing session**

Closing words: Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos,  
Director, Directorate of  
Monitoring, Directorate General  
of Human Rights and Legal  
Affairs, Council of Europe

**18:00 End of the conference**

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SECRETARIAT  
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FOR THE PROTECTION  
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