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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF
NATIONAL MINORITIES
(DH-MIN)**

**ISSUES/THEMES THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE DH-MIN
IN ITS FUTURE WORK**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of
National Minorities and the DH-MIN*

As part of its 2004 mandate, the DH-MIN is entrusted, *inter alia*, with the following tasks:

- i. *To act as a forum for the exchange of information, views and experience on policies and good practices for the protection of national minorities at the domestic level and in the context of relevant international legal instruments, including those of the Council of Europe, without pursuing activities relating to monitoring the situation in individual member states;*
- ii. *To carry out a reflection on transversal issues relevant to member states, drawing on the results of the monitoring mechanism of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and, where appropriate, the work of other bodies dealing with related issues and especially the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;*

In accordance with the abovementioned elements of the mandate, the DH-MIN may wish to have a first discussion on possible transversal issues/themes on which information, views and experiences could be exchanged (point i) and a reflection carried out (point ii).

In order to facilitate this discussion, the Secretariat would like to suggest two themes that could be considered by DH-MIN in addition to proposals to be put forth by members of the Committee: 1) Reporting under human rights with relevance to the protection of national minorities, 2) Advisory and consultative bodies of national minorities.

These themes were selected in view of their relevance to the mandate and the positive contribution that further work on these issues could make for the European cooperation on the protection of national minorities. They also reflect the fact that the mandate invites the DH-MIN to draw on the results of the monitoring mechanism, while not pursuing activities relating to monitoring of the situation in individual member states. Finally, work on these themes could build on the related activities already carried out by the DH-MIN prior to the suspension of its work in 1999.

The Committee may wish to discuss these proposed themes on the basis of the following two background documents prepared by the Secretariat:

- Reporting under human rights with relevance to the protection of national minorities (DH-MIN (2005)005);
- Advisory and Consultative Bodies of National Minorities (DH-MIN (2005)006).