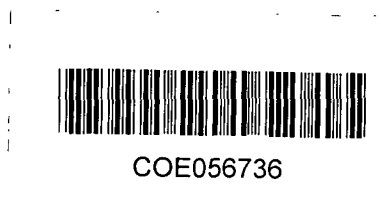




Strasbourg, 12 May 2005



DH-MIN(2005)007

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

LIST OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

**1st meeting
10-12 May 2005**

**Human Rights Building, Strasbourg
Directorate of Human Rights Meeting Room (*Rez-de-Jardin*)**

During its first meeting, held on 10-12 May 2005, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions:

1. The DH-MIN elected Mr Detlev REIN (Germany) as Chairperson and Mr Eero AARNIO (Finland) as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.
2. With regard to the proposed theme on reporting under human rights treaties with relevance to the protection of national minorities, the DH-MIN decided to invite the chairpersons of the following three committees (and their respective secretaries) for an exchange of views at its next meeting: the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).
3. With regard to the proposed theme on advisory and consultative bodies of national minorities, the DH-MIN decided that this issue should be examined further. As a first step, a targeted questionnaire, to be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, should be sent to the members of the DH-MIN at the earliest convenience.

The said questionnaire should take into account the fact that consultative bodies of national minorities are not the only means of ensuring consultation of persons belonging to national minorities. It should invite States to explain the reasons for opting for a particular form of consultation and encourage them to provide a critical assessment of its functioning and impact. It should also invite States to express their views on the advisability of setting up such consultative bodies of national minorities. Answers to the questionnaire will be examined during the next meeting of the DH-MIN.

The DH-MIN decided to invite the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) for an exchange of views on this issue.

4. The DH-MIN decided to invite a representative of the European Roma and Travellers Forum for an exchange of views at its next meeting.
5. The DH-MIN decided that, at its next meeting, a representative of the European Commission should be invited to give an overview of the EU texts and related case-law that are of relevance to the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, in particular as regards the issue of non-discrimination. This overview should include the relevant provisions of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. It will be followed by an exchange of views.
6. The DH-MIN decided to invite States and observers to the Committee to submit to the Secretariat their proposals for themes/transversal issues to be included in the work plan of the DH-MIN. These proposals will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.
7. The DH-MIN decided to hold its next meeting from 26 to 28 October 2005 in Strasbourg.