



Strasbourg, 28 October 2005

DH-MIN(2005)013

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

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**LIST OF DECISIONS**

**2nd meeting  
26-28 October 2005**

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

During its second meeting, held on 26-28 October 2005, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) adopted the following decisions relating to its future work-programme, which will be submitted to the CDDH at its 61<sup>st</sup> meeting on 22-25 November 2005:

1. The DH-MIN decided to continue its work relating to the theme of consultative arrangements concerning national minorities with a view to preparing a handbook of good practices in this field by the end of 2006. To this effect, it decided to invite Mr Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) to prepare a revised version of his report on this theme by 1 February 2006 on the basis of the additional information and comments which governments should provide to the Secretariat by the end of November 2005. It decided that this revised report would be shared also with the participants of the envisaged conference on the issue (see below), to be organised by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of Europe and that the report would subsequently be discussed in depth by the DH-MIN. A matrix containing different country situations with specific types of consultative bodies of national minorities would also be drawn up in order to identify possible good practices.
2. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Romanian authorities on the international conference to be organised on the role of consultative bodies of national minorities in enhancing the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes. The conference will be organised in Romania in March 2006 in the framework of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of Europe and DH-MIN members will be invited to participate in it. The Committee decided that the results of this conference will be further discussed during its third meeting. It also decided, subject to the authorisation of the Committee of Ministers, that its third meeting will be held on 8-10 March 2006 in Romania, immediately following the aforementioned international conference, in a budget neutral manner.
3. The DH-MIN decided to examine the issue of access of national minorities to print media (minority and mainstream media) with a view to preparing a handbook and possibly recommendations on this issue, in co-operation with governmental and other experts dealing specifically with media issues. To this effect, governments should submit information on the situation with respect to this theme. Such information will be subject of further expert analyses and subsequently discussed by the DH-MIN.
4. The DH-MIN decided to examine recent developments as regards the specific regulations contained in electoral laws and the laws on political parties at national, regional and local levels that are of relevance for national minorities, with a view to drawing up a document containing good practices. Information contained in already existing documents on this subject, including those prepared by the Venice Commission, should be taken into account in further discussions to be held on this topic by the DH-MIN.
5. The DH-MIN decided to launch a study on the impact of international non-discrimination norms relevant to Europe on the protection of national minorities. It decided that an expert study should be commissioned by the DH-MIN on this theme, to be followed by a specific DH-MIN session devoted to this issue.