



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY

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Draft program

Protection of identity through language rights

25th anniversary conference of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

13-14 November 2017, Budapest

Conference Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1027 Budapest, Bem tér 4.

13 November 2017

19:00 Reception hosted by H. E. Zsolt Németh, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hungarian National Assembly

Venue: Hungarian National Assembly, Felsőházi folyosó

14 November 2017

9:00-9:30 Official opening

H. E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (*tbc*)

H. E. Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe (*tbc*)

H. E. Mr. Árpád János Potápi, Minister of State for National Policy, Prime Minister's Office, *confirmed*

H. E. Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hungarian National Assembly (*tbc*)

9:30-11:00 Panel I: The role of the Charter in the international legal framework and the further development of the Charter

Moderator: Mr. Péter Varga, Strategy Planning and Information Department, State Secretariat for National Policy, Prime Minister's Office

- **The importance and role of the Charter in the CoE system** - Ms. Vesna Crnić-Grotić (Croatia), Chair of the COMEX, ECRML *tbc*

- **The possibilities and actualities of enhancing the international legal framework and the further development of the Charter** - Prof. Gábor Kardos (Hungary), member of the COMEX *tbc*

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-13:00 Panel II: Implementing linguistic rights in practice, best practices on a regional and state level, difficulties and challenges, experiences of the review mechanism

Moderator: Representative of the Department for Security and Non-proliferation

- **Best practices concerning regional linguistic autonomies** – Mr. Loránt Vincze, President of Federal Union of European Nationalities/FUEN confirmed
- **Problems encountered during the monitoring process, improving the effectiveness of the monitoring** - Mr. Hallvard Gorseth, Head of the Anti-discrimination Department, CoE *tbc*
- **Ratification practices of the State Parties, supporting the preparations for the ratification of the Charter** – Mr. Francesco Palermo, former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) through skype or video message tbc

13:00-14:30 Lunch hosted by H. E. László Trócsányi, Minister of Justice (*tbc*)

14:30-16:00 Panel III: Regional and minority language education

Moderator: Dr. Hajnalka Juhász, Chief of Cabinet, Minister of State for justice cooperation, Ministry of Justice

- **The role of education in the protection of regional and minority languages** - Prof. Dr. Stefan Oeter, Universität Hamburg *tbc*
- **State commitments and socio-linguistic situation of regional and minority languages in the field of education** - Ms Rózsa Hoffmann, MP, Member of the Hungarian delegation to PACE, CoE confirmed
- **Overview of best practices and experiences of States Parties and regions** - Mr. Zsolt Szakállas, vice secretary to the Secretariat on Education, Legislation, Administration, National Minorities and National Communities, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, confirmed

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Panel IV: The role of civil society and language users in promoting the aims of the Charter; The role of young people in fostering the use of minority and regional languages; Modern information and communication technologies and the use of minority languages

Moderator: Dr. Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay, Deputy Commissioner for fundamental rights, ombudsman for the rights of national minorities

- **The role of civil society and language users in promoting the aims of the Charter** - Mrs. Sabrina Rasom, Vice-Chair of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) *confirmed*
- **The effects of the information and communication technology development on the implementation of the commitments of states on the protection of minority and regional languages** - Mr. Davyth Hicks, Secretary General of the European Language Equality Network (ELEN) *confirmed*
- **Using the advances of information society to promote the Charter, engaging youth and encouraging the use of minority and regional languages among the new generation** – Mr. András Bethlendi, lawyer, civil society activist, Romania *confirmed*

17:45-18:15 **Concluding remarks by Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, Ministerial commissioner responsible for Neighbourhood policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** *confirmed*

(press communiqué)