



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 27 September 2018

ACFC/MR(2018)002

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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**62<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 28-31 May 2018**

***Council of Europe Agora building***

***Room G06***

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**MEETING REPORT**

**Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) held its 62<sup>st</sup> meeting from 28 to 31 May 2018 in Strasbourg. Ms Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee.

2. A special welcome is reserved for Mr Giuseppe Falbo, member in respect of Switzerland. Mr Falbo replaces Ms Barbara Wilson, who sadly passed away in 2017.

**Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The Agenda, as reproduced in Annex II and slightly amended, was adopted.

**Item 3: Approval of the report of the 61th meeting of the Advisory Committee**

4. Having examined the report of its 61<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the final text of the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2018)001.

**Item 4: Report from the Bureau**

5. The Advisory Committee was informed of recent developments linked to the Framework Convention since the previous meeting concerning the status of receipt of State Reports, country visits, opinions published, submission of government comments, resolutions adopted as well as events in which the ACFC and/or Secretariat members have participated.

6. Further, the President gave an account of her presentation of five AC Opinions at the Committee of Minister's rapporteur group on human rights on 23 May 2018. In her presentation, amongst other issues, the President announced the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> monitoring cycle and informed the Committee of Minister's that the State Report should be based on an outline previously adopted by the Committee of Ministers for the fourth cycle.

**Item 5: Gender equality experience from the visits**

7. Members exchanged their respective experiences during the most recent visits, highlighting meetings where women were underrepresented and those where the gender balance was respected, but also noting that the gender perspective rarely extends beyond the issue of representation.

**Item 6: 20 years of FCNM: Conference – State of affairs**

8. Mr Gorseth informed the Advisory Committee about the state of affairs of the Conference marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the FCNM and the ECRML to be held in Strasbourg on 18-19 June 2018 under the Croatian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. Mr Gorseth took the opportunity to inform the Committee about the appointment of Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek as director of the Anti-discrimination Directorate, replacing Ms Claudia Luciani. Also, Mr Gorseth thanked the outgoing members of the Advisory Committee for their efforts.

**Item 7: Examination of draft opinions and their adoption**

9. The Advisory Committee examined the draft 4th cycle opinion on Lithuania. During the plenary session, it decided on 30 May 2018, in the light of the final version of the draft opinion on Lithuania, to vote on the text.

10. The voting was organised in accordance with Rule 34 of the Advisory Committee's Rules of Procedure, stipulating that opinions should be adopted by a majority of ordinary Advisory Committee members.

11. The 4th cycle Opinion on Lithuania was adopted unanimously on 30 May 2018.
12. The Advisory Committee examined the draft 4th cycle opinion on Switzerland. During the plenary session, it decided on 31 May 2018, in the light of the final version of the draft opinion on Switzerland, to vote on the text.
13. The voting was organised in accordance with Rule 34 of the Advisory Committee's Rules of Procedure, stipulating that opinions should be adopted by a majority of ordinary Advisory Committee members.
14. The 4th cycle opinion on Switzerland was adopted unanimously on 31 May 2018.
15. As regards the draft 4<sup>th</sup> cycle Opinion on Albania, in the light of secondary legislation still to be adopted by the Albanian authorities, on 29 May the Advisory Committee decided to postpone the examination of the draft 4<sup>th</sup> cycle opinion on Albania to the 63<sup>th</sup> plenary in October 2018.

**Item 8: Preparation of the activity report 2016-2018**

16. The Advisory Committee adopted its 11<sup>th</sup> Activity Report (2016-2018). On 26 September 2018, Ms Roter will present this biannual report to the Committee of Ministers.

**Item 9: Advisory Committee's terminology**

17. A Lexicon containing the Advisory Committee's terminology was presented by the secretariat. Several suggestions were made, which will be included in an updated version to be presented during the 63<sup>th</sup> plenary in October 2018

**Any other business**

18. The Advisory Committee decided on the Working Groups in respect of Georgia, Montenegro and the Netherlands. It also decided on the replacement of the outgoing member of the Working Group on Albania.
19. Further, the President announced that Ms Sanders-Ten Holte accepted to serve as acting President of the Advisory Committee between 1 June 2018 and the next plenary meeting in October 2018, when a new President of the Advisory Committee will be elected from among its members. The Advisory Committee notes that, in case of unavailability of Ms Sanders-Ten Holte the relevant rules designate Ms Žiobienė as acting President.
20. The President warmly thanked the eight members of the Advisory Committee whose term, like her own, would come to an end on 31 May 2018, for their commitment and their valuable contribution to the monitoring to the Framework Convention. In addition, she thanked the members of the Advisory Committee and in particular the Bureau for their effective and friendly co-operation during the last two years. She also expressed her gratitude to the FCNM secretariat for its hard work.
21. The Advisory Committee was informed about several upcoming events, including:
  - a. 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary, Strasbourg, 8-12 October 2018 (early hotel booking is indispensable, as this is a PACE week).
  - b. 64<sup>th</sup> Plenary, Strasbourg, 4-8 March 2019.
  - c. 65<sup>th</sup> Plenary, Strasbourg, 24-28 June 2019.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### Advisory Committee for the Protection of National Minorities

Ms Petra ROTER (Slovenia) – *President*  
Ms Brigitta BUSCH (Austria) – *First Vice-President*  
Mr Craig OLIPHANT (United Kingdom) – *Second Vice-President*

Mr Reinis ĀBOLTIŅŠ (Latvia)  
Mr Neven ANĐELIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Mr Besarion BOKHASHVILI (Georgia)  
Mr Yiannis CHRYSOSTOMIS (Cyprus)  
Ms Laura-Maria CRĂCIUNEAN-TATU (Romania)  
Mr Giuseppe FALBO (Switzerland)  
Mr Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)  
Mr Sławomir ŁODZIŃSKI (Poland)  
Ms Tove H. MALLOY (Denmark)  
Mr Detlev REIN (Germany)  
Ms Marieke SANDERS-TEN HOLTE (The Netherlands) (apologised for absence)  
Ms Elisabeth SÁNDOR-SZALAY (Hungary)  
Ms Carmen SANTIAGO REYES (Spain)  
Ms Edita ŽIOBIENĖ (Lithuania)

#### Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Mr Marco LEIDEKKER, Head of Secretariat  
Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN, Administrator  
Ms Agnes von MARAVIĆ, Administrator  
Mr Jean-Etienne KAUTZMANN, Administrator  
Ms Marie-Eve SCHOHN, Administrative Assistant  
Ms Katharina FOUQUET, Administrative Assistant  
Mr Ben FREEMAN, intern.

**ANNEX II**

**AGENDA**

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the Meeting Report of the 61st meeting of the Advisory Committee

Report from the Bureau

Gender equality experience from the visits

20 years of the FCNM: conference (state of affairs)

Reading of the draft Opinions on Lithuania, Switzerland and Albania

Adoption of the Eleventh activity report covering the period from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2018

Any other business

Oral presentation of decisions adopted during the meeting

Dates of the next meeting: 63<sup>rd</sup> plenary – 8-12 October 2018