

DH-MIN Questionnaire concerning the work in respect of “dispersed ethnic minorities”

The working group, established by the DH-MIN on the issue of “dispersed ethnic minorities” is meeting in Strasbourg in the week of 6 September 1999 to prepare a report on the issue for the plenary meeting from 19-22 October 1999.

Members of DH-MIN are invited to provide a response to the following questions in order to facilitate the work of the working group. In order not to burden you too much the questions have been kept general. However, please do not hesitate to provide as much detail as you can. In order to allow the working group to take account of the replies, you are requested to send them to the Secretariat, using the enclosed envelope, by 15 July 1999.

A. “Dispersed ethnic minorities”

1. Are there any groups of persons in your country that could be considered “dispersed ethnic minorities”? It may be difficult to identify such groups in the absence of a definition. Although a definition can not be given, it would appear from discussions so far (DH-MIN and other bodies in the Council of Europe and other international organisations, especially OSCE) that such groups may be different from national minorities and that characteristics of such groups could include their existence in more than one country, the absence of a kin-state and/or an identification that is predominantly cultural or linguistic rather than ethnic in orientation. In light of the above, replies need not be limited to groups that expressly identify themselves under the label “dispersed ethnic minority”.
2. Please describe their factual situation. Indicate their number and size. Do they have their own organisations?

B. Institutes dealing with “dispersed ethnic minorities”

3. Are there scientific or other institutes or bodies studying or dealing with “dispersed ethnic minorities” in your country? If so, please give further details (names, addresses, areas of work).
4. Do any of the institutes or bodies mentioned under question 2 have contacts with, or are they involved in co-operation with institutes or bodies in other countries, or would they, to your knowledge, be interested in doing so ?
5. Are members of dispersed minorities involved in such research work?

C. Suggestions

6. Do you have any suggestions to the DH-MIN working group concerning the work it is carrying out on this issue?
7. What do you think about establishing a network of bodies and institutions dealing with the issue of dispersed minorities?