



Seminar

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL GUARANTEES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND PROBLEMS IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON MINORITY EDUCATION

Draft Programme

Wednesday, 18 October 2006
Strasbourg

Room 1
Palais de l'Europe

8:30-9:00 **Registration of participants**

9:00-13:00 **GENERAL SESSION**

Co-Chairs: *Representative of the Russian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers*
Mr Philippe Boillat, Director General of Human Rights (DGII), Council of Europe

9:00-9:20 **Opening of the seminar**

Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Representative of the Russian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

9:20-10:45 **Status of international protection of national minorities: 'where do we stand?'**

Mr Gunnar Jansson, Second Vice-President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention

Mr Rolf Ekéus, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Mr Manuel Lezertua, Director of the Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Boris Cilevičs, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Gennady Oleynik, Chairman of the Committee on the Issues of North and Less Numerous and Indigenous Peoples of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Representative of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Science

10:45-11:45 Forms of support and promotion of the development of the protection of national minorities, including in the sphere of education in the light of the international standards

Issues to be discussed:

- Forms and methods of state support of national minorities, including in the sphere of education
- Cooperation between state bodies and organisations of national minorities in the field of education
- Ways of enhancing effectiveness of state support of national minorities and of cooperation between state bodies and national minorities in the field of education

Presentations:

Mr Alexander Zhuravsky, Director of the Department of Ethnic Relations of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation - *Experience of the Russian Federation in the field of support and protection of national minorities* (15 min)

Ms Athanasia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, former Vice-President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention - *Experience of the Advisory Committee in the field of education* (15 min)

Mr Jarmo Lainio, member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages - *Experience of the Committee of Experts in the field of minority language education* (15 min)

Discussion

11:45-12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00-13:00 NATIONAL MINORITIES AND THE CONTENT OF EDUCATION

Issues to be addressed:

- Enhancing multicultural education through school curricula
- Access to/content of textbooks and teacher training
- Equal opportunities for access to education at all levels

Chair: Mr John de Fonblanque, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Presentation: Mr Tom Hadden, School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast (15 min)

Commentator: Ms Olga Artemenko, Head of the Centre of Problems of Minority Education, Federal Institute of Education of the Russian Federation (10 min)

Discussion

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-15:45 NATIONAL MINORITIES AND MINORITY LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Issues to be addressed:

- Teaching of and in minority languages
- How to accommodate minority language education and the learning of the official language(s)
- Measures to be taken by the States to ensure adequate opportunities to be taught the minority language(s)
- How to ensure inter-ethnic dialogue in the design of minority language education

Chair: Mr Asbjørn Eide, former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention

Presentation: Mr Pádraig Ó Riagáin, Professor of Sociology of Language, Trinity College, Dublin, consultant of the Language Policy Division, Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (15 min)

Commentator: Ms Vesna Crnic-Grotic, First Vice-Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Council of Europe (10 min)

Discussion

15:45-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-17:30 EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION BY NATIONAL MINORITIES

Issues to be addressed:

- Equal opportunities for access to education by national minorities at all levels
- History, language and religion of national minorities in school curricula

Co-Chairs: Mr Detlev Rein, Chairman of the Committee of experts on issues relating to the protection of national minorities (DH-MIN) and Representative of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of North, Siberia and Far East

Presentation: Ms Miranda Vuolasranta, Vice-President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (10 min)

Presentation: Mr Valeriy Markov, President of the Advisory Committee of Finno-Ugric Peoples (10 min)

Commentator: Mr Claude Cahn, European Roma Rights Centre (10 min)

Discussion

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR

Chair: Mr Mikhail Lebedev, Department for Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

17:30-18:00 Summary of the discussions
Mr Patrick Thornberry, Professor of International Law, Keele University
Mr Venaliy Amelin, Deputy Minister of Information Politics, Public and Exterior Relations, Head of Department for Co-operation with non-governmental and religious organisations of the region of Orenburg of the Russian Federation
