



Strasbourg, 11 July 2007

MIN-LANG/PR (2007) 4  
Appendix I

**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Opinions of the National Councils of National Minorities**  
**on the Initial periodical report**  
**presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**  
**in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**SERBIA**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE RUMANIAN ETHNIC MINORITY  
Novi Sad, Bul Mihaila Pupina 28 tel/fax o21457583, E-mail  
consiliul [roman@yahoo.com](mailto:roman@yahoo.com)

Novi Sad, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007  
No. 90/07

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
Agency for Human and Minority Rights  
Belgrade

SUBJECT: Opinion on the Report on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Dear Sir,

The National Council of the Rumanian national minority accepted the participation in the elaboration of the Governmental Report on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, for we emphasized, from the moment of our constitution, that we want to be active and responsible participants in the process of democratization of Serbia, of the development of democratic institutions and of its inclusion in the European currents. Therefore we support the bases of the new minority policy which consists of: 1. The development of democratic institutions and the respect of the rule of law, 2. The development of comprehensive legal regulations in the domain of the right of minorities, 3. The creation of a social environment in which the spirit of tolerance will be cherished and the differences respected, 4. Accelerated pace of the growth and development of the country.

We are conscious of the fact that the minority policy is an open process, even when a state is in order, when its institutions function, when the provisions of that policy are implemented in practice. We are also conscious of the fact that our country is at the beginning of the creation of democratic institutions, but we can not accept the practice, which was present until now, **that the positive legal norms are not applied in practice**. This goes to almost all fields of activities dealt by our National Council. We mention that during the last year not a single session of the Republican Council for national minorities has taken place.

The Governmental Report on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages enumerates the international agreements signed by our state, the legal and sublegal acts which regulate the field of minority rights, but there is very little in it about the practice, about the non-application or the violations of such documents.

#### EDUCATION

The Governmental Report on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages does not mention the problems regarding the: Schoolteachers Faculty in Vrsac, textbooks, certificates, registries, schoolcards, workshops for professional improvement of schoolteachers and professors.

We are confused by the tables of children born in 2000 and 2001?! Please give us some explanation.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

In this field, the positive legal measures are applied in a quite restrictive way, they are not applied at all, or the law is violated. The violation of the law regards the Decision of the Municipal Assembly Vrsac on the change of the statute, the example of non-application of the Decision on more detailed arrangement of some questions of official use of language and writing of the national minorities in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina, regarding the village Banatsko Novo Selo in the municipality of Pancevo. It was taken out of the context of our report, that

the “traditional names of the places in Rumanian are not respected. This concerns especially towns”. It is not mentioned that the names of streets, squares, and other toponyms are not written in the Rumanian, too, in no community where the Rumanian language is in official use. There is no mention about the bilingual forms, documents which were a rule in the ‘eighties in the municipalities with the Rumanian language in official use.

In our opinion, at least one representative speaking Rumanian should be employed in the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, or a representative speaking one of the minority languages of the minority which has an established National Council.

On May, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, one of the items at the agenda of the meeting of the Municipal Assembly Vrsac will be the change of the Statute.

#### THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEDIA

In our Report, we did not mention the problems regarding the Republican Broadcasting Agency, the management and program committees of the broadcasting institutions in Serbia and Vojvodina, for that was submitted by other National Councils, where the law does not recognize national councils.

We request a solution for the systemic financement of the local printed media, and systemic and just solutions regarding the privatization of the electronic media.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, there was published, as a supplement to the weekly “Libetatea” published by the NPC “Libetatea” in Pancevo, established by the National Council of the Rumanian national minority, the translated text of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in Rumanian. Please find included in this letter one copy of that document.

#### THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

The basic problem of the cultural activities regards the financement of cultural events. The distribution of the financial means must be solved in a systemic way, honest and just. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia gave during the last year 5.000.000.00 dinars for the total cultural activities of the national minorities, while it gave to the professional theatres in Belgrade one billion dinars!

#### CROSSBORDER COOPERATION

The Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the cooperation in the field of the protection of national minorities, ratified by the parliaments, is not applied in practice during almost three years. The establishment of the Mixed Committee will obviously solve many problems in the field of education, culture and information

Secretary

Marcel Dragan

## AMMENDMENTS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UKRAINIANS TO THE REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

### *3.8.5. Minority languages in periodicals in 2006*

It is said in the table that there is one newspaper in Ukrainian (The monthly paper “Ridne Slovo”  
However, the table does not mention one magazine in Ukrainian (the quarterly “Ukrainske Slovo”) which was also published in 2006.

### *5.1.2.2, 8, Teaching in Ukrainian*

In the municipality Vrbas, the subject Ukrainian language with elements of national culture is being taught in 4 primary schools (the Report says 3 PS)

Also, the Report permuted the number of pupils who learn Ukrainian in the municipalities Vrbas and Kula.

The exact numbers are: Vrbas – 47 pupils and Kula – 35 pupils.

The total number of schools where Ukrainian is taught is 9 (nine).

### *5.4.2.1. The practice of encouragement and facilitation of radio programs in minority languages*

#### THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

The broadcasting institution of Vojvodina, Radio Novi Sad – broadcasting the program in Ukrainian lasts 6 hours per week (the Report says 6 hours per month).

Radio Royal broadcasts 30 minutes of program per week in Ukrainian.

### *5.4.4. The practice of encouragement or facilitation of the creation and keeping of at least one newspaper in minority languages.*

#### *Ukrainian language*

In the Table, the name of the newspaper “Kalendar Ridnoga Slova” containing information, culture, periodical, annual, circulation 500, Novi Sad.

The name of the magazine “Ukrainske Slovo” should be written in the Ukrainian original.

Also change the original name in Ukrainian for “Ridne Slovo”

*In the part 5.5.1.9. Encouragement and access to the works in Ukrainian* there is no mention of the section Cultural and Artistic Associations

Therefore, let the part *5.5.1.9.3. be Cultural and Artistic Associations*

The activities of the cultural and artistic associations are financed by the budgets of their respective municipalities. They may be also financed by donations and by the budgets of the Province and of the Republic of Serbia. In the AP of Vojvodina, there exist 6 societies and cultural and artistic associations which cherish the Ukrainian language.

In Serbia, there are several cultural associations which cherish the Ukrainian language, culture and tradition, and these are:

- The Society for Ukrainian language, literature and culture “Prosvita”, Novi Sad,
- The Society for cherishing Ukrainian culture “Kolomejka” Sremska Mitrovica
- The Cultural and artistic association “Ivan Senjuk”, Kula
- The Cultural and artistic association “Karpati”, Vrbas
- The Ukrainian cultural and artistic association “Kobzar”, Novi Sad
- The Cultural and artistic association “Kalina” Indjija.

In Serbia, there also exist three Serbian-Ukrainian societies in Novi Sad, Sombor and Belgrade.

Miroslav Hocak  
Secretary

**The evaluation of the German National League of the use of the German language in the Republic of Serbia, No. 4.2.2. at pages 103, 104 and 105 of the Report of the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the application of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.**

The German National League, as the organization of the German national minority in Serbia, with headquarters in Subotica, analyzed very carefully the section 4.2.2. on pages 103, 104 and 105 of the report on the German language as the mother tongue of the members of the German national minority in Serbia.

The part on the German language is written correctly and we would like to point here just several additional positive events which happened after the Report was written.

At page 103, it is said that *there exist plans to organize in the pre-school establishment "Nasa Radost" in Subotica in bilingual Serbian-German groups*" We inform you with great pleasure that the first kindergarten "Palcica-Daumling" in German language in Serbia was solemnly inaugurated in Subotica on May, 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Serbian-German group shall work in that building, and a German-Hungarian group as well. It is planned to establish a Croatian-German group, because of the national structure in Subotica. We are especially happy with the fact that the inscription of the children was still in course on the day of the inauguration, and that the Serbian-German group was already 75% full. At page 104 it is said that Radio Odzaci already broadcasts programs in German, while it is correct that Radio Odzaci is still planning to start soon a broadcast in German, which makes us very happy, and we are looking forward to hear the first broadcast. The German National League negotiates with a number of private local radio stations in Vojvodina, to start at least half an hour broadcasts in German which they would, for the beginning, broadcast once a week as broadcasts of the type of magazine. We are very much satisfied by the readiness of many radio stations to talk about such broadcasts.

We would also like to point out that the German community uses without any hindrance the advantages of the new technologies, like the satellite receptors of German radio and TV programs, and the visits to Internet pages for access to information and scientific contents in their German mother tongue

For the German National League

Rudolf Weiss  
Secretary

Subotica, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE HUNGARIAN ETHNIC MINORITY

Subotica  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007

No.  
MHT VI-254/2007

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
AGENCY FOR HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS  
Petar Ladevic, Director

Re: Opinion about the first periodical report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The National Council of the Hungarians in Serbia, as the organ of the minority self-government has the legal and constitutional right but also the obligation to monitor the field of the use and protection of Hungarian language and writing in Serbia.

The Committee for the Official Use of the Language, as the competent body of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority, examined, at its session of May, 22<sup>n</sup>, 2007, the first Periodical Report on the application of the European Charter for regional or Minority Languages in the Republic of Serbia and issued the following

OPINION

I GENERAL EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION

Our general evaluation regarding the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages may be expressed in three general statements:

1. In, Serbia there is a constant presence, in the field of the protection of the rights of national minorities, especially in the field of language rights of the national minorities, relatively high legal standards of protection, and an inconsistent and weak application of those legal standards in practice. We would like to point out here the fact that by the ratification of the standards of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, there took place an equalization of the language rights of all ten national communities, and that the adoption of the minimum standards represents a degree of protection which is in an important degree below the level of standards fixed by the law and by other regulations. The reasons for the weak application of the rights in the field of the protection of the languages of the minorities may be reduced to a number of reasons, starting from contradictory and incomplete laws, the non-existence of appropriate laws or regulations for the implementation of the existing laws, the non-existence of budgetary financement of various obligations of the administrative organs (primarily the organs of the state administration and the organs of the local self-government), the insufficient political will to implement the regulations, the insufficient administrative capacity of the organs responsible for the implementation of the appropriate laws.
2. There is also a big difference in the implementation of the right to the use of the language and writing of the national communities, in the same legal standards, depending on the region. A more consistent application is present in provincial and local organs, and much weaker in the case of regional units of central authorities. It is also visible that the situation in the application is much better in the regions where the population which speaks the language of the minority represents a majority, than outside such regions, although, legally speaking, such differences should not exist. There is also a difference regarding the application of various languages of the national minorities which enjoy legal protection.
3. In some fields of the application the protection of language rights of the national minorities, during the last three to four years, one could observe positive trends in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, especially since the supervision of the implementation of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Alphabets in the Province of Vojvodina was taken over by the provincial organs of authority. As a result of their activities,

several hundreds of new bilingual signs were installed, there started a regular issue of documents in the languages of the minorities as well, and in some local and regional units of the state organs, the knowledge of the languages of minorities in multilingual environments became a regular condition for obtaining jobs which include direct and indirect forms of communication with citizens belonging to the national communities.

## II SPECIAL REMARKS

1. The non-existence of new legal regulations in the field of official use of the language and writing of national communities.

We think that it is indispensable to adopt, as soon as possible, a law which would regulate the question of the official use of language and writing of the national communities. Namely, the Law on the Official Use of Language and Writing now in force (Official Gazette of the RS nos. 45/91, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 1001/2005) contains obsolete solutions which are not in accord with the new Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette of the RS no. 98/2006) and the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Liberties of the National Minorities (Official Gazette of the FRY no. 11/2002) which is still in force. Non-harmonized, and, in some places, colliding provisions prevent the efficient implementation of the right to the official use of the language and writing of the national communities. In the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the negative influence of such a state in the legal regulations is somewhat mitigated by the Decision on the more detailed arrangement of some questions of the official use of the language and writing of the national minorities in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Official Gazette of the APV, no. 8/2003, 9/2003. However, the norms of that Decision are limited both by the number of bodies to which they are applied (the organs of the AP of Vojvodina, the organs and organizations of the units of the local self-government in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina, the organizational units of the organs of the state administration, public enterprises, institutions and services established for the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia), and by the volume of questions regulated (the use of personal names of citizens belonging to national minorities, issue of documents of interest for the implementation of legally established rights of the citizens; use of languages in the field of economy and in services, inscriptions with the names of towns and villages, other geographical names, names of streets and squares, names of organs, organizations and firms, publishing of public invitations, information and warnings for the public and the writing of other public inscriptions; the conditions for the introduction of the official use of languages and writings of the national minorities in the units of local self-government.)

2. The disharmony of the legal regulations

The disharmony of the legal and sublegal regulations in a number of other cases results in the hindered implementation of some basic rights of the people belonging to the national communities. One of the salient examples is the right, guaranteed by the Constitution and the law (Article 9 of the Law on the protection of rights and liberties of the national minorities) of the people belonging to national minorities to inscribe their names and the names of their children in all public documents and official records in the language and orthography of their national minority. In that respect, neither the law on registries (Official Gazette of the SRS, no. 15/90, Official Gazette of the RS nos. 57/2003, 101/2005 nor the Directive on the keeping of the registries and of the forms of registries (Official Gazette of the SRS no. 48/90, Official Gazette of the RS no. 22/91) regulate the question of the language of the entry, nor do they prescribe the possibility of issuing bilingual forms. At the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the consequences of such a situation are partially mitigated by the provincial Decision on the multilingual forms of certificates from the registries and on the way of inscription in the said registries (Official Gazette of the APV, nos. 1/2001, 8/2003).

As another example, we could mention the university and college education in the institutions established by the Republic of Serbia, or the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Article 80 of the Law on High Education (Official Gazette of the RS no. 76/2005) provides that a high education institution may organize and practice studies, or part of studies, in languages of national minorities or in foreign languages, in accordance with their statutes. The Regulation on norms and standards of the conditions of work of universities and faculties



regarding the activities financed by the budget (Official Gazette of the RS nos. 15/2002, 100/2004, 26/2005, 38/2007) regulates the number of students who represent a normative/educational group for lectures and practical work in the faculties and in basic terms (years), and the budget of the Republic of Serbia finances the work of the faculties only when the condition of the number of students in normative/educational groups is fulfilled. This Regulation does not contain provisions which would prescribe a smaller number of students in normative/educational groups for the teaching in the languages of national communities. Since the work in the normative/educational groups which do not fulfill the prescribed number of students is not financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the faculties are destimulated regarding the organization of teaching in the languages of national communities.

### 3. Budget Financement

The assurance of the right of national communities to use their mother tongues in all fields of social life requires important additional financial means. In spite of that, the allocation of the budget does not take into account whether in the territory of a unit of a local self-government, or in the region of competence of the organs of the state administration, the judiciary, the public institutions, the language of a national community is in official use. Such a situation hinders very much the implementation of the right to the use of language and writing of the national communities. In the cases when a unit of local self-government still wants to assure the implementation of that right to its citizens, it does that by reallocating the financial means earmarked for other purposes. The situation in the education is similar, and therefore in many cases the acquisition of such elementary means of work, like bilingual work diaries is hindered (bilingual diaries of work are more expensive than the diaries printed in Serbian only, and the fact that the teaching is done in the languages of national communities as well is not taken into account of the budget allocation for the material means of teaching in schools.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted, in May,2006, a Conclusion on the measures aimed at increasing the number of the representatives of national minorities in the organs of state administration (Official Gazette of the RS, no. 40/2006) That Conclusion states that the regulations on the internal organization and systematization of jobs shall envisage a certain number of jobs for which the knowledge of the language and writing in the languages of national communities which are in official use in the territory of the unit is a necessary condition. However, there lack the mechanisms for special remuneration for the knowledge of languages (both of the world languages and of the languages of national communities). Such a system now exists only in the organs of the provincial administration.

The lack of financial means for bilingual posters and inscriptions is partially mitigated by the bid published by the Provincial secretariat for regulations, administration and national minorities which allocates resources primarily to the poorest municipalities.

The President of the Committee for the official use of languages of the National Council of the Hungarian national minority	The President of the National Council of the Hungarian national minority
--	---

Jene Maglai	Laslo Joza
-------------	------------

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MACEDONIAN NATIONAL MINORITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Trg Kralja Petra 1, 2-4, Zgrada opstine Pancevo, sprat VI,soba br. 618 i 619, 2600 Pancevo  
Tel.fax 013 352-023, mob tel 063 7610-323  
E-mail: [nsmakedonaca@panet.co.yu](mailto:nsmakedonaca@panet.co.yu)

---

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
No. 502-07

Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the R. of Serbia  
Mr. Petar Ladevic  
Director

Dear Sir,

We send to you, included in this letter, the addendum to the Report of the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority in the R. of Serbia for the Report of the Service to the Secretary of the Council of Europe, regarding the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

May we avail ourselves of this opportunity to apologize for the delay.  
Thank you for your understanding.

Respectfully,

The National Committee of the MNM in the R. of Serbia

Jovan Radeski  
President

The Addendum to the Report on the European Charter on the Regional and Minority Languages

1. Introduction

It could be said, generally, that the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic writing are not on the list of regional or minority languages, adopted by the Council of Europe, and ratified by Serbia and Montenegro, although the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages states that the regional or minority languages are the languages which are traditionally used at a certain territory of a state, by the citizens of that state which constitute a numerically smaller group than the rest of the citizens of that state...., because, as it is stated by the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the R. of Serbia, the Macedonian language is not in official use anywhere in the R. of Serbia.

We are of the opinion that an answer must be given to the question why the Macedonian language and its writing are not in official use, although it exists traditionally in the territory of Serbia, that is not a new language, and what are the consequences of that.

In the Republic of Serbia, Article 10, alinea 2, of the Constitution states that the official use of other languages and writings is arranged by the laws, at the basis of the Constitution. Article 16, alinea 2 of the Constitution of the R. of Serbia states that the generally adopted rules of the International Law and the confirmed international agreements represent an integral part of the legal order in Serbia, while Article 194, alinea 4, of the Constitution

of the R. of Serbia states that the confirmed international agreements must not be in contradiction with the Constitution. The Decision on the detailed arrangement of various questions of the use of language and writing at the territory of the APV, Article 8, alinea 3, states that the language and writing of a national minority shall be included in official use in a locality or in a neighborhood unit, in a unit of local self-government, in which that language and writing are not in official use at the entire territory, if, according to the results of the last census, the percentage of people belonging to a national minority, attains 25% of the total population of such neighborhood unit.

Following this sequence it could be said that, beside the Constitution of the R. of Serbia, the official use of Macedonian language is guaranteed by articles 3 and 4 of the International Agreement on the protection of the Macedonian minority in Serbia and Montenegro, and the protection of the Serbian and Montenegrin minority in the R. of Serbia, signed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2004, and the Decision on the detailed arrangement of various questions of the official use of language and writing at the territory of the APV.

However, that is not the case in the practice.

Starting from the Decision on the detailed arrangement of various questions of official use of language and writing in the territory of the APV, we come to the fact that the Macedonian language may be introduced in official use in the territory of the Municipality of Pancevo, in the neighborhood unit Jabuka, where the number of the members of the Macedonian national minority amounts to 35%, and in the territory of the Municipality of Plandiste. However, the Municipality of Pancevo did not take into serious account, until the present day, the requests of the National Council of the Macedonian national minority in the R. of Serbia, for the adoption of a Decision of the Municipal Assembly of Pancevo, which would introduce the Macedonian language in official use, although the Municipality of Pancevo is bound to implement that, according to the mentioned laws and decisions. That means that there is a situation in which a municipality does not implement the decisions resulting from domestic and international legislature, thus violating the minority rights of the Macedonian national minority. The direct consequence of that fact resulted in the fact that the Macedonian language was not included in the list of minority or regional languages.

2.

In Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1. item 3.1.3. at page 33 in the part of the Report, it is clearly said that the Republic of Serbia does not deny that the Macedonian language belongs to the group of minority languages... However the Macedonian language is not termed as regional or minority language to which the entire Charter would be applied, but only certain mentioned parts. At the same page, it is said, at the other hand, that in the group of languages stated in the ratification instrument, the Roma language was stated, with the special intention that the Roma language attains, in the process of implementation of the Charter, in cooperation with the international community, the level of protection already enjoyed by the other mentioned languages, which is a special aspect of taking measures of confirming action to the advantage of the Roma language.

An obvious question appears: why that same criterion is not applied to the Macedonian language, as well.

3.

Chapter 3, paragraph 3.3. Item 3.3.2. page 43, states that the Bunjevci language is not mentioned in the classification of mother tongues for the needs of census of 2002...

At the basis of all that is said above, we mention that the Macedonian language, too, was not found in the quotations, and that it was not used in the census 2002.

4.

Chapter 3, paragraph 3.4. Page 49 states...that the right to the use of minority languages is guaranteed by the Constitution and that in the constitutional legal system of the Republic of Serbia it may be protected by constitutional complaints addressed to the Constitutional Court of the Republic. while it is stated, at page 51, that

the Decision on the detailed arrangement of various questions of the official use of the languages and writings of the national minorities in the territory of the APV, states that it is envisaged that legal persons and responsible persons in the legal persons shall be fined for the violation of the provisions of this Decision which envisages...the issue of public documents, in the languages of the minorities...etc.

The members of the Macedonian national minority will be compelled to request their right to the use of minority languages via the Constitutional Court of the Republic, for already two years after the request of the National Council of the Macedonian national minority, the procedure for the introduction of the Macedonian language in the official use, there where it is permitted by the law, has still not begun.

5.

Charter 3, paragraph 3.5., alinea 3.5.3., Academic Bodies and Organizations, does not mention the existence of the chair for the study of Macedonian language in the universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis, Kosovska Mitrovica...

6.

Chapter 3, paragraph 3.8. alinea 3.8.5. at page 74, "Minority languages in periodical publications in 2006" does not mention the first written newspaper in the R. of Serbia in Macedonian "Makedonska Videlina" which is published once a month on 32 pages in the framework of the NPC "Macedonian information and publishing center", founded by the National Council of the Macedonian national minority in the R. of Serbia, assisted by the Provincial Secretariat for Information of the AP of Vojvodina.

7.

Chapter 4, paragraph 4.1., alinea 4.1.7.2. "Practice"

In this part we mention that in 2000, there existed in Zrenjanin a sequential study of the Macedonian language in the form of course attended by over 15 students, not only of Macedonian nationality. Such a form of study of the Macedonian language was discontinued because of lack of financial means. Preparations are in course to apply again that form of study as a course of Macedonian language in 4 grades with a total duration of two years, starting in September, 2007, in Zrenjanin.

8.

Chapter 4, paragraph 4.2, alinea 4.2.3. "Macedonian language" says that the Macedonian language is not in official use in any unit of local self-government in the R. of Serbia, for the legal pre-requisites for the introduction in official use are not fulfilled and "The National Council of the Macedonian national minority is of the opinion that, "although the legal obligation does not exist, there exist legal possibilities for the introduction of the Macedonian language in official use in the Municipality of Pancevo, and that the "part of the law which speaks about the introduction of languages in official use is inadequate... According to the law, in order for a language to be introduced in official use... the number of members of the national minority with that mother tongue must be 15%. In places where the number of members is below 15%, the local self-government shall decide on the introduction of the language of that minority in official use, so that there are examples, thanks to the goodwill and understanding of the local self-government that a language of a national minority was introduced although the number of its members was...0.56%.

In this Chapter it may be seen that the attitude of the National Council of the Macedonian minority in the R. of Serbia, which was submitted by the Council to the Agency for Human and Minority Rights for the elaboration of the Periodical Report on the European Charter for regional and minority languages, was presented.

The Report which the National Council of the Macedonian national minority in the R. of Serbia submitted to the Agency for Human and Minority Rights during the elaboration of the Periodical Report on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages does not contain the mentioned quotations; however, the National Council states on page 2 of the Report, the following:

Further on in the part I, General Provisions it is said in definition a): **Regional or minority languages are the languages which are traditionally used in a certain territory of a state, by the citizens of that state which represent a numerically smaller group than the rest of the population of that state...**

The Macedonian language was in official use in the Municipality of Pancevo until 1991, when it was annulled by the municipal authorities, without any justification. The municipality of Pancevo, with its neighborhood units Jabuka, Kacarevo and Glogonj has the legal basis for the reintroduction of the Macedonian language in official use, but that has not been done until the present day. In the neighborhood unit Jabuka, there are over 25% (35%, according to the census, although that is not the real situation, until 1991 the percentage amounted to some 80%) members of the Macedonian national minority, which is the legal pre-requisite for the introduction of a language in official use, while in the neighborhood units Kacarevo and Glogonj, and in the city of Pancevo, that percentage is somewhat smaller. However, these three neighborhood units and the city itself are territorially indivisible, and therefore language entities as well. It is assumed that there simply does not exist a will of the municipal authorities, there does not exist an interest in the solution of that problem. That is why the Macedonian language is not in official use, and, consequently, it is not in the list of regional or minority languages of the Council of Europe. We consider that an unjustified omission. We mention that, because we are of the opinion that the part of the Law of the R. of Serbia on the introduction of a language in official use is inadequate

Namely, according to the Law of the R. of Serbia, for a language to be included in official use at a territory, the number of members of the national community having that mother tongue must be over 25%, There where the number of a certain national community is under 25% (which is the case of the Macedonian minority in many municipalities), the introduction of the language of that minority is decided by the local self-government. We have examples where the Slovak language, thanks to the goodwill or understanding of the local self-government, is in official use, although the number of the members of the Slovak national minority in that area is, for instance, 0.56%. So we see that the goodwill of the local self-government in one area was sufficient to introduce the Slovak language in the list of regional or minority languages. There exist other similar examples which we consider extremely positive, and which should be followed by the Municipality of Pancevo, and other municipalities populated by the members of the Macedonian national minority.

Out of the above mentioned, and the paragraph 1 of this Report of the National Council of the Macedonian national community in the R. of Serbia, it can be seen that there exists, in Serbia, the legal obligation to introduce the Macedonian language in official use in the Municipality of Pancevo, neighborhood unit Jabuka, and that it is possible to introduce the Macedonian language in official use in other settlements where the number of members of the Macedonian national minority is below 25%.

9.

Chapter 5. paragraph 2, aline 5.2.1., page 160 “Legislature relevant for the application of Article 9.”

The National Council of the Macedonian national minority knows nothing about any court procedure, administrative procedure or public procedure which was lead or is lead in Macedonian. Also, there is no mention that a public document was issued in Macedonian.

10.

Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3, aline 5.3.1. “Submission of petitions to the organs of state administration in minority languages.”

The National Council of the Macedonian national minority in the R. of Serbia supposes that there exist some requests or petitions in Macedonian, but it is not known whether they were answered in Macedonian.

11.

Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3, alinea 5.3.7. The use of traditional forms of names of places in minority languages. Page 196 (table).

At present, there are no places, municipalities or settlements which are named in the traditional form in Macedonian. However, it is interesting to note that the Municipality of Pancevo and the neighborhood unit Jabuka in which the percentage of the members of the Macedonian national minority is the second after the majority nation of Serbs, have names in Rumanian, but not in Macedonian.

12.

Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3, alinea 5.3.9 “Involvement of the members of national minorities in public services”

The National Council of the Macedonian national minority knows nothing about any member of the Macedonian national minority involved in public service according to the criterion that the knowledge of Macedonian language is necessary, even in the places with the highest concentration of the members of that minority.

Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3, alinea 5.3.10. “Use and adoption of family names in the languages of minorities”

In the forms for identity cards and in other documents, especially there where the highest concentration, there are no inscriptions of the first names and family names, nor of the place of birth according to the provisions of the Law, i.e. the Constitution of the R. of Serbia, articles 79 and 64 and of the Law on Families, Article 344.

Examples are known in the Municipality of Pancevo that family names are inscribed as Jankovski, instead of Jankovska, if the member of the Macedonian minority is female, and there are names of places, for instance Brod, instead of Makedonski Brod.

The National Council of the Macedonian  
national community in the R. of Serbia

Jovan Radeski,  
President