
Recommendation CM/RecChL(2019)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Switzerland

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 December 2019 at the 1363rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Bearing in mind the instrument of ratification deposited by Switzerland on 23 December 1997;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Switzerland;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Switzerland in its seventh periodical report, supplementary information given by the Swiss authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Switzerland and on the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

Having taken note of the comments submitted by the Swiss authorities on the content of the report of the Committee of Experts,

Recommends that Switzerland take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. adopt cantonal and/or local legislation on the public use of French and German in the municipalities where they are minority languages;
2. continue promoting the use of Italian in cantonal administration and in the public sector under cantonal control in Graubünden/Grischun/Grigioni;
3. clarify whether Francoprovençal and Jurassian can be considered languages in their own right, entitled to protection under Article 7, paragraphs 1 to 4;
4. reconsider the official position as regards Romani as a non-territorial language under the Charter, in co-operation with the speakers.

The Committee of Ministers invites the Swiss authorities to submit their eighth periodical report by 1 December 2020.