Draft program
Protection of identity through language rights
25th anniversary conference of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
13-14 November 2017, Budapest

Conference Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1027 Budapest, Bem tér 4.

13 November 2017
19:00 Reception hosted by H. E. Zsolt Németh, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hungarian National Assembly

Venue: Hungarian National Assembly, Felsőházi folyosó

14 November 2017
9:00-9:30 Official opening
H. E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (tbc)

H. E. Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe (tbc)

H. E. Mr. Árpád János Potápi, Minister of State for National Policy, Prime Minister’s Office, confirmed

H. E. Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hungarian National Assembly (tbc)

9:30-11:00 Panel I: The role of the Charter in the international legal framework and the further development of the Charter

Moderator: Mr. Péter Varga, Strategy Planning and Information Department, State Secretariat for National Policy, Prime Minister’s Office

- The importance and role of the Charter in the CoE system - Ms. Vesna Crnić-Grotić (Croatia), Chair of the COMEX, ECRML tbc
• The possibilities and actualities of enhancing the international legal framework and the further development of the Charter - Prof. Gábor Kardos (Hungary), member of the COMEX tbc

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-13:00 Panel II: Implementing linguistic rights in practice, best practices on a regional and state level, difficulties and challenges, experiences of the review mechanism

Moderator: Representative of the Department for Security and Non-proliferation

• Best practices concerning regional linguistic autonomies – Mr. Loránt Vincze, President of Federal Union of European Nationalities/FUEN confirmed

• Problems encountered during the monitoring process, improving the effectiveness of the monitoring - Mr. Hallvard Gorseth, Head of the Anti-discrimination Department, CoE tbc

• Ratification practices of the State Parties, supporting the preparations for the ratification of the Charter – Mr. Francesco Palermo, former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) through skype or video message tbc

13:00-14:30 Lunch hosted by H. E. László Trócsányi, Minister of Justice (tbc)

14:30-16:00 Panel III: Regional and minority language education

Moderator: Dr. Hajnalka Juhász, Chief of Cabinet, Minister of State for justice cooperation, Ministry of Justice

• The role of education in the protection of regional and minority languages - Prof. Dr. Stefan Oeter, Universität Hamburg tbc

• State commitments and socio-linguistic situation of regional and minority languages in the field of education - Ms Rózsa Hoffmann, MP, Member of the Hungarian delegation to PACE, CoE confirmed

• Overview of best practices and experiences of States Parties and regions - Mr. Zsolt Szakállas, vice secretary to the Secretariat on Education, Legislation, Administration, National Minorities and National Communities, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, confirmed

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Panel IV: The role of civil society and language users in promoting the aims of the Charter; The role of young people in fostering the use of minority and regional languages; Modern information and communication technologies and the use of minority languages

Moderator: Dr. Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay, Deputy Commissioner for fundamental rights, ombudsman for the rights of national minorities
• The role of civil society and language users in promoting the aims of the Charter - Mrs. Sabrina Rasom, Vice-Chair of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) confirmed

• The effects of the information and communication technology development on the implementation of the commitments of states on the protection of minority and regional languages - Mr. Davyth Hicks, Secretary General of the European Language Equality Network (ELEN) confirmed

• Using the advances of information society to promote the Charter, engaging youth and encouraging the use of minority and regional languages among the new generation – Mr. András Bethlendi, lawyer, civil society activist, Romania confirmed

17:45-18:15 Concluding remarks by Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, Ministerial commissioner responsible for Neighbourhood policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade confirmed

(press communiqué)