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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Sixth periodical report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter

CYPRUS



**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR
MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**SIXTH PERIODICAL REPORT
BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**OFFICE OF THE
LAW COMMISSIONER**

**Nicosia,
30 December 2019**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Periodical Report on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter the “present Report”) was prepared in accordance with the Outlines for the periodical reports on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages that were approved by the Committee of Ministers at its 1345th meeting on 2 May 2019 [CM (2019)69 final]. It addresses the issues raised by the Committee of Experts [MIN-LANG (2017)16] and the recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers [CM/RecChL(2018)1] in the Fifth Evaluation Report on the Application of the Charter in Cyprus, based on the Fifth Periodical Report of Cyprus (hereinafter the “previous Report”).
2. The present Report has been prepared by the Law Commissioner of Cyprus who, pursuant to a Decision of the Council of Ministers, is entrusted with ensuring compliance by the Republic of Cyprus with its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments.
3. The present Report is based on information and data provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (hereinafter “MOECSY”), competent authority for the implementation of the Charter, the Ministry of Interior (hereinafter “MOI”), competent authority for the protection of national minorities¹, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Presidential Commissioner, the Press and Information Office (hereinafter “PIO”), the Cyprus Radio Television Authority (hereinafter “CRTA”) and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (hereinafter “CyBC”). Information was also given by the Scientific Supervisor of the Project on the Creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for Cypriot Maronite Arabic. The Representatives of the

¹ For the Republic of Cyprus, the term “national minorities” within the meaning of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is understood to designate only those national minority-groups which had a traditional presence on the island at the time of the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 and hold the Cypriot citizenship; thus, “religious groups,” as defined in Art. 2 (3) of the Constitution, are treated as national minorities for the purposes of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Armenian and Maronite Religious Groups and their respective Offices were implicated in the process by the Law Commissioner and the MOECSY from the beginning and all information that was given by them was taken into consideration. The final draft was also communicated to them. The present Report will, upon submission, be posted on the website of the Office of the Law Commissioner and the MOECSY. It will also be forwarded to the Representatives of the Armenian, Maronite and Latin Religious Groups.

4. Due to the continued illegal occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey since 1974, the Government is not in a position to exercise effective control over all of its national territory and cannot ensure the application of the rights guaranteed by the European Charter in areas not under its control. Consequently, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is prevented to ensure full realization of its policies and to apply its laws, policies and programmes concerning the rights prescribed in the Charter, to those living in the occupied part of the country. It is relevant to recall that, according to Protocol No.10 on Cyprus Annexed to the 2003 “Act concerning the Conditions of Accession of the Republic of Cyprus and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded”, the application of the *acquis* is “suspended in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control”. Consequently, all information and data presented in the present Report concern the Government-controlled areas.

The numbers of the following headings/paragraphs relate to the Outlines of the Committee of Ministers approved on 2 May 2019. As it is stated in the Instrument of Ratification, the Republic of Cyprus undertakes to apply Part II of the Charter in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1, both to the Armenian language and Cypriot Maronite Arabic.

I. Armenian Language

Part – General provisions

Article 6 - Information

What measures have been taken to inform the authorities (including regional and/or local), organisations and persons concerned of the rights and duties established by the Charter, as required by its Article 6?

5. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is posted on the website of the MOECSY, the competent authority for the implementation of the Charter. Furthermore, the link² to the relevant website of the Council of Europe is also posted on the website of the MOECSY, so that visitors can access all the information regarding the reports of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the reports and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers. Similarly, the website of the Office of the Law Commissioner posts the reports of the Republic of Cyprus.
6. In addition, it should be added that during the preparation and the drafting of the reports submitted by the Republic of Cyprus, a number of public services and other entities, as well as persons concerned, are being consulted and involved in the procedure. We deem very important that the people working for these services are aware of the rights and duties established by the Charter, because they are the ones that will primarily work for the more efficient implementation of the relevant recommendations for the benefit of the Armenian and Cypriot Maronite Arabic languages.
7. Furthermore, it should be stated that the MOECSY and/or his representatives, as well as other officials of the Government, when addressing issues concerning the religious groups of Cyprus often refer to the signing and ratification of the Charter by the Republic of Cyprus and the commitments that derive from this act.

² http://www.moec.gov.cy/eiao/el/diethneis_org_symvoulio_evropis.html

Part II – Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

Paragraph 1

In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

- a. the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth***
 - i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant legal changes;**
8. A new development is that the Cultural Services of the MOECSY, in close consultation with the Religious Groups Representatives have taken the decision to reserve separate funds in order to facilitate the subsidization of cultural activities from 2018 onwards. So far subsidies have been given through the programme “Culture” in the same way they have been given to all citizens of the Republic of Cyprus. Moreover, the Youth Board of Cyprus continues to subsidize cultural and sports events of the religious groups.
 9. The Office of the Presidential Commissioner has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Public and Private Educational Institutions of Cyprus. These MoU include provisions stating that the Educational Institutions can offer their facilities, free of charge, to the three religious groups for the organization and presentation of their cultural events.
 10. At the same time, the operation of the Nareg Armenian Schools which are fully funded by the MOECSY, as well as the NANOR Armenian Childcare Centre which is partly financed by the MOECSY, ensure that the Armenian language is promoted as an expression of cultural wealth.

11. Moreover, the CRTA encourages the presentation of the Armenians and Maronites in the mass media, as well as the use of their languages. It acknowledges that the Armenian and CMA languages constitute part of the cultural wealth of the Republic of Cyprus. Within this context, the CRTA takes all necessary measures that seek to the protection of Armenian and CMA. Examples of such measures are the policy of safeguarding the quality of the language used in the media and the examination of complaints with regards to potential violation of the regulation of the audiovisual media services.
12. CyBC has a policy of promoting the cultural wealth of Cyprus, as well as the values of coexistence and respect for multiculturalism. Within that framework, certain programmes are broadcasted specifically for the religious groups of Cyprus. These programmes include several elements regarding the religion, history, language and culture of the Armenians and the Maronites of Cyprus.
13. The MOI acknowledging the importance of the Armenian and CMA languages as an expression of cultural wealth, has a policy of providing annual financial support to the Armenians and Maronites for publications of their choice.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

14. The Office of the Presidential Commissioner organized a major event at the Presidential Palace on the 11th of December 2017, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Cyprus. The aim of the event was the preservation and promotion of the language, tradition and culture of the Armenians of Cyprus. During the event, members of the Armenian community presented traditional entertainment programmes.
15. Furthermore, the Hamazkayin Cultural and Educational Society and the Office of the Representative of the Armenians organized a cultural event on the 5th of May 2019 that took place at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre, under the auspices of the MOECSY. The event included folkloric dances, theatrical acts and an artistic

programme, all based on Armenian traditions, while both the Armenian and the English languages were used.

16. On the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day 2017, the European Commission Representation in Cyprus and the Cyprus Linguistic Society (Cy LING) organized the event “*Western Armenian – Cypriot Arabic: new century, new speakers?*” on the 21st of February 2017. The event aimed to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity as well as multilingualism and focused on the teaching of Western Armenian and Cypriot Arabic as mother tongues. During the event, Professor Anaid Donabedian-Demopoulos (Institut National des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris) has given a lecture with the theme “*Speaking Western Armenian – A challenge for the 21st century*”.
17. In addition, in the Nareg Schools all Armenian holidays are celebrated, as preserving the religious, linguistic and cultural heritage of the community is an important part of the curriculum. It should also be underlined that all pupils in the Nareg Schools attend Armenian language lessons and the Armenian language is also used and promoted as cultural wealth through other subjects as well, such as history, religious education, geography and arts. Furthermore, pupils frequently perform Armenian poetry, songs, dances and theatrical plays. Moreover, the school organises visits by prominent Armenians, lecturers and artists from abroad that interact with pupils and staff. A one month Summer School is also operating at the premises of Nareg Primary School in Nicosia and all Armenian children attending have the opportunity to be involved in several activities that promote, amongst others, the Armenian language, culture and identity.
18. Of particular importance is that the Armenian language is also promoted through interschool cooperation. On the 20th of February 2019, pupils and teachers of Nareg Armenian Schools participated in an event organized by Agios Maronas Primary School in cooperation with Nareg Primary School, Devteras Primary School and the School for the Deaf. The event was entitled “*I travel using language ...*” on the occasion of St. Maronas day. Each school had the opportunity

to present a cultural programme in their own language after which pupils and teachers attended a talk on the importance of language in communication followed by a language workshop. Pupils had the opportunity to learn about each other's customs and had a language taster in Armenian, Cypriot Maronite Arabic, Greek and Turkish.

19. Furthermore, the Nareg Armenian Schools participated in another event that was hosted in Agios Maronas Primary School that was entitled "*Stories that a Gate has heard: A voyage to the neighbourhoods of Paphos Gate*". This event took place on the 7th of February 2018 and the schools that participated were: Agios Maronas Primary School, Nareg Primary School, Agioi Omologites Primary School and Agios Kassianos Primary School. During the event pupils from all schools presented a cultural programme and then they attended art and dance workshops. The pupils also had the chance to interview people with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds who lived near the area of Paphos Gate.
20. Another example of interschool cooperation was the organization of visits between the Nareg Gymnasium (lower secondary school) and Second Regional Gymnasium of Nicosia. These visits included joint student celebrations and sports games, during which the pupils presented information about their community and performed Armenian songs and dances. Inter school visits were also organized with other schools in Nicosia.
21. As far as television is concerned, CyBC broadcasted a new episode of the programme entitled "*ՊԱՔԵԲ*" on the 6th of January 2019. This programme was broadcasted on the occasion of the celebration of Armenian Christmas Day and included, amongst others, Armenian songs sung by children and the Armenian Church Choir.
22. CyBC also promotes the cultural significance of the Armenian language in radio. In particular, a daily one-hour programme is broadcasted in the Armenian language. This programme is prepared and presented by Armenians and acts as a medium

for the promotion of the Armenian language and traditions. Of particular cultural significance is the fact that it includes the broadcasting of modern and traditional Armenian songs, as well as Armenian literature and topics on Armenian religion. Various activities and events of the Armenian community are also covered, while every year CyBC broadcasts the Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy and programmes specifically for children are broadcasted on the occasion of Christmas and Easter.

23. The Armenians of Cyprus publish a bi-monthly newspaper entitled "*Artsakank*", which is registered in the PIO. They also maintain a web portal with the same name as well. Furthermore, the Armenians of Cyprus also have an on-line e-magazine entitled "*Gibrahayer*". In these media the Armenian language is used and its cultural significance is recognized and promoted. As it was mentioned above (par. 13) the MOI provides annual financial support for publications to the Armenians of Cyprus. In 2018 and 2019 the amount of €10.000 per year was provided for Armenian publications.
24. The PIO does not have any publications in Armenian or CMA languages, yet it has undertaken the updating and revision of the publications dedicated to each of the three religious groups of Cyprus and their reprint to reflect new developments. These publications promote the history, culture and identity of the religious groups of Cyprus. Other publications of the PIO serve the same purpose, such as the luxury publication "*Multireligious Cyprus*", a trilingual (English, Greek, French) publication with dedicated chapters on the three religious groups, their presence on the island and their places of worship. Moreover, texts on the three religious groups, as well as relevant photographs, are included in the luxury hardcover publication "*Window on Cyprus*", which was published in English, French and Russian. In addition, the multimedia CD "*Aspects of Cyprus*", which is also produced by the PIO in Greek and English, includes a special section on the three religious groups. All these productions and publications, which pertain or refer to the three religious groups, are available free of charge to the public, are widely circulated and are also accessible online via the PIO website.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

25. Not applicable.

b. the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

26. In the Instrument of Ratification the Republic of Cyprus has declared that the Armenian language is a “non-territorial” language. There are no administrative divisions that constitute any hindrance to the promotion of the Armenian language.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

27. Please refer to answer directly above in par. 26 (p. 9) of the present Report.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

28. Not applicable.

c. the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

29. The Presidential Commissioner, as stated in the previous Report, is appointed by and is directly accountable to the President of the Republic of Cyprus and, is responsible, inter alia, for issues related to the religious groups. Please also refer to Part I (p. 6) of the previous Report.

30. Additionally, the MOECSY, as mentioned in the previous Report, has an earmarked budget exclusively for the requests and needs of the religious groups. At the same time, there is a different budget for the operation of the Armenian School Board.
31. Please refer above to par. 8 (p. 4) of the present Report, regarding the funding provided to the religious groups by the Cultural Services of the MOECSY.
32. Please refer above to par. 13 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the MOI for the provision of funding for publications of the religious groups.
33. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the CRTA and CyBC, regarding the broadcasting of programmes for the religious groups.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

34. The Presidential Commissioner through horizontal communication continues to examine and give support to any issues related to the religious groups. On regular basis, the Commissioner has meetings with the religious groups Representatives in the House of the Representatives, Church leaders, athletic clubs and other established bodies of the communities, so as to be informed comprehensively about matters that concern individually each group. In parallel, the Presidential Commissioner coordinates actions and cooperates with all Governmental departments in order to facilitate and resolve issues concerning the religious groups. The Office of the Presidential Commissioner has also shown a particular interest in the education of children belonging to religious groups. In this respect, he visited the public and private schools of the religious groups, showing the commitment and support of the Government to the preservation of their religion, identity and language. Specifically, on 14/11/2019 the Presidential Commissioner accompanied by the Representatives of the MOECSY and the Representative of the Armenians at the House of Representatives, visited Nareg Schools. During the visit, decisions were taken for both infrastructure maintenance and upgrading

various facilities of the school and for issues that will help in the further development of the school education level.

35. The MOECSY, competent authority for the implementation of the Charter, is also in close cooperation and consultation with the Representative of the Armenians in the House of the Representatives, as well as with the Headmistress of the Nareg Armenian Schools and the members of the Armenian School Board, in order to promote measures for the support of the Armenian language and identity.
36. The promotion of the Armenian language is safeguarded through the operation of the Nareg Schools in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca that are fully financed by the MOECSY. Furthermore, the teaching of the Armenian language is provided at the Adult Education Centres and the University of Cyprus on demand, and the expenses for the operation of these programmes are covered by the MOECSY. In addition the MOECSY is contributing financially to the operation of the NANOR Armenian Childcare Centre.
37. The MOI is the competent Ministry regarding the issues concerning the religious groups in general. The Ministry is in constant consultation and dialogue with the elected Religious Groups Representatives, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Minister of Interior, at the request of the Representatives, holds meetings with the Representatives of each religious group for addressing any specific issues of their concern. Furthermore, as it was already mentioned above in par. 23 (p. 8), in 2018 and 2019, the MOI provided the amount of €10.000 per year for Armenian publications.
38. Please also refer above to par. 21-22 (p. 7-8), regarding specific programmes of CyBC for the promotion of the Armenian language in broadcasting.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

39. Not applicable.

d. the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

40. Please refer above to par. 11 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the CRTA for the presentation of the Armenian language in the mass media.
41. According to the legislation, “CyBC offers public radio and television service in Greek, Turkish and English, as well as in any other languages on its own judgment”. The CyBC encourages and facilitates the use of the Armenian language in the public sphere. Within that framework, certain programmes are broadcasted specifically for the Armenians of Cyprus. These programmes include several elements regarding the religion, history, language and culture of the Armenians.
42. As already mentioned above, the MOI facilitates and encourages the use of the Armenian language in writing through its policy of providing annual financial support to the Armenians for publications.
43. The MOECSY fully facilitates and encourages the right of children belonging to the Armenian religious group to speak and write their language and this is evident by the operation of the Armenian Nareg Schools that are fully subsidized by the Government. Moreover, the MOECSY subsidizes the teaching of the Armenian language, the training of Armenian language teachers, the purchase of books in Armenian language and the organisation of events that promote the Armenian language and identity.
44. Please also refer above to par. 8 (p. 4) of the present Report, regarding the funding provided to the religious groups by the Cultural Services of the MOECSY. This funding is also evident of the support that the Government is showing for the promotion of the Armenian language and culture in the public sphere.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

45. Please refer above to par. 21 (p. 7) of the present Report, regarding the broadcasting of a television programme for the Armenians by CyBC.
46. As far as radio is concerned, it was already mentioned that CyBC broadcasts a daily one-hour programme in the Armenian language. This programme is prepared and presented by Armenians themselves. This particular programme facilitates and encourages the expression of the Armenians in the public sphere and acts as a medium for the promotion of the Armenian language and traditions. It includes, inter alia, a news bulletin, modern and traditional Armenian music, topics for women, health issues, as well as Armenian literature and topics on Armenian religion. Various activities and events of the Armenian community are also covered, while every year CyBC broadcasts the Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy and programmes specifically for children are broadcasted on the occasion of Christmas and Easter. Moreover, during the election campaign the candidates of the Armenians for the seat at the House of the Representatives are hosted, in order to present their views for the benefit of the Armenian community.
47. Please refer above to par. 23-24 (p. 8) of the present Report, regarding publications in the Armenian language and publications that include units on the Armenian community of Cyprus.
48. Please refer above to par. 17-20 (p. 6-7) of the present Report, regarding examples of the promotion and actual use of the Armenian language in public life through activities and practices of Nareg Armenian Schools.
49. The headmistress of the Nareg Armenian Schools, Ms. Vera Tahmazian, has given a series of lectures at the University of Cyprus, the European University of Cyprus, the Goethe Institute, on public TV and radio, as well as during Erasmus+ visits abroad, presenting the Armenian language, the Nareg Schools and the

Armenian community of Cyprus. All these activities increase the visibility of the language in the public sphere.

50. Please refer above to par. 14-16 (p. 5-6) of the present Report, regarding examples of events that demonstrate the use and promotion of the Armenian language in the public sphere.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Strengthen the presence of Armenian in broadcasting

51. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5), 21-22 (p. 7-8), 40-41 (p. 12), 46 (p. 13) of the present Report. As it is evident, the Armenian language has a regular daily presence on CyBC radio. As far as television is concerned, a new episode of PAREV programme was broadcasted on the occasion of Armenian Christmas Day on the 6th of January 2019.

Further recommendation of the Committee of Experts

Promote the use of Armenian, in speech and in writing, in different fields of public life, especially in television and print media.

52. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5), 21-22 (p. 7-8), 40-41 (p. 12) and 46 (p. 13) of the present Report, regarding the promotion and use of Armenian language in radio and television.
53. Please refer above to par. 13 (p. 5), 23-24 (p. 8) and 42 (p. 12) of the present Report, regarding the promotion and use of the Armenian language in publications.
54. Please refer above to par. 8 (p. 4), 16-20 (p. 6-7), 36 (p. 11), 43 (p. 12), 49 (p. 13-14) of the present Report, regarding the promotion of Armenian in the field of education and culture.

e. the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by the Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

55. The Government encourages the development of links between the Armenians and the Maronites of Cyprus, as well as with other groups, in all matters, including the promotion of their languages and the establishment of cultural relations amongst them.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

56. Please refer above to par. 18-20 (p. 6-7) of the present Report, regarding examples of interschool cooperation between the Nareg Armenian Schools and other schools in Nicosia, including Agios Maronas Primary School. It should be mentioned that these events are attended by members of the Armenian and Maronite community, including the Representatives of the Armenians and the Maronites in the House of the Representatives, as well as officials from the MOECSY and the local authorities.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

57. Not applicable.

f. the provisions of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

58. As already mentioned above, the MOECSY has an earmarked budget specifically for the educational needs of the three religious groups of Cyprus, as well as a different budget for the operation of the Armenian School Board.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

59. In practice, the teaching of the Armenian language is fully funded in all the Nareg Primary Schools (Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca) and the Nareg Gymnasium (lower secondary school in Nicosia). It should be added that in the framework of the operation of all Nareg Schools the MOECSY is also fully funding the teaching of subjects taught in the Armenian language, such as history, religious education, geography, art and mathematics. Armenian children also have the opportunity to use and learn the Armenian language through various activities during the one-month operation of the Nareg Summer School in Nicosia. Please see also relevant comments under par. 36 (p.11) of the present Report.

60. The MOECSY also supports and is funding the organisation of training seminars for teachers of the Armenian language, as well as the rest of the staff of the Nareg Schools. Additionally, the MOECSY is funding the purchase of books for the teaching of the Armenian language, as well as subjects taught in the Armenian language.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Provide teaching of Armenian at upper secondary level

61. Currently, the Armenian language is taught at pre-primary, primary and lower secondary level. At the moment it is not offered at upper secondary level due to the lack of sufficient number of students. Yet, the Armenian language is taught at the Adult Education Centres and the University of Cyprus, on demand. It should

also be stated that the majority of Armenian pupils are enrolled at secondary private schools and the MOECSY subsidizes part of their tuition fees.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Provide teacher training for Armenian

62. The emphasis on professional development at the Nareg Armenian Schools focused on promoting teaching skills, allowing teachers to master new knowledge, as well as to improve their classroom management techniques and ICT skills. Relevant professional learning courses were provided to all Nareg Schools teachers (both Armenian and Greek) by trainers from the MOECSY.
63. With regards to training of teachers of the Armenian language, history and religion, the Nareg Armenian School has organized regular opportunities for in-service training sessions. In these sessions teachers attended professional training and staff development courses, workshops and joint discussion groups which allowed them to reflect on and develop their teaching practices.
64. Moreover, a teacher trainer from Lebanon and the Headmistress of the Nareg Schools carried out class observations, mentoring and evaluation of the teachers' work, with the aim to aid teachers to improve their lesson planning, teaching methods and classroom management techniques. The training sessions were carried out on the following dates:
 - 7 March 2017 – 11 March 2017
 - 6 September 2017 – 20 September 2017
 - 11 January 2018 – 19 January 2018
 - 7 May 2018 – 12 May 2018
 - 1 October 2018 – 10 October 2018
 - 14 January 2019 – 18 January 2019

65. A training session for teachers of the Armenian language at Nareg Schools was also organized by the University of Cyprus on 18 February 2017 entitled “*L’ école arménienne et le défi de la transmission de l’ arménien occidental*”.
66. It should be underlined that the MOECSY supports the training of all teachers at Nareg Schools and provides annual funding to the Armenian School Board. Furthermore, it is important to add that other training opportunities are also available for teachers at Nareg Schools. In particular, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the MOECSY organises in-service teachers’ training seminars, on a school basis, as well as a series of seminars where teachers can attend in the afternoon, as an optional choice. Amongst the seminars offered are training sessions regarding language learning methodologies and teaching methods in multilingual environments.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Introduce a scheme for the basic and further training of teachers of Armenian

67. Please refer above to par. 62-66 (p. 17-18) of the present Report, regarding the provision of teacher training for Armenian. As it is evident, since 2017 the training of teachers of Armenian at Nareg Schools is provided on a regular basis, 2-3 times each school year, by a trainer from Lebanon.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Arrange for the regular import of teaching materials in Armenian in accordance with the needs of the schools teaching in this language

68. In the Nareg Armenian Schools, the MOECSY is funding the purchase of books for the teaching of the Armenian language, as well as subjects taught in the Armenian language. Textbooks, workbooks and teacher manuals are imported from Lebanon and the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. Furthermore, Nareg Armenian Schools have subscribed and receive monthly journals and magazines in the Armenian language from Lebanon. Some of these journals are targeted to children while others to older pupils and teachers.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Introduce teaching of Armenian in upper secondary education

69. Please refer above to par. 61 (p. 16-17) of the present Report.

g. the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

70. The MOECSY has a policy of providing opportunities for non-speakers of Armenian to learn the language and provides facilities and specific programmes to that end.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

71. The Armenian language can be learned at the Nareg Armenian Schools and lessons are also offered, on demand, at the Adult Education Centres and the University of Cyprus.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

72. Not applicable.

h. the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

73. As already stated above, the Armenian language is taught at the University of Cyprus, on demand. Furthermore, there is a policy of offering supernumerary positions for Armenians of Cyprus, as well as Maronites and Latins, in order to study at public universities. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that in 2017 the

University of Cyprus has signed an International Agreement with the American University of Armenia regarding the exchange of students between the two institutions.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

74. The University of Cyprus promotes the study of the Armenian language, culture and identity through the organization of various events. As already stated above, a training session for teachers of the Armenian language at Nareg Schools was organized by the University of Cyprus on 18 February 2017 entitled “*L’ école arménienne et le défi de la transmission de l’ arménien occidental*”. Furthermore, on 20 February 2019 an event entitled “*Illuminating the unseen aspects of the languages and communities of Cyprus*” was organized at the University of Cyprus. On that occasion the Headmistress of Nareg Armenian Schools gave a lecture regarding the Western Armenian language.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

Further recommendation of the Committee of Experts

Promote study and research on Armenian at university or equivalent institutions.

75. Please refer above to par. 73-74 (p. 19-20) of the present Report.

i. the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

76. The religious groups of Cyprus have historic, religious, linguistic and cultural bonds with people and communities in other states. The Armenians have bonds not only with Armenia and Armenian diaspora, but also with Lebanon: the Armenian

Prelature of Cyprus is under the Catholicos of Cilicia who is based in Lebanon and the Armenians of Lebanon speak Western Armenian. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus views favourably the people-to-people contacts and especially the cooperation between churches and schools. The diplomatic missions of Cyprus facilitate this cooperation when requested.

77. Recent developments include the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs between Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon on April 10, 2019 and the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting between Cyprus, Greece and Armenia on June 4, 2019. The Joint Statement of the trilateral meeting with Lebanon identified, inter alia, Higher Education as a priority field of cooperation. The Ministers also reaffirmed the common values, culture and heritage of the three countries. In the Trilateral Meeting with Armenia the Ministers, inter alia, agreed to broaden and deepen the cooperation in the fields of common interest such as education, science and culture. These areas of cooperation could potentially benefit also the Armenians of Cyprus, due to their cultural bonds with Armenia and Lebanon.
78. It is also worth mentioning that the Presidential Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus and the Minister for Armenian Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for diaspora issues in Yerevan on June 2017. This cooperation was later expanded with the participation of Greece. During the two meetings that followed in Nicosia and Yerevan between the three countries, common projects were agreed such as the hosting of a cultural event of the diasporas in France. Another common action involves visits of young people from the diaspora of the three countries to Cyprus, Greece and Armenia during the summer of 2020.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

79. The Nareg Armenian Schools collaborated with the Armenian Evangelical School in Lebanon. In particular, during the school year 2017-2018 15 pupils, the Headmistress and two teachers from the Armenian Evangelical School visited

Cyprus and had a joint programme of Armenian dance classes with children from Nareg Schools. The pupils performed during the annual Sports Day to the Armenian public.

80. In addition, Armenian scouts from Cyprus have participated in a camp that was organized in Armenia for children of the Armenian diaspora. Amongst others, the children from Cyprus had the opportunity to interact with children from other countries in various activities and thus use and enhance their knowledge of Western Armenian, as well as participate in events that promoted the Armenian culture. It is worth mentioning that the expenses of the Armenians of Cyprus were covered by the budget of the MOECSY.
81. Furthermore, as mentioned above, the Nareg Armenian Schools have established cooperation with a trainer from Lebanon that provides training, mentoring and evaluation to Armenian teachers every year. Please refer above to par. 64, p. 17 of the present Report.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

82. Not applicable.

Paragraph 2

The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.

83. As it is stated in the Instrument of Ratification, the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Cyprus “uphold and safeguard effectively the principle of equality and

non-discrimination on the ground of a person's community, race, religion, language, sex, political or other convictions, national or social descent, birth, colour, wealth, social class or any ground whatsoever".

84. The CRTA takes all necessary action to combat effectively any forms of discrimination and intolerance that may emerge in the programmes provided by audio-visual media service providers. Any expressions of racism and/or xenophobia are sanctioned by means of the relevant law, namely the Radio and Television Stations Law (L. 7(I) of 1998, as amended), the Radio and Television Stations Regulations (P.I. 10/2000), and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Law, (CAP.300A, as amended).
85. Furthermore, it should be added that the CRTA encourages the access to media by persons belonging to the religious groups in order to exercise the inalienable right of freedom of expression. This encouragement considers also the interests and particularities of the Republic of Cyprus and the interests and the sensitivities of the local population, including those of the religious groups. The CRTA acknowledges that the exercise of freedom of expression carries with it concomitant duties and responsibilities and hence the free speech right remains subject to the conditions prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society.
86. Moreover, the right of education for all children is safeguarded by Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus. In addition, the equality of all the children enrolled in schools is guaranteed by the legislation. The new Regulations for the operation of public secondary schools that were issued in February 2017 clearly state that any person or public authority involved in the interpretation and implementation of the regulations is obliged to refrain from "any discrimination based on race, colour, gender, language, religion, political and other beliefs of the child or his/her parents or guardians, citizenship, ethnic or social origin, economic situation, disability, birth, sexual orientation or any other situation". Thus any discriminatory attitudes against any group or any language are strictly forbidden.

87. Please also refer above to par. 43 (p. 12) of the present Report, regarding the right of Armenians to learn and use their language.

Paragraph 3

The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

88. Please refer above to par. 14-16 (p. 5-6), 18-20 (p. 7) and 55-56 (p. 15) of the present Report, regarding raising awareness events organized, as well as links and interschool cooperation which are evident of mutual respect, understanding and tolerance between all the linguistic groups of Cyprus, including the Armenians and their language.

89. Please refer above to par. 34-35 (p. 10-11) and 37 (p. 11) of the present Report, regarding the cooperation of the Presidential Commissioner, the MOECSY, competent authority for the implementation of the Charter, and the MOI, with the Armenians of Cyprus.

90. Furthermore, the antiracist policy of the MOECSY continues to be implemented in public schools. The creation of a sensitization culture against racism and intolerance and the promotion of equality and respect is an integral part of the Curricula of various subjects (e.g. History, Literature, Modern Greek language, Religious Education). Please also refer to p. 4 of the previous Report.

91. The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (CPI) constantly supports teachers and schools, by providing trainings and workshops for the implementation of the anti-racist policy, such as the yearly two-day teacher training for primary and secondary school teachers, and by organizing conferences on issues of racism and human rights. Specifically, amongst the in-service seminars offered by the CPI since May

2017, for both primary and secondary education, were the following and covered issues of:

- Developing empathy skills to pupils in the modern multicultural school;
- Promoting Anti-Racism and teaching equality
- Stereotypes, prejudices, racism: Towards an education on the basis of human rights;
- Cultivating awareness of pupils against racism and intolerance;
- Acceptance of the “Other”.

92. Please also refer above to par. 84-85 (p. 23) of the present Report, regarding CRTA policy and objectives for combating racism and safeguarding the freedom of expression. Furthermore, as far as training is concerned, it should be added that promoting media literacy levels in the Republic of Cyprus is amongst the most important policy objectives of CRTA. Hence, media literacy workshops are offered in all schools of the Republic of Cyprus. In the past, media literacy workshops were also offered at the Nareg Gymnasium (lower secondary school) in Nicosia.

93. The programmes for the Armenians broadcasted by CyBC, on radio and television, are also promoting mutual respect and understanding between the linguistic groups of Cyprus and are evidence of freedom of expression and tolerance in the mass media. The same applies with the publications of the PIO that include units on the religious groups of Cyprus, including the Armenians. These publications promote the historical, cultural, religious and social presence of the Armenians in Cyprus as an integral part of Cypriot heritage and aid the objective of enhancing respect, understanding and tolerance amongst all the people living in Cyprus, including their respective languages.

Paragraph 4

In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the

groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

With regard to Article 7, paragraph 4, please also specify how the bodies or associations which further the protection and promotion of the respective language and/or represent its speakers/users have been consulted with regard to the implementation of the Charter in general, the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts and the drawing up of the periodical report.

94. Please refer above to par. 3 (p. 1-2), regarding the involvement of the Representatives of the Armenians and Maronites of Cyprus in the House of the Representatives in the preparation of the present Report.
95. Please refer above to par. 34-35 (p. 10-11) and 37 (p. 11) of the present Report, regarding the discussions and cooperation that the Presidential Commissioner, the MOECSY and the MOI have established with the elected Representatives of the Armenians and the Maronites in the House of the Representatives, as well as with other responsible bodies of the Armenians and Maronites, regarding all issues of their concern.
96. Please refer also to Part I (p. 6) of the previous Report, regarding the role of the Presidential Commissioner.

Paragraph 5

The Parties undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of measures to be taken into effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned.

97. All measures taken for the Armenian language take into consideration the needs and wishes of the Armenians of Cyprus and their traditions and characteristics are fully respected, as it is evident in all the answers given above in par. 8-96 (p. 4 – 26).

II. Cypriot Maronite Arabic language (CMA)

Part 1 – General provisions

Article 6 - Information

What measures have been taken to inform the authorities (including regional and/or local), organisations and persons concerned of the rights and duties established by the Charter, as required by its Article 6?

98. Please refer above to par. 5-7 (p. 3).

Part II – Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

Paragraph 1

In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

- a. the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth*
- i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;**

99. Please refer above to par. 8 (p. 4), regarding funding from the Cultural Services of the MOECSY and the Youth Board of Cyprus.
100. Please refer above to par. 9 (p. 4), regarding the Memoranda of Understanding that the Presidential Commissioner has signed with universities.
101. The operation of Agios Maronas Pre-Primary and Primary Schools which are fully funded by the MOECSY, as well as the organization of the Annual Language Summer Camp in Kormakitis and the ongoing research for the protection and revitalization of CMA which are also funded by the MOECSY, ensure that the Cypriot Maronite Arabic language is promoted as an expression of cultural wealth.
102. Please refer above to par. 11 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of CRTA.
103. Please refer above to par. 12 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the CyBC.
104. Please refer above to par. 13 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the MOI for publications of the religious groups of Cyprus.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

105. The Office of the Presidential Commissioner organized a major event at the Presidential Palace on the 16th of October 2017, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Cyprus. The event included dance and singing performances by folkloric Maronite groups, in an effort, for the new generation, to preserve their history, culture, language and identity. During the event several Maronite associations and clubs were honoured and sponsorships were granted.
106. Another event that was under the auspice of the Presidential Commissioner was organised on the 3rd of November 2019, by the Maronite Community at Kormakitis village of the enclaved Maronites located in the occupied areas of Cyprus. The event honoured Saint George who is the patron saint of the village. During the

celebrations, people sang songs, dance traditional dances and read poetry at the Maronite Arabic language.

107. In addition, on the 21st of April 2019 the annual festival of St George was organized by the Maronite Community in the village of Kormakitis. A representative of the Office of the Presidential Commissioner addressed the occasion and all the participants had the opportunity to take part in cultural and religious activities. Moreover, a folkloric programme from groups of the Maronite community was presented and the celebrations included live music, singing and dancing.
108. In another case, the Maronite Community organised an event on 31/10/2019, at the presence of the Presidential Commissioner who addressed a speech on behalf of the President of the Republic, in order to honour Tonys Solomou, an artist, member of the community whom for the last 20 and more years serves and promotes the Maronite Traditional Music and songs in Cyprus and abroad.
109. On the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day 2017, the European Commission Representation in Cyprus and the Cyprus Linguistic Society (CY LING) organized the event “*Western Armenian – Cypriot Arabic: new century, new speakers?*” on the 21st of February 2017. The event aimed to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity as well as multilingualism and focused on the teaching of Western Armenian and Cypriot Arabic as mother tongues. During the event, Associate Professor Marilena Karyolaimou (University of Cyprus) has given a lecture with the theme “*Planning the teaching for Cypriot Arabic – Choices and dilemmas*”.
110. On the 6th of December 2018 the President of the Republic of Cyprus inaugurated the “House of St Maron”. The “House of St Maron” has a historical, religious and cultural significance, for the Maronite community for cultural and religious activities that contribute significantly to the efforts for the conservation and promotion of the identity of the Maronite community in Cyprus. The Government has contributed an amount of 250,000 euros for the renovation of the building which now hosts a

library, museum, multipurpose hall and for enabling the use of premises for the development of various activities. The “House of St Maron” is now a cultural centre for creative interaction for the Maronite community.

111. The cultural significance of CMA is also recognised and promoted in Agios Maronas Pre-Primary School. CMA is used in several school events, such as theatrical plays during Christmas celebration. Moreover, CMA is used in the classroom when discussing about Maronite culture and the village of Kormakitis, as well as the participation of Maronite children in Sanna Camp every year. Popular songs were also translated in CMA for the children.
112. CMA language is also promoted through interschool cooperation. On the 20th of February 2019, Agios Maronas Primary School in cooperation with Nareg Primary School, Devteras Primary School and the School for the Deaf organized an event entitled “*I travel using language ...*” on the occasion of St. Maronas day. Each school had the opportunity to present a cultural programme in their own language after which pupils and teachers attended a talk on the importance of language in communication followed by a language workshop. Pupils had the opportunity to learn about each other’s customs and had a language taster in Cypriot Maronite Arabic, Armenian, Greek and Turkish.
113. Furthermore, Agios Maronas Primary School organized and hosted another event entitled “*Stories that a Gate has heard: A voyage to the neighbourhoods of Paphos Gate*”. This event took place on the 7th of February 2018 and the schools that participated were: Agios Maronas Primary School, Nareg Primary School, Agioi Omologites Primary School and Agios Kassianos Primary School. During the event pupils from all schools presented a cultural programme and then they attended art and dance workshops. The pupils also had the chance to interview people with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds who lived near the area of Paphos Gate.

114. During the Annual Language Summer Camp in the village of Kormakitis, CMA is taught and the cultural importance of the language is enhanced through the participation of young Maronites in various educational and cultural activities organized for them. The last three years the number of young Maronites attending the Camp has been considerably increased, as well as the funding provided by the MOECSY. Since 2016, every year, around 100 children and 20 teachers and group leaders participate in the Annual Language Summer Camp.
115. It is also important to add that the ongoing research for the protection and revitalization of CMA contributes considerably to the recognition of the cultural significance of CMA. The collection of oral data from interviews with native speakers of the language has revealed a lot of important information regarding the history, culture, everyday life and traditions of the Maronite community. These data are collected in the Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA and some parts were translated in Greek. Furthermore, literary texts are collected by the researchers in order to compile an “Anthology” of texts written in CMA. Traditional songs were also translated from Greek to CMA.
116. As far as television is concerned, of particular cultural significance is the frequent use of CMA language in the third season of a very popular daily TV series in Cyprus entitled “*Galateia*”, which is broadcasted by Sigma TV, a private channel of pancyprian coverage. The writer of the series, a Maronite himself, had the idea of incorporating CMA in the script; hence words, phrases and dialogues in CMA were spoken in 35 episodes. In this way the visibility of CMA in the public sphere was decisively enhanced, aiding the effort to preserve the language. Moreover, the cultural importance of the language was recognized and promoted through the broadcasting of religious songs in CMA, such as Christmas carols, while viewers had the opportunity to watch scenes from Kormakitis and particularly the Church of Saint George.
117. CyBC also promotes the cultural significance of CMA in radio. In particular, a weekly one-hour programme is broadcasted for the Maronites entitled “*The voice*

of the Maronites”. This programme is presented in Greek, the language understood and used by all Maronites, by a partner of CyBC who is a member of the Maronite community. Nevertheless, CMA is frequently used and discussed and many programmes are dedicated to CMA. Of particular cultural significance is the fact that the programme includes the frequent broadcasting of songs in CMA, as well as traditional Maronite music, songs and hymns sung by Maronite artists and choirs. Furthermore, issues related to Maronite history, culture, religion, art and traditions are presented. Various activities and events of the Maronite community are also covered, while every year the Divine Liturgy for the celebration of Agios Maronas Day is broadcasted live from the Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Nicosia.

118. The Maronites of Cyprus have their own publications. For example, the “*Maronite Press*” is published by the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives. Amongst its topics are issues related to the cultural significance of CMA, such as interviews, coverage of events organized by Agios Maronas Primary School and information regarding the Annual Summer Language Camp in Kormakitis. Moreover, although the languages of the newspaper are Greek and English, CMA was occasionally used in the past, for example in the case of prayers and religious texts. In addition to that, it should be added that Maronites also maintain their own web pages which promote the cultural importance of CMA, for example www.maroniteslive.com and www.kormakitis.net. It is important to underline that, as it was mentioned above in par. 13 (p.5), the MOI provides annual financial support for publications to the Maronites of Cyprus. In 2018 and 2019 the amount of €10.000 per year was provided for Maronite publications.

119. Please also refer above to par. 24 (p. 8) of the present Report, regarding publications of the PIO which promote the cultural significance of the religious groups of Cyprus, including their respective languages.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

120. Not applicable.

b. *the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;*

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

121. There are no administrative divisions that constitute any hindrance to the promotion of the Cypriot Maronite Arabic language. Please also refer above to par. 4 (p. 2) of the present Report.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

122. Please refer to the answer directly above in par. 121 (p. 33) of the present Report.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

123. Not applicable

c. *the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;*

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

124. Please refer to Part I (p. 6) of the previous Report and par. 29 (p.9) of the present Report.

125. Additionally, the MOECSY, as mentioned in the previous Report, has an earmarked budget exclusively for the requests and needs of the religious groups. At the same time there is a different budget for the operation of the Maronite School Board.

126. The MOECSY continues the effort for the preservation and promotion of CMA, allocating every year a significant amount to support the scientific work carried out by the researchers, in accordance with the Action Plan for the revitalization of CMA and the decisions of the relevant Committee of Experts.
127. Please refer above to par. 8 (p. 4) of the present Report, regarding the funding provided to the religious groups by the Cultural Services of the MOECSY.
128. Please refer above to par. 13 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the MOI for the provision of funding for publications of the religious groups.
129. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the CRTA and CyBC, regarding the broadcasting of programmes for the religious groups.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

130. Please also refer above to par. 34 (p. 10-11) of the present Report. Specifically, on 31/10/2019 the Presidential Commissioner visited Terra Santa College, a private school, accompanied by the Representatives of the MOECSY, the Representatives of Maronites and Latins at the House of Representatives, school board members and members of the administration of the School. At the meeting, it was stressed that the multicultural and multilingual character of the school, is sending messages of successful coexistence and cooperation between students of different nationality, religion and mother-tongue. The Presidential Commissioner decided to support the School in close cooperation with the MOECSY. In another case, on 8/11/2019 the Presidential Commissioner accompanied by the Representatives of the MOECSY and the Representative of the Maronites at the House of Representatives, visited the Saint Maronite School. During the visit, the Presidential Commissioner decided to support the School in close cooperation with the MOECSY.

131. The MOECSY, competent authority for the implementation of the Charter, is also in close cooperation and consultation with the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives, as well as with other members of the Maronite community, in order to promote measures for the support of CMA language and Maronite identity.
132. The promotion of CMA language is safeguarded through the operation of Agios Maronas Pre-Primary and Primary Schools which are fully financed by the MOECSY. Furthermore, the teaching of CMA is provided at the Adult Education Centres in Nicosia and in Limassol and the expenses for the operation of this programme are covered by the MOECSY. In addition the MOECSY finances the Annual Language Summer Camp in Kormakitis.
133. Moreover, the research for the creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA is now at its 6th phase. At this point, the focus of the researchers is the production of teaching material and the organisation of training courses for teachers and speakers of the language. Thus, more emphasis is given at this point to the actual use of the language in everyday life, the production of written texts and the increase of its proficient speakers.
134. The MOI is the competent Ministry regarding the issues concerning the religious groups in general. The Ministry is in constant consultation and dialogue with the elected religious groups Representatives, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Minister of Interior, at the request of the Representatives, holds meetings with the Representatives of each religious group for addressing any specific issues of their concern. Furthermore, as it was already mentioned above in par. 118 (p. 32), in 2018 and 2019 the MOI provided the amount of €10.000 per year for Maronite publications.
135. Please also refer above to par. 117 (p. 31-32), regarding the specific programme broadcasted by CyBC for the Maronites, which is promoting CMA in radio.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

136. Not applicable.

d. *the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;*

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

137. Please refer above to par. 11 (p. 5) of the present Report, regarding the policy of the CRTA for the presentation of the CMA language in the mass media.

138. According to the legislation, “CyBC offers public radio and television service in Greek, Turkish and English, as well as in any other languages on its own judgment”. As already mentioned above, the CyBC encourages and facilitates the use of the CMA language in the public sphere. Within that framework, a specific programme is broadcasted specifically for the Maronites of Cyprus. This programme includes several elements regarding the religion, history, language and culture of the Maronites.

139. As already mentioned above, the MOI facilitates and encourages the use of CMA language in writing through its policy of providing annual financial support to the Maronites for publications.

140. The MOECSY fully facilitates and encourages the right of children belonging to the Maronite religious group to speak and write their language and this is evident by the operation of Agios Maronas Pre-Primary and Primary Schools that are fully subsidized by the Government. Moreover, the MOECSY subsidizes the teaching of CMA, the training of Maronite teachers, the production of teaching material and the organisation of events that promote CMA language and Maronite identity.

141. Please also refer above to par. 115 (p. 31) and 133 (p. 35) of the present Report, regarding the policy related to the scientific work on CMA, which contributes to the promotion of CMA in speech and writing.

142. Please also refer above to par. 8 (p. 4) of the present Report, regarding the funding provided to the religious groups by the Cultural Services of the MOECSY. This funding is also evident of the support that the Government is showing for the promotion of the CMA language and Maronite culture in the public sphere.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

143. Please refer above to par. 116 (p. 31) of the present Report, regarding the broadcasting of a popular TV series entitled “*Galateia*”, which uses the CMA language.

144. As far as radio is concerned, it was already mentioned that CyBC broadcasts a weekly one-hour programme for the Maronites. This programme is presented in Greek, the language understood and used by all Maronites, by a partner of CyBC who is a member of the Maronite community. The “*Voice of the Maronites*” facilitates and encourages the expression of the Maronites in the public sphere and acts as a medium for the promotion of CMA language and Maronite traditions. In this framework, CMA is frequently used and discussed and many programmes are dedicated to CMA. Of particular importance for the presentation of CMA in the public sphere is the fact that the programme includes the frequent broadcasting of songs in CMA, as well as traditional Maronite music, songs and hymns sung by Maronite artists and choirs. Furthermore, issues related to Maronite history, culture, religion, art and traditions are presented. Various activities and events of the Maronite community in Cyprus and abroad are also covered, while every year the Divine Liturgy for the celebration of Agios Maronas Day is broadcasted live from the Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Nicosia.

145. It should also be added that “*The Voice of the Maronites*” often hosts members of the Maronite community, including young people from various bodies and organizations, as well as pupils studying at Agios Maronas Primary School in Nicosia. In addition, during the election campaign the candidates of the Maronites for the seat at the House of the Representatives are hosted, in order to present their views for the benefit of the Maronite community.
146. Please refer above to par. 118 (p. 32) and 24 (p. 8) of the present Report, regarding Maronite publications and PIO publications that include units on the Maronite community of Cyprus.
147. Please refer above to par. 111-114 (p. 30-31) of the present Report, regarding examples of the promotion and actual use of CMA in public life through activities and practices of Agios Maronas Pre-Primary and Primary Schools, as well as the organization of the Annual Language Summer Camp in Kormakitis.
148. The Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cyprus and Scientific Supervisor of the Project on the Creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA, Dr. Marilena Karyolaimou, has given a series of lectures, interviews and presentations on CMA both in Cyprus and abroad. She has also published articles on CMA in books and scientific journals. All these activities increase the visibility of the language and promote the scientific study of CMA.
149. Please refer above to par. 105-109 (p. 28-29) of the present Report, regarding examples of events that demonstrate the use and promotion of CMA in the public sphere.
- iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.**

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Strengthen the presence of Cypriot Maronite Arabic in broadcasting

150. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5), 116-117 (p. 31-32), 137 (p. 36), 144-145 (p. 37-38) of the present Report. As it is evident, CMA is frequently used and discussed on CyBC radio. As far as television is concerned, CMA was presented to the public through the popular daily TV Series “*Galateia*”, which was broadcasted by Sigma TV, a channel with pan-cyprian coverage.

Recommendation of immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Encourage the broadcasting of radio and television programmes in Cypriot Maronite Arabic, including an offer for children.

151. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5), 116-117 (p. 32-33), 137 (p. 36), 144-145 (p. 37-38) of the present Report. As it is evident, the Republic of Cyprus encourages and supports the presentation of CMA in radio and television programmes.

152. Furthermore, it should be added that the programme “*The Voice of the Maronites*” also caters for the benefit and interests of Maronite children. For example, as it was already mentioned, pupils studying at Agios Maronas Primary School are often hosted in the programme. In addition, children have the opportunity to listen to traditional Maronite music and songs, as well as learn a lot about CMA language and the history, culture, religion and traditions of the Maronite community of Cyprus. In television, it is important to mention that a choir of Maronite children sang the Christmas Carols in CMA during an episode of the series “*Galateia*”.

Further recommendation of the Committee of Experts

Promote the use of Cypriot Maronite Arabic, in speech and writing, in different fields of public life, especially in television and print media.

153. Please refer above to par. 11-12 (p. 5), 116-117 (p. 32-33), 137 (p. 36), 146-147 (p. 37-38) of the present Report, regarding the promotion and use of CMA language in radio and television.

154. Please refer above to par. 13 (p. 5), 24 (p. 8), 118-119 (p. 32), 139 (p. 36) and 146 (p. 38) of the present Report, regarding the promotion and use of CMA in publications.

155. Please refer above to par. 8 (p. 4), 109 (p. 29), 111-115 (p. 30-31), 132-133 (p. 35), 140 (p. 36), 148 (p. 38) of the present Report, regarding the promotion of CMA in the field of education and culture.

e. the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by the Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

156. Please refer above to par. 55 (p. 15) of the present Report.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

157. Please refer above to par. 112-113 (p. 30) of the present Report, regarding examples of interschool cooperation between Agios Maronas Primary School and other schools in Nicosia, including Nareg Armenian Schools. It should be mentioned that these events are attended by members of the Maronite and Armenian community, including the Representatives of the Maronites and the Armenians in the House of the Representatives, as well as officials from the MOECSY and the local authorities.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

158. Not applicable.

f. the provisions of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

159. As already mentioned above, the MOECSY has an earmarked budget specifically for the educational needs of the three religious groups of Cyprus, as well as a different budget for the operation of the Maronite School Board.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

160. In practice the teaching of CMA is fully funded in Agios Maronas Primary School and the Adult Education Centres. Furthermore, the MOEC is funding the teaching of CMA at the Annual Summer Language Camp in Kormakitis to young Maronites. In addition, on the initiative of the Representative of the Maronites in the House of Representatives, CMA is taught to groups of children since 2017 through a specific program of the Office of the Representative of the Maronites during the year. Following this initiative, around 100 people (children, native speakers etc.) were taught the CMA (writing and/or speaking) during 2018-2019 school year. It is also important to mention that, as part of the abovementioned program, lessons began at Kormakitis since October 2019 for children permanently residing in the village with their families, through the Re-establishment Scheme of the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Cyprus. Around 10 children take part in the lessons at Kormakitis.

161. The MOECSY also supports and is funding the organisation of training seminars for teachers of CMA, as well as all the staff of Agios Maronas Pre-Primary and Primary Schools. Additionally, the MOECSY is funding the production of teaching material for CMA by the researchers involved in this process by the Committee of Experts for the revitalization of CMA. It is important to add that the existing curricula for various subjects used in Agios Maronas Primary School are also enriched with new material.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Strengthen and extend the teaching of Cypriot Maronite Arabic

162. Teaching of CMA is strengthened and gradually extended as a result of the ongoing research for the revitalization of CMA, which now focuses more on the actual use of the language in everyday life, the production of teaching material and the increase of its proficient speakers.
163. CMA continues to be taught at Agios Maronas Primary School as an optional course during the afternoon timetable. In particular, Agios Maronas Primary School functions as an optional all-day school and during the school year 2018-2019 three groups of pupils (35 children overall) attended lessons of CMA once a week.
164. Furthermore, teaching of CMA at the Adult Education Centres has been extended. During the school year 2018-2019, three groups were created for the first time and 35 adult students of various levels of knowledge attended lessons of CMA (25 meetings for 90 minutes each).
165. In addition, CMA is taught every August at the Annual Language Summer Camp in Kormakitis village. The number of young Maronites attending the lessons has been increased significantly the last few years and pupils have the opportunity to learn the language through various educational and cultural activities in a creative way, while teachers of the language were trained at the University of Cyprus on teaching practices and methodology.

166. It is also important to add that on the initiative of the Office of the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives, CMA is also taught to groups of children since 2017, on a weekly basis.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers

Provide teacher training for Cypriot Maronite Arabic

167. Every year the University of Cyprus organizes training seminars for the teachers that participate in the Summer Language Camp in Kormakitis. The main themes of the training are the writing conventions of CMA, the extensive presentation of the content to be taught in the Language Camp and the discussion of methodological issues, mainly related to the use of modern technology in language teaching. Moreover, a training seminar for the teaching of CMA to natural speakers wishing to become themselves able to teach the language was organized during July 2018. All these seminars were funded by the MOECSY.

168. The Office of the Representative of the Maronites and a group of natural speakers of CMA entitled “FOS” have organized training of natural speakers of the language on the theme of the orthographic conventions of CMA.

169. It should be underlined that the MOECSY supports the training of all teachers at Agios Maronas Primary School and provides annual funding to the Maronite School Board. Furthermore, it is important to add that other training opportunities are also available for teachers at Agios Maronas Primary School. In particular, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the MOECSY organises in-service teachers’ training seminars, on a school basis, as well as a series of seminars where teachers can attend in the afternoon, as an optional choice. Amongst the seminars offered are training sessions regarding language learning methodologies and teaching methods in multilingual environments.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Integrate the teaching of Cypriot Maronite Arabic into the regular curriculum of the Agios Maronas Primary School and extend it.

170. Agios Maronas Primary School follows the existing curricula used in all public primary schools, while the curricula of certain subjects such as history, religious education and geography were enriched with issues of specific concern to the Maronites. Since Agios Maronas operates as an optional all-day school, CMA is taught during the afternoon timetable. The school year 2018-2019 three groups of pupils (35 children overall) attended lessons of CMA once a week.
171. Furthermore, it should be underlined that the use and presence of CMA in Agios Maronas Primary School is evident in many ways. First and foremost, on the initiative of Agios Maronas Primary School and in cooperation with other schools in Nicosia, several events were organized for the promotion, amongst other goals, of CMA language and Maronite identity (please refer above to par. 110-111, p. 29-30 of the present Report). In addition, as already stated in the previous Report, close cooperation exists between Agios Maronas Primary School and Collège Notre Dame des Soeurs Antonines - Hazmieh-Jamhour, a school in Lebanon. Amongst the exchanges between pupils of the two schools, a dictionary with common words in CMA and Arabic was created, as well as a CD with common songs. It should also be added that in the computer classroom of Agios Maronas Primary School there is a corner dedicated to CMA and cards were created by pupils with words written in CMA.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Introduce pre-school education in Cypriot Maronite Arabic and teaching of the language in secondary education.

172. As far as Agios Maronas Pre-Primary School is concerned, CMA is used in several school events, such as theatrical plays during Christmas celebration. Moreover, CMA is used in the classroom when discussing about Maronite culture and the village of Kormakitis, as well as the participation of Maronite children in Sanna Camp every year. Popular songs were also translated in CMA for the children.

173. Regarding secondary education, the vast majority of Maronites choose to attend private schools. The MOECSY subsidizes the tuition fees of all Maronite children enrolled in private schools. The subsidization is significantly higher for Maronite children attending Terra Santa College and St Mary's School, the private schools that are particularly affiliated with the Maronites.

174. Additionally, young Maronites attending secondary schools (aged between 12-18 years), have the opportunity to attend lessons of CMA at the Annual Language Summer Camp in Kormakitis, as well as in the groups created on the initiative of the Representative of the Maronites. Please refer above to par. 165-166 (p. 42-43) of the present Report.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Introduce a scheme for the basic and further training of teachers of Cypriot Maronite Arabic

175. Please refer above to par. 167-169 (p. 43) of the present Report, regarding teacher training for CMA. Teacher training is organized according to the planning of the Committee of Experts and the researchers involved, as well as the needs of the Maronite community. Further training of teachers will be introduced, due to the fact that more teaching material and written texts are continuously produced.

Recommendation for immediate action of the Committee of Experts

Develop and produce teaching materials in Cypriot Maronite Arabic to be used in pre-school, primary and secondary education.

176. Teaching material in CMA is continuously produced in the framework of the research for the creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA. At the moment, 17 teaching units for the levels A1 and A2 have been designed and completed. All the units were adapted for the teaching of children, enriched with original

illustrations. The educational material for the adults was also illustrated. The material produced is used in Agios Maronas Primary School, the Adult Education Centres, the Annual Summer Language Camp in Kormakitis and the programme created on the initiative of the Maronite Representative. Moreover, Agios Maronas Pre-Primary School can also make use of the material used in the Primary School. New material is now expected to be designed and produced for the teaching of CMA to adults and children at the level B1.

177. Furthermore, in an effort to compile an “Anthology” of texts written in CMA, the researchers proceeded with the collection and orthographical transcription or correction of 21 literary texts. Moreover, parts of the material collected through the interviews of researchers with natural speakers were orthographically corrected and some of them were translated in Greek, while other parts were phonetically transcribed. In addition, traditional songs were translated from Greek to CMA.
178. It is also worth mentioning that, at the request of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, a Committee was formed in April 2017, in order to enrich the curricula used in Agios Maronas Primary School for certain subjects. The Committee was coordinated by the Inspector of Agios Maronas Primary School and consisted of three inspectors who were responsible for the subjects of history, religious education and geography, four specialists, the headmistress and one teacher from Agios Maronas Primary School. The work has been completed successfully and the enriched curricula have been approved by the Committee Responsible for the Curriculum and the Minister himself. The next step will be to produce teaching materials or/and propose sources of information that teachers can use when implementing the curricula.

g. the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

- i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;**

179. The MOECSY has a policy of providing opportunities for non-speakers of CMA to learn the language and provides facilities and specific programmes to that end.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

180. CMA can be learned by non-speakers at Agios Maronas Primary School and the Adult Education Centres.

iii) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

181. Not applicable.

h. the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;

i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;

182. The University of Cyprus is directly involved in the research for the protection and revitalization of CMA and Dr Marilena Karyolaimou, Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cyprus, is a member of the Committee of Experts for CMA, as well as Scientific Supervisor of the Project on the Creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for Cypriot Maronite Arabic. Moreover, Dr Karyolaimou is also responsible for the scientific supervision of the Summer Language Camp that takes place every year in Kormakitis.

183. In addition, it should be stated that the Government has a policy of offering supernumerary positions for Maronites of Cyprus, as well as Armenians and Latins, in order to study at public universities.

ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);

184. The University of Cyprus promotes the study of CMA in many ways. For example, as already mentioned, training seminars are organized every year for the teachers

that participate in the Summer Language Camp in Kormakitis. Please also refer above to par. 167 (p. 43) of the present Report, for more information.

185. Furthermore, on 20 February 2019 an event entitled “*Illuminating the unseen aspects of the languages and communities of Cyprus*” was organized at the University of Cyprus. On that occasion, Dr. Marilena Karyolaimou gave a lecture with the title “*Minority languages of Cyprus: the revitalization of Cypriot Arabic*”. In addition, it should be underlined that Dr. Marilena Karyolaimou has given a series of lectures, interviews and presentations on CMA both in Cyprus and abroad. She has also published articles on CMA in books and scientific journals. All these activities increase the visibility of the language and promote the scientific study of CMA.
186. Of particular importance was also the research programme “*MapCyArS – Mapping Cypriot Arabic speakers: An investigation into linguistic demography and the sociolinguistic profile of Kormakioti Maronites*”, which was also coordinated by Dr Marilena Karyolaimou at the University of Cyprus. This programme was funded by Leventis Foundation for the years 2017 and 2018. The main goals of the research were to create an adapted assessment tool for measuring the proficiency of speakers of CMA, taking into account the particular conditions of the language, and to record the number of proficient speakers of CMA.
187. At the 3rd International Conference entitled «Literacy and Contemporary Society: Identities, Texts, Institutions» that was organised by the Pedagogical Institute of MOECSY at 11-12 of October 2019, three papers were presented by the Scientific Supervisor of the Project on the Creation of an Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA Dr Marilena Karyolaimou and her team. The papers were related to the design and development of pedagogical material for the teaching of CMA to younger members of the community, the design and development of a language assessment tool for CMA and the use of Small narratives from the Archive of Oral Tradition for CMA in order to teach the language and foster young learners’ identity.

- iii) **If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.**

Further recommendation of the Committee of Experts

Promote study and research on Cypriot Maronite Arabic at university or equivalent institutions.

188. Please refer above to par. 182-186 (p. 48-49) of the present Report.

j. the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

- i) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant changes;**

189. The religious groups of Cyprus have historic, religious, linguistic and cultural bonds with people and communities in other states. The Maronites have very strong bonds with the Maronites of Lebanon. They also have a religious affiliation with the Holy See. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus views favourably the people-to-people contacts and especially the cooperation between churches and schools. The diplomatic missions of Cyprus facilitate this cooperation when requested.

190. Recent developments include the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs between Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon on April 10, 2019. The Joint Statement of the trilateral meeting with Lebanon identified, inter alia, Higher Education as a priority field of cooperation. The Ministers also reaffirmed the common values, culture and heritage of the three countries.

- ii) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);**

191. The Agios Maronas Primary School has developed cooperation with a school in Lebanon, the Collège Notre Dame des Soeurs Antonines - Hazmieh-Jamhour, aiming to strengthen relationships, increase the knowledge of each other's culture

and exchange good practices and ideas. The project entitled “*From the cedar of Lebanon to the cedar of Cyprus*” began back in 2013, but common actions between the schools are continuously organised. Actions are planned to take place during the school subjects of English, religious education, music and art. Pupils exchange e-mails, Christmas and Easter cards and final products, like power point presentations, a CD with common songs and, as already mentioned in the previous report, a dictionary with common words in CMA and Arabic was created. Pupils also connect through Skype and exchange visits. In 2017, a group of pupils from Cyprus visited Lebanon, while in 2018 a group of Lebanese pupils were hosted, along with their Cypriot friends, in the governmental summer camp at Prodromos.

- iii) **If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.**

Further recommendation of the Committee of Experts

Promote transnational exchanges in the fields covered by the Charter for the benefit of Cypriot Maronite Arabic.

192. Please refer above to par. 186-188 (p. 48-49) of the present Report.

Paragraph 2

The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.

193. Please refer above to par. 83-85 (p. 22-23) of the present Report, regarding the legislation and policy of the Republic of Cyprus and the CRTA in particular for combating discrimination and intolerance.
194. Please refer above to par. 86 (p. 23) of the present Report, regarding the right of education and the regulations for the operation of public secondary schools.
195. Please also refer above to par. 140 (p. 36) of the present Report, regarding the right of Maronites to learn and use their language.

Paragraph 3

The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

196. Please refer above to par. 55 (p. 14-15), 105-109 (p. 28-29), 112-113 (p. 30) and 157 (p. 40) of the present Report, regarding raising awareness events organized, as well as links and interschool cooperation which are evident of mutual respect, understanding and tolerance between all the linguistic groups of Cyprus, including the Maronites and their language.
197. Please also refer above to par. 34 (p. 10-11), 126 (p. 34) and 134 (p. 35) of the present Report, regarding the cooperation of the Presidential Commissioner, the MOECSY, competent authority for the implementation of the Charter, and the MOI with the Maronites of Cyprus.
198. Please also refer above to par. 90-91 (p. 24-25) of the present Report.
199. Please also refer above to par. 84-85 (p. 23) of the present Report, regarding CRTA policy and objectives for combating racism and safeguarding the freedom of

expression. Furthermore, as far as training is concerned, it should be added that promoting media literacy levels in the Republic of Cyprus is amongst the most important policy objectives of CRTA. Hence, media literacy workshops are offered in all schools of the Republic of Cyprus.

200. The programme for the Maronites broadcasted by CyBC on radio and the television series “*Galateia*” broadcasted by Sigma TV, are also promoting mutual respect and understanding between the linguistic groups of Cyprus and are evidence of freedom of expression and tolerance in the mass media. The same applies with the publications of the PIO that include units on the Religious Groups of Cyprus, including the Maronites. These publications promote the historical, cultural, religious and social presence of the Maronites in Cyprus as an integral part of Cypriot heritage and aid the objective of enhancing respect, understanding and tolerance amongst all the people living in Cyprus, including their respective languages.

Paragraph 4

In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

With regard to Article 7, paragraph 4, please also specify how the bodies or associations which further the protection and promotion of the respective language and/or represent its speakers/users have been consulted with regard to the implementation of the Charter in general, the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts and the drawing up of the periodical report.

201. Please refer above to par. 3 (p. 1), regarding the involvement of the Representatives of the Armenians and Maronites of Cyprus in the House of the Representatives in the preparation of the present Report.
202. Please refer above to par. 34 (p. 10), 126 (p. 34) and 134 (p. 35) regarding the discussions and cooperation that the Presidential Commissioner, the MOECSY and the MOI have established with the elected Representatives of the Armenians and the Maronites in the House of the Representatives, as well as with other responsible bodies of the Armenians and Maronites, regarding all issues of their concern.
203. Please refer also to Part I (p. 6) of the previous Report, regarding the role of the Presidential Commissioner.

Paragraph 5

The Parties undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of measures to be taken into effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned.

204. All measures taken for CMA take into consideration the needs and wishes of the Maronites of Cyprus and their traditions and characteristics are fully respected, as it is evident in all the answers given above in par. 99-200 (p. 27 – 50).

Additional Information

Please specify where the periodical report has been made public.

205. Please refer above to par. 5-7 (p. 3).

Please indicate for each language covered by the Charter the contact details of the bodies or associations which further the protection and promotion of the respective language and/or represent its speakers/users.

206. The contact details of the relevant authorities that protect and promote the Armenian and CMA languages are the following:

- **Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (competent authority for the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages)**

Kimonos and Thoukydidou Corner

Akropoli, 1434 Nicosia

Telephone: 22800608 (Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry)

Email: perm.sec@moec.gov.cy

- **Ministry of Interior (competent authority for the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities)**

Dimostheni Severi Avenue

1453, Nicosia

Telephone: 22867627 (Kakia Demetriou, Administrative Officer A')

Email: kydemetriou@papd.mof.gov.cy

- **Office of the Presidential Commissioner (responsible, inter alia, for issues related to the Religious Groups of Cyprus)**

56 Kyriakou Matsi Avenue

1082, Nicosia

Telephone: 22400126, 22400102, 22400238 (Office of the Presidential Commissioner)

Email: mpapageorgiou@presidency.gov.cy

rthemistokleous@presidency.gov.cy

schatziyiannakou@presidency.gov.cy

207. The contact details of the relevant authorities representing the speakers/users of the Armenian and CMA languages, in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, are the following:

- **Office of the Representative of the Armenians in the House of the Representatives**

Mr Vartkes Mahtesian

Representative of the Armenians in the House of the Representatives

9 Kastorias B and C

Agia Paraskevi

2002, Strovolos

Telephone: 22454540

Email: vmahdessian@parliament.cy, office@armenianmp.com

- **Office of the Representative of the Maronites in the House of the Representatives**

Mr Yiannakis Mousas

Representative of the Maronites

House of the Representatives

1402, Nicosia

Telephone: 22407201

Email: ekprosopos.maroniton@cytanet.com.cy, j.mousas@gmail.com