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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Report of the Committee of Experts  
presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter**

**Sixth Report**

**LUXEMBOURG**

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages provides for a control mechanism to evaluate how the Charter is applied in a State Party with a view to, where necessary, making recommendations for improving its legislation, policy and practices. The central element of this procedure is the Committee of Experts, set up under Article 17 of the Charter. Its principal purpose is to report to the Committee of Ministers on its evaluation of compliance by a Party with its undertakings, to examine the real situation of regional or minority languages in the State and, where appropriate, to encourage the Party to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

To facilitate this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, an outline for periodical reports that a Party is required to submit to the Secretary General. This outline requires the State to give an account of the concrete application of the Charter, the general policy for the languages protected under Part II and, in more precise terms, all measures that have been taken in application of the provisions chosen for each language protected under Part III of the Charter. The Committee of Experts' first task is therefore to examine the information contained in the periodical report for all the relevant regional or minority languages on the territory of the State concerned. The periodical report shall be made public by the State in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2.

The Committee of Experts' role is to evaluate the existing legal acts, regulations and real practice applied in each State for its regional or minority languages. It has established its working methods accordingly. The Committee of Experts gathers information from the respective authorities and from independent sources within the State, in order to obtain a fair and just overview of the real language situation. After a preliminary examination of a periodical report, the Committee of Experts submits, if necessary, a number of questions to each Party to obtain supplementary information from the authorities on matters it considers insufficiently developed in the report itself. This written procedure is usually followed up by an on-the-spot visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts to the State in question. During this visit the delegation meets bodies and associations whose work is closely related to the use of the relevant languages and consults the authorities on matters that have been brought to its attention. This information-gathering process is designed to enable the Committee of Experts to evaluate more effectively the application of the Charter in the State concerned.

Having concluded this process, the Committee of Experts adopts its own report. Once adopted by the Committee of Experts, this evaluation report is submitted to the authorities of the respective State Party for possible comments within a given deadline. A confidential dialogue may, at this stage, be requested by this State Party. The final evaluation report is made public, together with the comments, if any, which the authorities of the State Party may have made. This document is then transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for the adoption of its recommendations to the State Party, on the basis of the proposals for recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

## 1 The ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as “the Charter”) is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its States Parties to protect and promote the country’s traditional regional or minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg signed the Charter on 5 November 1992 and ratified it on 22 June 2005. The Charter entered into force in respect of Luxembourg on 1 October 2005.

2. States Parties are required to submit reports every five years<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of the Charter. The authorities of Luxembourg submitted their sixth periodical report on 26 October 2022. This sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the information contained in the periodical report, as well as in the previous evaluation reports of the Committee of Experts on Luxembourg. As in previous monitoring cycles, the Committee of Experts did not consider it necessary to organise an on-the-spot visit to Luxembourg.

3. Regarding the linguistic situation in Luxembourg and language use, the Committee of Experts refers to its first evaluation report on the application of the Charter in Luxembourg (ECRML(2008)6).

## 2 Findings and recommendations of the Committee of Experts

4. The Committee of Experts took note of the sixth periodical report, which confirms the information provided in the initial report according to which there are no regional or minority languages used in Luxembourg.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, the Luxembourg authorities affirm their continued support to the principles and objectives of the Charter, as well as the promotion of respect of linguistic and cultural diversity. The Committee of Experts again commends the authorities of Luxembourg for the commitment and European solidarity they have demonstrated by ratifying the Charter. Given that Luxembourg is the only state party to the Charter not yet a party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the authorities could also consider ratifying this treaty, thereby joining the Council of Europe efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Europe.

5. The Committee of Experts has concluded that, in light of the situation whereby in Luxembourg no regional or minority languages are spoken on its territory, it will not propose to the Committee of Ministers to make any recommendations to the authorities of Luxembourg.

6. The Committee of Experts nonetheless proposes to the Committee of Ministers to call upon those Council of Europe member States which have not yet ratified the Charter to do so, in particular those states which undertook to ratify the Charter when acceding to the Council of Europe. Considering the commendable examples of both Luxembourg and Liechtenstein, the Committee of Experts expresses its hope that also those member States of the Council of Europe on whose territory no regional or minority languages are used will ratify the Charter as an act of solidarity in the view of the objectives of the treaty.<sup>3</sup>

7. This evaluation report was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 18 November 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 15.1 of the Charter provides that States Parties submit periodical reports every three years. However, following the entry into force of the reform of the monitoring mechanism of the ECRML on 1 July 2019, States Parties are now to submit their reports every five years instead of every three years.

<sup>2</sup> [MIN-LANG\(2022\)PR2](#), Sixth periodical report of Luxembourg (in French only).

<sup>3</sup> See Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Communication, Doc. 15276 of 26 April 2021, Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (2018-2021) - [Biennial Report](#) by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Parliamentary Assembly, pp.8-9.