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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Evaluation by the Committee of Experts
of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action
contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on
ARMENIA**

Introduction

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 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 Charter was ratified by Armenia on 25 January 2002, entered into force on 1 May 2002 and applies to the following languages: Assyrian (covered by Parts II and III), German (Part II), Greek (Parts II and III), Kurdish (Parts II and III), Russian (Parts II and III), Ukrainian (Part II) and Yezidi (Parts II and III).

2. The Committee of Experts monitors the implementation of the Charter. Each state party shall present a periodical report on the implementation of the Charter every five years. On the basis of the periodical report, the Committee of Experts adopts an evaluation report in which it makes “**recommendations for immediate action**” and “further recommendations” on how to improve the protection and promotion of the regional or minority languages in the state concerned. Based on this evaluation report, the Committee of Ministers adopts its recommendations to the state party.

3. Two and a half years after the due date of its periodical report, the state party shall present information on the implementation of every recommendation for immediate action¹ that the Committee of Experts has made in its evaluation report. The Committee of Experts then adopts an evaluation of the implementation of these recommendations. The “further recommendations” by the Committee of Experts are examined after reception of the next periodical report and the on-the-spot visit to the state party. Five-yearly periodical reports shall contain comprehensive information about the implementation of all Charter undertakings and all recommendations by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers.

4. In accordance with the dates of submission of periodical reports decided by the Committee of Ministers in November 2018², Armenia was expected to present **information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action** contained in the Committee of Experts’ 5th evaluation report³ by 1 May 2021. Armenia submitted this information on 27 May 2021. This **evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action** is based on the information received from the Armenian authorities, as well as from representatives of the minority language speakers pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Charter.⁴ As far as the compliance of Armenia with all its undertakings under the Charter is concerned, the Committee of Experts refers to its fifth evaluation report. The Committee of Experts will examine the implementation of all of the undertakings concerning all of the minority languages in the next evaluation report.

5. This evaluation was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 1 October 2021.

¹ In accordance with Committee of Ministers Decisions “Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages” ([CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1330/10.4e](#)), para. 1.a.

² [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1330/10.4e](#), Appendix.

³ [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Armenia](#) (MIN-LANG (2020) 3).

⁴ In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts (MIN-LANG(2019)7), Rule 17, paras. 1-6.

Examination of the implementation by Armenia of the recommendations for immediate action

I. General issues

6. The Committee of Experts expresses its appreciation to the Armenian authorities for having submitted their information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action despite the challenges caused by the armed conflict in 2020 and its aftermath.

Education reform

7. The authorities have informed the Committee of Experts of an on-going education reform which could have positive effects on teaching minority languages. A National Centre for Development and Innovations in Education of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has been established and will *inter alia* launch the modernised training and certification of teachers in 2021/2022. As part of the reform, further training of teachers, including minority language teachers, will be intensified. In addition, the number of weekly school hours for teaching German and Russian as foreign languages will be extended from two to three. The Committee of Experts notes that these measures relate to observations and recommendations made in the fifth monitoring cycle⁵ and welcomes them. It looks forward to information about their implementation in the next periodical report.

Use of regional or minority languages during the Covid-19 pandemic

8. In 2020, the Committee of Experts expressed concern about the widespread absence of regional or minority languages from official information and communication about the Covid-19 pandemic in several States Parties. It was underlined that, according to the Charter, regional or minority languages should be used in all fields of public life and, therefore, that authorities should also actively use such languages in their response to the pandemic. In particular, it should be borne in mind that Covid-19 patients would feel even more isolated if they were not able to communicate with healthcare staff in their language.⁶ In this context, the Committee of Experts decided to address the impact of the pandemic in its future evaluations and reports.

9. The Armenian authorities have informed the Committee of Experts of effects of the pandemic on the promotion of minority languages. In 2020, Armenia had considered to increase the state budget allocated annually to the national minorities by 5 million AMD (8,750 €⁷). However, due to the pandemic and the armed conflict in 2020, the realisation of this plan has been postponed. Moreover, the pandemic has affected the work of Sunday schools⁸ run by national minorities which, for example, had to organise minority language courses online. The Committee of Experts thanks the authorities for this information and invites them to include comprehensive information in their next periodical report about the use of minority languages in the context of the specific measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consultation of representatives of the minority language users

10. The Armenian authorities have not provided information about whether they have consulted the representatives of the minority language users concerning the Committee of Experts' recommendations for immediate action. The Committee of Experts reiterates that, in conformity with Articles 6 and 7.4 of the Charter, it is necessary to have the views of the users of the regional or minority languages included in the Information Document on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action.⁹

⁵ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Armenia (MIN-LANG (2020) 3), paras. 20, 23; Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/RecChL(2020)6 “**improve minority language teaching in primary and secondary education by extending the number of weekly lessons, promoting teacher training and producing modern teaching materials**”.

⁶ See “Communication in regional or minority languages of utmost importance in global medical crises”, 25 March 2020.

⁷ Exchange rate on 24 August 2021.

⁸ Sunday schools are facilities run by national minorities which *inter alia* teach minority languages. With support from the authorities, they complement the teaching of minority languages in primary and secondary education and provide adult or continuing education.

⁹ See, for example, the Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action by Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2021) 11), para. 8; Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action by the United Kingdom and Isle of Man (MIN-LANG (2021) 3), para. 7; Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action by Hungary (MIN-LANG (2020) 14), para. 6.

II. Recommendations for immediate action

1. Assyrian

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Assyrian and provide information about the teaching in/of Assyrian in primary and secondary education.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

11. With the adoption of the Law on Pre-school Education on 6 May 2020, Armenia established a legal basis for providing pre-school education in minority languages. According to the Armenian authorities, no child receives pre-school education in Assyrian at present. However, the Committee of Experts is aware that there is a private kindergarten in Verin Dvin (Ararat province) using Assyrian to some extent, but not reaching the level of a substantial part of pre-school education.

12. In the school year 2020/2021, 311 pupils learned Assyrian language and literature within the framework of the curriculum in public schools of Ararat and Kotayk provinces. The authorities have not specified if these “public schools” were primary and/or secondary schools.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

13. Considering that language learning begins at a very early age of a child, the Committee of Experts underlines the importance of kindergartens for learning a minority language. In order to fulfil the undertaking in Article 8.1.a.iv, the national authorities, in co-operation with the local authorities concerned, need to “favour and/or encourage” the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Assyrian in the different municipalities traditionally inhabited by the Assyrian speakers. In addition, the national authorities should, in co-operation with the local authorities and representatives of the Assyrian speakers, inform parents about the offer of pre-school education in Assyrian and actively encourage them to enrol their children in the kindergartens concerned.

14. As regards primary and secondary education, it is unclear how many of the aforementioned 311 pupils have attended which of the two levels. The Committee of Experts asks the authorities to provide updated information about the number of pupils at each of these levels of education in the next periodical report so that it can reach conclusions on the fulfilment of Articles 8.1.b.iv and 8.1.c.iv respectively.

Recommendation for immediate action

b. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Assyrian on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

15. According to the authorities, the Public Television Company of Armenia plans to launch a second public 24-hour channel which shall also broadcast a programme in Assyrian (15 minutes every Sunday) from March 2022. The programme shall cover information, news as well as the traditions, history, education, cultural heritage and language of the Assyrian minority. It will address all age groups and also be available on the YouTube page of the Public Television Company.¹⁰

¹⁰ www.youtube.com/channel/UCSnr4wFDHDZZMeeHQvaHpiA

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

16. Television broadcasts in a minority language are of particular importance for the promotion of the language. They not only provide information in the minority language, but also increase the level of exposure to the language in addition to its use in the family and/or in school. This supports the learning or practice of the language and its development, which is particularly relevant for less-widely used languages such as Assyrian. Television broadcasts in a minority language also raise the prestige and functionality of the language, which may encourage people to learn or transmit it. The fulfilment of Article 11.1.a.iii, therefore, requires an adequate broadcasting duration, regularity and accessibility of the programme, which can be facilitated by the internet. In order to reach out to the linguistic group as a whole, the broadcasts should cover content from various genres such as local and national news, entertainment and culture, and address different generations, including children and young people to support language transmission.¹¹

17. Against this background, the Committee of Experts welcomes the plan to launch a public television programme in Assyrian which shall cover a variety of topics, address all age groups and also be available on the internet. At the same time, the Committee of Experts notes that the envisaged broadcast duration of only 15 minutes and the weekly broadcast interval are not sufficient to make an effective contribution to the promotion of Assyrian. Therefore, bearing in mind its recommendation for immediate action, the Committee of Experts invites the authorities to broadcast the television programme in Assyrian on a more regular basis and to extend its duration.

Recommendation for immediate action

c. Promote the use or adoption of place names in Assyrian in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

18. The authorities refer to the Law on Geographical Names according to which the naming of geographical objects is carried out considering *inter alia* “historical, cultural [and] ethnographic ... conditions of [the] place” (Article 4.2). Proposals on naming and renaming geographical objects may be made by the state administration, local self-government bodies, public organisations, and legal and individual persons (Article 6). According to the authorities, no proposal to change place names in municipalities inhabited by Assyrian speakers has been made during the reporting period.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

19. The Committee of Experts notes that, when ratifying the Charter, Armenia selected *inter alia* the undertaking in Article 10.2.g by which “the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage ... the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place names in regional or minority languages”. In order to implement this undertaking, the national authorities are expected to take positive action by informing the local authorities concerned of this obligation and encouraging them to adopt place names in Assyrian. In accordance with Article 6 of the Law on Geographical Names, proposals on naming geographical objects can also be made by the national authorities themselves. Bearing in mind that the national authorities are responsible for the implementation of Armenia’s obligations under international law, the implementation should not depend on whether local authorities or other stakeholders take the initiative.

20. Consequently, the Committee of Experts reiterates its observation made in the fifth evaluation report that “the Armenian national authorities [should] approach relevant municipalities, encourage them to adopt place names in local minority languages or to readopt place names that were abolished in the recent past, and to support the implementation of these measures with a specific funding scheme.”¹²

¹¹ See *inter alia* Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 49.

¹² Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 42.

2. German

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Increase support to the Sunday school of the German minority, including by providing modern teaching materials in German.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

21. As mentioned above (para. 9), in 2020, the authorities considered to increase the budget allocated annually to the national minorities by 5 million AMD (8,750 €¹³). The realisation of this plan is pending.

22. The teaching materials used for teaching German continue to be of poor linguistic quality and methodologically outdated.¹⁴ As the publication of new teaching materials in Armenia will require time, representatives of the German speakers consider that the licensing and use of teaching materials from Germany could be an immediate remedy to this shortcoming.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

23. The Committee of Experts welcomes that the authorities have considered to increase the budget allocated to the national minorities. It notes that this additional budget could also be used to increase support to the language courses organised by the Sunday school of the German minority. Given the growing demand for these courses¹⁵, the authorities are invited to implement this budget increase.

24. As indicated in the fifth evaluation report, there is a need to produce modern teaching materials and teacher manuals in German for all grades of education, improving the linguistic quality and increasing the learner orientation (methods, adapted topics and texts, needs of the pupils).¹⁶ In order to support modern language teaching, the authorities are invited to begin the production of the aforementioned teaching materials and consider at least transitional licensing of teaching materials from Germany.

3. Greek

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Greek and teach Greek as an integral part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

25. The authorities confirm that Greek is not taught in mainstream (public) pre-school, primary or secondary education.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

26. The Committee of Experts regrets that, apart from vocational education (Yerevan Armenian-Greek State College of Tourism, Service and Food), Greek is still not taught in mainstream education in Armenia. Nevertheless, representatives of the Greek speakers have informed the Committee of Experts that they wish to reintroduce teaching of Greek at School 12 or School 74 in Yerevan which had taught Greek in the past.

¹³ Exchange rate on 24 August 2021.

¹⁴ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 23.

¹⁵ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 21.

¹⁶ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 23.

27. The Committee of Experts invites the authorities to consult the representatives of the Greek speakers about ways to favour the provision of at least a substantial part of mainstream pre-school education in Greek and teach Greek as an integral part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education, for example in Yerevan.

Recommendation for immediate action

b. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Greek on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

28. The Public Television Company of Armenia plans to broadcast a programme in Greek (15 minutes every Sunday) from March 2022, which has been conceived like the programme in Assyrian (see para. 15).

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

29. The Committee of Experts refers to its principal observations about the importance of television broadcasts in minority languages (see para. 16). It therefore welcomes the plan to launch a public television programme in Greek which shall cover a variety of topics, address all age groups and also be available on the internet. At the same time, the Committee of Experts notes that the envisaged broadcast duration of only 15 minutes and the weekly broadcast interval are not sufficient to make an effective contribution to the promotion of Greek.

30. Bearing in mind its recommendation for immediate action, the Committee of Experts, therefore, invites the authorities to broadcast the television programme in Greek on a more regular basis and to extend its duration.

Recommendation for immediate action

c. Promote the use or adoption of place names in Greek in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

31. According to the authorities, no proposal to change place names in municipalities inhabited by Greek speakers has been made during the reporting period.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

32. As mentioned above (para. 19), the implementation of Article 10.2.g requires positive action by the national authorities irrespective of whether local authorities or other stakeholders take the initiative.

33. Therefore, the Committee of Experts reiterates its observation made in the fifth evaluation report that “the Armenian national authorities [should] approach relevant municipalities, encourage them to adopt place names in local minority languages or to readopt place names that were abolished in the recent past, and to support the implementation of these measures with a specific funding scheme.”¹⁷

¹⁷ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 42.

4. Kurdish

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Kurdish and provide information about the teaching in/of Kurdish in primary and secondary education.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

34. The authorities state that no child receives pre-school education in Kurdish at present.
35. In the school year 2020-2021, 315 pupils learned Kurdish language and literature within the framework of the curriculum in “public schools” of Aragatsotn province.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

36. In order to fulfil the undertaking in Article 8.1.a.iv, the national authorities, in co-operation with the local authorities concerned, need to “favour and/or encourage” the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Kurdish in the different municipalities traditionally inhabited by the Kurdish speakers, for example Alagyaz municipality (Aragatsotn province). In addition, the national authorities should, in co-operation with the local authorities and representatives of the Kurdish speakers, inform parents about the offer of pre-school education in Kurdish and actively encourage them to enrol their children in the kindergartens concerned.

37. It is unclear how many of the aforementioned 315 pupils have attended primary education and how many secondary education. The Committee of Experts asks the authorities to provide updated information about the number of pupils at each of these levels in the next periodical report so that it can reach conclusions on the fulfilment of Articles 8.1.b.iv and 8.1.c.iv respectively.

Recommendation for immediate action

b. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Kurdish on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

38. The Public Television Company of Armenia plans to broadcast a programme in Kurdish (15 minutes every Sunday) from March 2022, which has been conceived like the programme in Assyrian (see para. 15).

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

39. The Committee of Experts refers to its principal observations about the importance of television broadcasts in minority languages (see para. 16). It therefore welcomes the plan to launch a public television programme in Kurdish which shall cover a variety of topics, address all age groups and also be available on the internet. At the same time, the Committee of Experts notes that the envisaged broadcast duration of only 15 minutes and the weekly broadcast interval are not sufficient to make an effective contribution to the promotion of Kurdish.

40. Bearing in mind its recommendation for immediate action, the Committee of Experts, therefore, invites the authorities to broadcast the television programme in Kurdish on a more regular basis and to extend its duration.

Recommendation for immediate action

c. Promote the use or adoption of place names in Kurdish in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

41. According to the authorities, no proposal to change place names in municipalities inhabited by Kurdish speakers has been made during the reporting period.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

42. As mentioned above (para. 19), the implementation of Article 10.2.g requires positive action by the national authorities irrespective of whether local authorities or other stakeholders take the initiative.

43. Therefore, the Committee of Experts reiterates its observation made in the fifth evaluation report that “the Armenian national authorities [should] approach relevant municipalities, encourage them to adopt place names in local minority languages or to readopt place names that were abolished in the recent past, and to support the implementation of these measures with a specific funding scheme.”¹⁸

5. Russian

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Ensure that users of Russian may submit written applications in Russian to local branches of the national authorities.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

44. The authorities indicate that Russian speakers may submit written applications in Russian to authorities. However, there is no information about how the practical difficulties reported by representatives of the Russian speakers in 2020 have been addressed.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

45. The information provided by the authorities concerns the legal possibility to submit written applications in Russian. However, the Committee of Experts’ recommendation for immediate action addresses problems with the implementation of the legislation. Against this background, the national authorities are invited to consult the representatives of the Russian speakers about any practical difficulties hampering the submission of written applications in Russian to local branches of the national authorities with a view to finding practical solutions.

¹⁸ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 42.

6. Ukrainian

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Increase support to the Sunday schools of the Ukrainian minority, including by providing modern teaching materials in Ukrainian.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

46. The Armenian authorities state that, in 2021, a state grant of 250,000 AMD (438 €¹⁹) was allocated to a Sunday school of the Ukrainian minority. Moreover, in 2020, the authorities considered to increase the budget allocated annually to the national minorities by 5 million AMD (8,750 €²⁰). The realisation of this plan is pending (see para. 8).

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

47. It is not clear whether the aforementioned grant of 250,000 AMD constituted an increase in support to the Sunday school of the Ukrainian minority. However, the Committee of Experts notes that the Ukrainian minority could also benefit from the planned budget increase for the national minorities, of which a share could be granted to support the language courses organised by its Sunday schools. Therefore, the authorities are invited to implement the budget increase for the national minorities.

48. As indicated in the fifth evaluation report, there is a need to produce modern teaching materials and teacher manuals in Ukrainian, ensuring linguistic quality and learner orientation (methods, adapted topics and texts, needs of the pupils).²¹ In order to support modern language teaching, the authorities are invited to begin the production of the aforementioned teaching materials and consider at least transitional licensing of teaching materials from Ukraine.

7. Yezidi

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Yezidi and provide information about the teaching in/of Yezidi in primary education.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

49. The authorities state that no child receives pre-school education in Yezidi at present. Nevertheless, it is planned to build a kindergarten in Alagyaz municipality (Aragatsotn province) where pre-school education in Yezidi shall be provided to children from Alagyaz and six adjacent municipalities inhabited by Yezidi speakers.

50. In the school year 2020-2021, 452 pupils learned Yezidi language and literature within the framework of the curriculum in “public schools” in the Aragatsotn and Armavir provinces. In addition, 1,412 pupils learned Yezidi in extracurricular groups in the Ararat, Armavir and Kotayk provinces.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

51. The Committee of Experts is pleased to learn that Yezidi will be introduced into pre-school education. It invites the authorities to implement this plan soon and to ensure that at least a substantial part

¹⁹ Exchange rate on 24 August 2021.

²⁰ Exchange rate on 24 August 2021.

²¹ Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 23.

of pre-school education will be in Yezidi, in accordance with Article 8.1.a.iv. Considering that the implementation of this undertaking requires positive action by the authorities, the national authorities should, in co-operation with the local authorities and representatives of the Yezidi speakers, inform parents about the offer of pre-school education in Yezidi and actively encourage them to enrol their children in the kindergarten concerned. Furthermore, at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Yezidi should be made available also in other areas traditionally inhabited by Yezidi speakers (in the Ararat, Armavir and Kotayk provinces).

52. As far as primary and secondary education are concerned, it is unclear how many of the aforementioned 452 pupils have attended primary education and how many secondary education. The Committee of Experts asks the authorities to provide updated information about the number of pupils at each of these levels in the next periodical report so that it can reach conclusions on the fulfilment of Articles 8.1.b.iv and 8.1.c.iv respectively.

53. Articles 8.1.b.iv and 8.1.c.iv require at least teaching of the minority language “as an integral part of the curriculum”. Consequently, the authorities should take steps to develop the current extracurricular teaching of Yezidi in the Ararat, Armavir and Kotayk provinces into regular teaching as an integral part of the curriculum.

Recommendation for immediate action

b. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Yezidi on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

54. The Public Television Company of Armenia plans to broadcast a programme in Yezidi (15 minutes every Sunday) from March 2022, which has been conceived like the programme in Assyrian (see para. 15).

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

55. The Committee of Experts refers to its principal observations about the importance of television broadcasts in minority languages (see para. 16). It therefore welcomes the plan to launch a public television programme in Yezidi which shall cover a variety of topics, address all age groups and also be available on the internet. At the same time, the Committee of Experts notes that the envisaged broadcast duration of only 15 minutes and the weekly broadcast interval are not sufficient to make an effective contribution to the promotion of Yezidi.

56. Bearing in mind its recommendation for immediate action, the Committee of Experts, therefore, invites the authorities to broadcast the television programme in Yezidi on a more regular basis and to extend its duration.

Recommendation for immediate action

c. Promote the use or adoption of place names in Yezidi in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

Implementation measures taken by the Armenian authorities

57. According to the authorities, no proposal to change place names in municipalities inhabited by Yezidi speakers has been made during the reporting period.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

58. As mentioned above (para. 19), the implementation of Article 10.2.g requires positive action by the national authorities irrespective of whether local authorities or other stakeholders take the initiative.

59. Therefore, the Committee of Experts reiterates its observation made in the fifth evaluation report that “the Armenian national authorities [should] approach relevant municipalities, encourage them to adopt place names in local minority languages or to readopt place names that were abolished in the recent past, and to support the implementation of these measures with a specific funding scheme.”²²

Communication to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, while acknowledging the efforts of the Armenian authorities to comply with their undertakings under the Charter, has in its fifth evaluation report (CM(2020)156) made “recommendations for immediate action” and “further recommendations” on how to improve the protection and promotion of the regional or minority languages in Armenia.

In accordance with the Committee of Ministers Decisions of 28 November 2018 (CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e), Armenia had to present information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action, which contain the priority measures that should be taken by the state party. Armenia presented this information on 27 May 2021. In the present evaluation, the Committee of Experts has examined the implementation of these recommendations.

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Committee of Experts invites the Committee of Ministers to:

1. take note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action by Armenia and invite the Armenian authorities to disseminate it to the competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders;
2. reiterate its Recommendation CM/RecChL(2020)6 and invite the Armenian authorities to present their next periodical report by 1 May 2024 in the required format.

²² Fifth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts on Armenia, MIN-LANG (2020) 3, para. 42.