

FUEN CONGRESS 2009

We are living diversity

Since its foundation in 1949 FUEN represents the interests of the European autochthonous, national minorities. In 2009 the organisation will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

On this occasion FUEN will organise the congress of the largest European umbrella organisation of the autochthonous, national minorities in Brussels from 29/09-02/10 2009.

The motto of the congress will be "We are living diversity".



We are living diversity – 54th FUEN Congress 2009

FUEN in brief

The FUEN represents 84 organisations of European minorities from 32 European countries. FUEN is the largest umbrella organisation of the European autochthonous, national minorities.

The FUEN was founded in the year 1949, in the same year as the Council of Europe, and the organisation will celebrate its 60th anniversary in the year 2009.

FUEN represents the interests of the European minorities on regional, national and in particular on the European level.

FUEN acts as a spokesperson for the minorities at the international organisations, in particular at the European Union and the Council of Europe as well as at the United Nations and the OSCE.

As a NGO **FUEN** has participatory status to the Council of Europe as well as consultative status to the United Nations.

In 2008 **FUEN** established together with the Intergroup for Traditional minorities the European Dialogue Forum at the European Parliament. This common contact body will strengthen the influence of the autochthonous minorities in European policy and amongst European decision makers.

FUEN every year organises the largest congress of the European autochthonous minorities – with over 250 representatives from all over Europe.

Federal Union of European Nationalities

We are living diversity – FUEN Congress from 29/09 - 02/10 2009

Main subjects

The FUEN Jubilee congress will be organised in Brussels together with the German-speaking Community in Belgium and with the Committee of the Regions. The 60 years of existence of the umbrella organisation of the autochthonous minorities in Europe will be celebrated with a jubilee reception.

During the congress the European presentation of the Competence Analysis “National Minorities as a Standortfaktor in the German-Danish border region” will take place. The report, commissioned by the Land Schleswig-Holstein and written by the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), is devoted to the added value of minorities. In this context also the first project of the programme “Democracy in Dialogue – minority policy is peace policy” will be presented.

Another main topic of the congress will be the elaboration of the Fundamental Right to Political Participation. On the basis of the Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe, FUEN decided to select and elaborate one of the fundamental rights. It is the goal to work out a useable compendium of minority protection in Europe, supplementary to the Charter.

The leading idea behind this is that only knowledge of the rights of persons belonging to the autochthonous national minorities makes it possible for them to use these rights and apply and develop them in an appropriate way. This is a condition for maintaining and development of the autochthonous national minorities, their identity, their languages that are often threatened to become extinct, their culture and traditions. After working out the Right to Education in 2007 and the Right to Media in 2008, the jubilee year 2009 will be devoted to the Right to Political Participation. The elaboration of the right to political participation that takes place with the help of scholars and experts, will be published as yet another part of the compendium of minority protection of the European minorities and will be one of the outcomes of the congress.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis, and The EU commissioner for multilingualism, Leonard Orban were FUEN guests.



We are living diversity – FUEN Congress from 29/09 - 02/10 2009

Preliminary programme



Tuesday, 29 September 2009 – Fundamental Right to Political Participation

- Arrival and check - in of the participants until 14:00 hr
- 17:00 -18:00 hr Fundamental Right to Political Participation: presentation of the Fundamental Right by Dr. Oleh Protsyk (Ukraine), senior research associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues, followed by plenary discussion
- 20:00 hr Opening in Hotel Conrad

Wednesday, 30 September 2009 - Brussels-Day

- 08:15 hr - Walk to the European Parliament (circa 1 kilometre)
- 09:00 hr - Entrance to the European Parliament
- 09:30 - 11:00 hr - Guided tour through the European Parliament
- 11:30 - 13:00 hr Public session of the European Dialogue Forum (tbc)
- 13:00 - 15:00 hr Visit to Brussels, followed by
- 15:00 hr - Guided town visit
- 19.30 hr - Social jubilee evening

Thursday, 1 October 2009 – FUEN Jubilee-Day

- 08:15 hr - Walk to the Committee of the Regions
- 09:00 hr - Entrance to the Committee of the Regions
- 10:00 hr - Opening of the jubilee celebrations by FUEN president Hans Heinrich Hansen and Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, Gerhard Stahl
- 10:30 hr - Short welcoming speeches for the jubilee
- 11:00 hr - Official speech by EU-Commissioner Leonard Orban
- 11:30 hr - FUEN 60 - YEN 25 – youth and minorities and the umbrella organisation in retrospect, by Hester Knol, president of YEN and FUEN-director Jan Diedrichsen
- 12:00 - 14:00 hr Reception at Committee of Regions
- 12:30 hr Press conference
- 14.00 -16:00 hr Jubilee discussion
- 18:00 hr - Jubilee reception - 60 years FUEN - we are living diversity

Friday, 2 October 2009

- 09:00 -12:30 hr FUEN Assembly of Delegates in Hotel Conrad with status reports of FUEN member organisations
- 13:00 hr Excursion to the German-speaking community, followed by concluding dinner, on the invitation of the German-speaking Community in Belgium
- individual departure (20:00 hr from Eupen, 22:00 hr from Brussels)