

RESOLUTIONS

FUEV ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

22 June 2013



Resolutions Assembly of Delegates 2013

- 2013 – 01** **Domowina – Federation of Lusatian Sorbs**
Strengthening the cultural autonomy of the Sorbs
Submitted in German, translation English
- 2013 – 02** **Internationaler Verband der deutschen Kultur – Russische Föderation /
International Association of the German Culture – Russian Federation**
Concerns about the new statute No. 121 FS: NGOs as “foreign agents”
Submitted in Russian, translation German and English
- 2013 – 03** **Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people**
Continuing discrimination against the Crimean Tatars in the Crimea region (Ukraine)
Submitted in Russian, translation German and English
- 2013 – 04** **Hrvatski Centar Beč / Croatian Centre in Vienna
Hrvatsko kulturno društvo / Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland
Narodni svet koroških Slovencev / Council of the Carinthian Slovenes**
Ethnic group law in Austria
Submitted in German, translation English
- 2013 – 05** **Rat der Deutschen der Ukraine / Council of the Germans in Ukraine**
Ethno-politics and the German minority in Ukraine
Submitted in Russian, translation German and English
- 2013 – 06** **Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA)
Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)**
Prevention of hatred-motivated attacks against the Turkish minority in Western Thrace
Submitted in English, translation German
- 2013 – 07** **Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA)
Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)**
Violations of the rights of the Western Thrace Turks as a minority
Submitted in English, translation German

2013 – 01 Domowina – Federation of Lusatian Sorbs

English translation from the German original

Subject: Strengthening the cultural autonomy of the Sorbs

Membership fee paid: yes

Language(s): German, translation English

Addressed to: German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel; Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony Stanislaw Tillich, Prime Minister of the Land of Brandenburg Matthias Platzeck

Summary:

With an interstate agreement and a financing agreement the cultural self-administration of the Sorbs shall be strengthened.

Resolution:

The Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities support the demand of Domowina – Federation of Lusatian Sorbs to strengthen the self-determination rights of the Sorbian people by means of an interstate agreement. The Foundation for the Sorbian People that was established in 1991 and became an independent foundation under public law in 1998, should in the future have a decision making body, the foundation council, that consists of Sorbian representatives only.

These representatives shall be elected by the Sorbian umbrella organisation Domowina according to a uniform electoral procedure. The control function of the state shall be restricted to a board of supervisors. An essential element of cultural autonomy is the allocation of sufficient financial resources by both Germany and its Lands, based on closed, repeatedly undertaken evaluations that take into account the institutional structure and the requirements for project funding.

According to the example of similar interest groups, such as e.g. the churches, the interstate agreement shall include a provision for inflationary compensation, guaranteeing the financial basis required for the continuity of the institutions and project funding. The regular need to make budget cuts, which is based on readjusted annual budgets and grants is leading to regular self-cuts and is therefore no basis for strengthening self-administration rights.



2013 – 02 Internationaler Verband der deutschen Kultur – Russische Föderation / International Association of the German Culture – Russian Federation

English translation from the Russian original

Subject: Concerns about the new Statute No. 121 FS: NGOs as “foreign agents”

Membership fee paid: yes

Language(s): Russian, translation German and English

Addressed to: German-Russian Governmental Commission for Issues related to the Germans in Russia

Summary:

FUEN expresses its concerns about the new Russian Statute on NGOs as “foreign agents”.

Resolution:

On 27 November 2012 Statute No. 121 FS has entered into force in Russia. According to this statute all politically active non-governmental organisations that receive funding from abroad, have to register at the Russian Ministry of Justice as “agents under foreign influence”.

At this moment organisations of civil society in many regions of Russia, including those of the Germans in Russia and other organisations of the national minorities are subjected to thorough scrutiny by the judicial authorities of Russia.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN emphasises that the majority of the organisations of the national minorities in Russia declare themselves as ethno-cultural organisations. FUEN explicitly states that the activities of these organisations in the fields of language and culture, art and social affairs, which are implemented with foreign sponsors or with the support of governments, cannot be regarded as the activities of “a foreign agent”.

FUEN expresses the hope that the organisations of the national minorities in Russia will not suffer from this statute.



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2013 – 03 **Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people**

English translation from the Russian original

Subject: Continuing discrimination against the Crimean Tatars in the Crimea region (Ukraine)

Membership fee paid: will be paid at the Congress

Language(s): Russian, translation German and English

Addressed to:

Summary:

Continuing discrimination against the Crimean Tatars in the Crimea region (Ukraine)

Resolution:

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN notes with regret that:

a) the problems in regard to the restoration of the political, legal, social and moral rights of the deported Crimean Tatar people, subjected to genocide by Stalin's regime, still remain unsolved in Ukraine;

b) the discrimination of the Crimean Tatar people in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) continues, taking the following forms:

- a limitation of the political representation of Crimean Tatars in the legislative and executive bodies of state power;
- a drastic reduction of grants and budget funds for the solution of the problems of social integration of the Crimean Tatars who are capable to work and social security for the incapacitated Crimean Tatars, who compared to other ethnic groups and national minorities in Crimea, have to live under worse conditions;
- a denial to give the Crimean Tatar language the status of official language (along with the state language and the Russian language) in Crimea;
- the catastrophic situation in the system of school and pre-school education in the Crimean Tatar language (lack of schools with education in the native language, lack of text-books and manuals for schools with instruction in the Crimean Tatar language, lack of educational staff for the Crimean Tatar schools);
- an increase in the number of extremist incidents, which humiliate the dignity and honor of the Crimean Tatar people, offend their historical heritage and violate their freedom of religion, as guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine.

The Assembly of Delegates expresses its concern about the situation that the Council of Ministers in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea justifies the Stalinist deportations of the Crimean Tatar people and also of the Germans and other minorities in Crimea.

In this situation one of the most important levers for an efficient solution of the problems of the Crimean Tatar people could and shall be:

- constructive and efficient cooperation between the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people as the single legitimate and authorised representative body of the Crimean Tatars, which is elected by the people during the national conventions (Qurultay);

- the involvement of international organisations in providing assistance to Ukraine and the Crimean Tatar people in regard to reparations of the consequences of the genocide on the Crimean Tatar people (deportation on May 18, 1944 and decades of forced stay in the places of exile following this criminal act).

In this respect FUEN supports the initiative of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, to hold in the nearest future an international forum on the issue of restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people in their homeland, and on ensuring their security and guaranteeing their development in Ukraine.

FUEN calls on the President, the Parliament and the Government of Ukraine to recognise without delay the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people officially as the authorised representative body of the Crimean Tatar people that expresses the collective will of the Crimean Tatar people and to be guided in all decisions, concerning the political, legal, social and cultural situation of the Crimean Tatars by the recommendation, developed by the Mejlis.



**2013 – 04 Hrvatski Centar Beč / Croatian Centre in Vienna
Hrvatsko kulturno društvo / Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland
Narodni svet koroških Slovencev / Council of the Carinthian Slovenes**

English translation from the German original

Subject: Ethnic group law in Austria
Membership fee paid: yes
Language(s): German, translation English
Addressed to: The Austrian Federal Government and Parliament

Summary

Austrian Ethnic group law is in strong need to be adapted to international standards and is in urgent need of reform.

Resolution:

Austrian Ethnic group law is in strong need to be adapted to international standards. This became clear during the work of the Austria-Convention, and also in the calls by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Austria, to guarantee a uniform and comprehensive approach in regard to the protection of the rights of the ethnic groups. The main issue is the legal position of the ethnic groups as such, as linguistic-cultural communities, their legal standing in the state or their representation vis à vis the state. It is also about the codification of enforceable collective rights for the ethnic groups (not just individual legal rights for persons belonging to an ethnic group) and their sustained financial support. Without a solution in compliance with the rule of law for these principles, which otherwise have to be claimed before international adjudicators, the proposals for a revision of the Ethnic group statute such as proposal GZ BKA-600.308/0002-V/1/2012 of the Office of the Chancellor that was given for consultation, is short of a fundament. It is a justified concern of the autochthonous ethnic groups that they want uniform protection of fundamental rights for all ethnic groups in Austria, cultural autonomy and adequate forms of self-administration. The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) calls upon the Austrian Government and Parliament:

- 1.) to re-codify in the Federal Constitutional Statute, there where it systematically fits, the same fundamental rights for all the autochthonous ethnic groups in compliance with international legal obligations and European standards and on the basis of the proposal of the independent group of experts that was presented on 29 September 2009.
- 2.) to allow the autochthonous ethnic groups, if they wish so, to organise themselves as a self-administrating body of public law in accordance with Article 120a-120c Constitutional Statute (B-VG). These bodies should be controlled by the representation of the ethnic groups and should be attributed public competences in regard to the preservation and promotion of identity, especially in relation to the language and culture of the ethnic groups, and should also be allocated an inflation-proof financial contribution by the state defined by law to fulfil these tasks.
- 3.) to enact a new Ethnic Group Statute based on the fundamental rights as mentioned under sub 1.) and establish self-administrating bodies of public law.



**NARODNI SVET
KOROŠKIH SLOVENCEV**

2013 – 05 Rat der Deutschen der Ukraine / Council of the Germans in Ukraine

English translation from the Russian original

Subject: Ethno-politics and the German minorities in Ukraine
Membership fee paid: yes
Language(s): Russian, translation German and English
Addressed to: Office of the Prime Minister of Ukraine

Summary:

Ethno-politics and the German minority in Ukraine

Resolution:

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) welcomes the parliamentary hearings on the subject of: “Ethno-national policy of Ukraine: successes and perspectives” that have taken place for the first time since the independence of Ukraine, 20 years ago. FUEN also welcomes the inclusion of representatives of the organisations of the national minorities in the working groups for international and state-church relations of the Public Humanitarian Council to the President of Ukraine, as well as the fact that the parliament of Ukraine (Verchowna Rada) adopted the draft of the Statute “on the restoration of the rights of persons, who were deported on the basis of their nationality” in first reading. FUEN expresses the hope that this draft statute will pass its second reading and will be signed by the President.

The draft statute provides that the deportation of the peoples, national minorities and persons with permanent residence on the basis of judgments by the state authorities of the former USSR or Soviet Republics are recognised as illegal and criminal actions and defines the restoration of the rights of these deported persons in Ukraine as one of the primary objectives in the political, socio-economic, cultural and intellectual development of society.

One of the key issues for the German minority in Ukraine is the reestablishment of the work of the Ukrainian-German Governmental Commission for Issues concerning the German minority in Ukraine, which was dissolved in 2010. FUEN supports the efforts of the Council of the Germans in Ukraine to re-establish the Ukrainian-German Governmental Commission for Issues concerning the German minority in Ukraine, which was founded in 1993, and which was coordinating the issues of the German minority on a high governmental level.



2013 – 06 Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA) Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)

Original in English

Subject: Prevention of hate-motivated attacks against the Turkish minority in Western Thrace

Membership fee paid: yes
Language(s): English, translation German
Addressed to: Greek government, Greek authorities

Summary:

The Greek government and its authorities are called on to take adequate measures against the increase in crimes against the Turkish minority in Western Thrace.

Resolution:

Hate motivated incidents and crimes are a reality throughout the European Union, including Greece. Crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia, extremism and intolerance not only harm the victim, they are also detrimental to fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities are seriously concerned by the increase in racist and other hate crimes in Greece, which primarily targets undocumented migrants and asylum seekers. The extremist political party Golden Dawn (Χρυσή Αυγή/Chrysi Avgi), its members or supporters, including MPs, has been linked to a number of reported attacks against migrants in and around Athens.

Hate-motivated violence and crimes appear to be not limited to migrants and asylum seekers in and around Athens. Following the rise of right-wing extremism, persons with different nationality and/or ethnic origin, religion or language have become vulnerable targets.

The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, the status and rights of which are determined by the Lausanne Peace Treaty in 1923, has also become a target of far-right and/or extremist groups. The increasing trend in hate-motivated attacks against persons, properties and places of worship belonging to the Turkish minority of Western Thrace has created an environment of fear and anxiety among the members of the Turkish minority

Since the election of Golden Dawn to the Greek Parliament in the national elections of June 2012, the Turkish Minority faces an increasingly hostile environment. In the year 2012, six attacks against members, institutions and religious places of the Minority were recorded. In 2012, a Turkish teacher, Cemali Mülazım, who is a member of a group called “Movement against Racism and Fascist Threat” was attacked by Golden Dawn members. In March 2013, Cüneyt Serdar has been blatantly beaten by the Golden Dawn supporters.

From the summer of 2012 onwards, convoys of Golden Dawn members have been paying tours with cars and motorcycles to minority-only localities as well as to the mixed ones. They drive into locations populated primarily by Muslim Turkish locals and shout against ‘Turks’ and ‘Turkey’, thus causing discomfort among the minority members.

We regret that the biased political discourse with explicit manifestation of hatred against Turkey has made the Turkish minority of Western Thrace, the members of which are all Greek citizens, one of the primary targets for Golden Dawn and its supporters.

- Recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

- Recalling Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights providing that the rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

- Recalling Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union that any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

- Referring to the Council Framework Decision No. 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms of expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

We call on the Greek authorities to condemn publicly and unequivocally all incidents of hate speech and hate crimes.

We urge the Greek authorities to undertake effective measures to prevent xenophobic and hate-motivated crimes.

We urge the authorities to ensure co-operation, where appropriate, at the national and international levels, including with relevant international bodies and between police forces, to combat violent hate crime.

We invite the Government of Greece to impose effective penalties or a prohibition, if necessary, of the extremist activities of political organisations, including the Golden Dawn political party.



2013 – 07 Western Thrace Minority Graduates Association (WTMUGA) Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)

English translation from the German original

Subject: Violations of the rights of the Western Thrace Turks as a minority

Membership fee paid: yes

Language(s): English, translation German

Addressed to: Greek Government

Western Thrace Turkish Minority

Introduction:

- The Western Thrace Turkish minority is almost entirely Muslim.
- An estimated number of 150.000 ethnic Turks live in Western Thrace – Greece.
- The legal status of the minority was established by the Peace Treaty of Lausanne which was signed in 1923, the bilateral agreements signed between Greece and Turkey and the international instruments concerning human and minority rights which Greece has signed and ratified.
- The treatment of the Turkish minority by the Greek government has been affected by both ethnic and religious aspects.

Violation of Minority Rights:

- The denial of the ethnic identity of Western Thrace Turks by the Greek government has been one of the most contentious issues regarding the government's minority policy. Based on this issue, the freedom of association has been violated since the beginning of 1980s.
- Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Law (No: 3370 of 1955) was an obvious case of racial discrimination and a flagrant violation of the fundamental right to citizenship. It provided that: "A citizen of non-Greek origin leaving Greece without the intention of returning may be declared having lost Greek citizenship." Under Article 19 of the Citizenship Law, the Greek government "unilaterally and arbitrarily" revoked the citizenship of about 60.000 non-ethnic Greeks.
- In the past, the Turkish/Muslim community was allowed to elect their own muftis (religious leaders). Since 1990 these have been appointed by the government.
- Muslim Charitable Foundations (Waqfs) constitute an essential part of the minority's cultural, historic and religious heritage. Contrary to the bilateral treaties, the Greek government appoints administrators to the Waqfs of the minority. Furthermore, the State imposes excessive taxes and legal sanctions on the properties that the Muslim Charitable Foundations has owned for four decades.
- The educational autonomy of the minority that was established by the Peace Treaty of Lausanne and other international documents has been one of the most controversial issues for the protection and promotion of the minority's ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural characteristics.

The Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities calls on the Greek State to:

1. Respect the collective use of individual rights and recognise the existence of a Turkish minority in Greece.
2. Take steps to ensure the immediate rectification of the unfortunate consequences arising from deprivation of Greek citizenship on the basis of former Article 19 of the Citizenship Law for all persons concerned, especially ethnic Turks.
3. Take necessary steps to recognize and appoint popularly elected muftis, and abolish the practice of state appointed imams (law no: 3536/2007) which is against the religious autonomy of the Turkish-Muslim minority that was enshrined in the 1913 Athens, 1920 Sevres and 1923 Lausanne Treaties.
4. Ensure immediately that the freedom of association, which is guaranteed by the Greek Constitution for all persons, is respected and that the Greek authorities abolish all restrictions on the freedom of association of the Turkish minority.
5. Ensure equal opportunities in regard to the instruction in the mother tongue and in the state language. Greece should also take immediate steps to ensure that the right to education for the Turkish minority is guaranteed so that children in Western Thrace have a bilingual (Greek and Turkish) preschool education.
6. Ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the international human and minority rights documents that Greece has signed and ratified.
7. Establish an objective and productive dialogue mechanism with the minority in order to understand and find satisfactory solutions to the problems of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace.

