

# Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) **RESOLUTIONS 2016**

Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau on 21 May 2016

## RESOLUTIONS 2016

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## FUEN CONGRESS RESOLUTION 2016-01

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

We witness a period of major dissonance in Europe. The EU faces unprecedented challenges: major immigration, unemployment, terrorism, economic crises, and wars raging in Ukraine, in Syria, in Libya, in the South Caucasus. All these lead to uncertainty and as a reaction we see political forces, wanting to reverse the process of European integration. Apparent tendencies of renationalisation, disintegration and reinstatement of borders arise in Europe. We witness with great concern the rise of extremist political forces and movements, which not only threaten the social cohesion and peace in our societies but also directly target the most vulnerable groups, such as the autochthonous ethnic minorities.

The FUEN, bringing together a great many nationalities, reiterates its believe that these major European challenges should not threaten our values, but should become opportunities and catalyst for the discussion about identity and to be able to develop a new perspective on the minority protection in Europe as well.

During its long history FUEN made many and important proposals on the creation of inclusive European societies which ensure a wide range of rights for the protection of individual and collective rights of the ethnic minorities and language groups. We believe in the basic concepts Europe of regions and the Europe of citizens. The role of the regions should be strengthened, since this could be the place, where the dichotomy between minorities and majorities in cultural and linguistic diversity is neutralised, contributes to the cooperation between the two parts, and the development of the communities. At the same time, the EU needs to adapt its structures and treaties in such a way that enables direct citizens' participation with representatives of civil society to the decision taking processes.

We remind of the basic principles and fundamental rights defined in the Charter for the autochthonous national minorities in Europe from 2006; the demands formulated in the Programmatic Declaration adopted in Brixen in 2013, the Minority Manifesto adopted in Flensburg in 2014, and the congress resolution adopted in Komotini in 2015; the legislative proposals included in the European Citizens' Initiative Minority SafePack from 2013; the relevant documents adopted by the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe regarding the situation and rights of autochthonous national minorities in Europe.

### ON RECOGNITION, RIGHTS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

Even though the right to identity and free association are fundamental, some European states still question them and unrecognized minorities suffer the consequences. What is given by default in the case of the overwhelming majority of European minorities is not accepted in all European states. Without official recognition, the existence of the minority communities is in jeopardy, and their assimilation becomes a real threat, since they are unable to claim any linguistic, cultural and educational rights.

In other states, the minority question is still far from being solved albeit the national minorities are recognized as such. In the last year we have noticed in many places stagnation in the cooperation between minority and majority. In many states authorities refuse to apply their own laws in matters related to minority protection, they persecute individuals and communities for the use of national or community symbols. In many states the legitimate claim for protection of the cultural heritage and

mother tongue is often disregarded; education in mother tongue remains limited; education establishments for pupils coming from ethnic minorities are under scrutiny; national and minority symbols are banned from public use; the bilingual signage in municipalities remains partial or it becomes victim of vandal and xenophobic acts.

Moreover, nation-states simply reject the idea of self-governance for regions populated by minority groups, wrongly arguing that autonomy would be a form of ethnic separatism. In fact it is nothing but a manifestation of the basic European principle of subsidiarity. Minority rights and autonomy are not a threat; they are a solution for managing and preventing conflicts arousing between the majority and minority communities.

Experience has shown that while in the last decades the Council of Europe adopted important minority provisions in lack of sanctions it has no true power to enforce the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities or the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Similarly, the EU introduced no mechanism of supervision on the application of the Copenhagen Criteria regarding the respect for and protection of minorities. It is clear that Europe has become too weak to protect its minority and language groups and policy change is necessary to ensure that some states would not take a step back.

We welcome the intention of the German Chairmanship Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to concentrate in 2016 in particular on topics closely linked to the current crisis in the European security order. Furthermore, as foreseen, a focus will be put on the situation of minorities in times of crisis, their positive contribution to social integration and their potential to build bridges in international relations. The FUEN will have several joint projects during the German OSCE Chairmanship.

## ON MINORITY LANGUAGES AND LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Language is not only a means of communication, but also the individual's natural form of expression as well as that of the community to which he belongs. If we protect our language, we protect the individual and their community, because the use of our mother tongue is a fundamental human right.

The European Union's motto is "United in Diversity" but there is a tendency to limit this to the national cultures and the official languages. Yet, the cultural and linguistic dimension of Europe is much more diverse: there are more than 60 minority languages, besides the 24 official EU languages. The number of minority language speakers is estimated at 40 million in the EU and 100 million in Europe. The majority of these languages, such as Ladin, Rhaeto-Romance, Sorbian, North Frisian or Kashubian are below the critical threshold of 300,000 speakers that some experts mention as the necessary minimum for survival.

Many endangered languages are merely spoken by elderly people nowadays, therefore the youth needs to be encouraged – speaking minority languages has to be 'cool'. We witnessed important local initiatives, but those are not enough, the Union should also intervene. The EU has to pay attention to the small and endangered languages as to an important part of the European cultural heritage.

### **The Federal Union of European Nationalities repeatedly stresses:**

- the voices of the autochthonous minorities in Europe need to be recognized, heard and taken into account in all possible domains;

- the European Union and its member states shall pay more attention to the specific needs and problems of the autochthonous minority groups;
- the protection and the revival of the endangered languages of Europe need tools and means supported by the EU and its member states;
- the voice of the Federal Union of European Nationalities and that of the European autochthonous minorities shall be heard and taken into consideration by the European institutions and the member states.

As minority umbrella organization, for us it is important to contribute with our expertise as bridge-builders, by sharing best practices from our regions, and to put several minority issues in Europe that need solutions or at least dialogue on the agenda.

### **We urge**

1. The European states to officially recognize all autochthonous minorities and minority languages living on their territories, to support them morally and financially to protect their identity, language and culture as well as to refrain from intimidation or persecution of the national minorities.
2. The Council of Europe to sanction the delay of state reports and the failure to implement the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
3. The EU to create a legal basis for the protection of the autochthonous minorities and nationalities, including an effective mechanism to monitor and sanction the member states in case of breach of the Copenhagen Criteria.

# RESOLUTION 2016-02

## Resolution on the situation of the Macedonian minority in Albania

submitted by the Macedonian Association “Ilinden” Tirana

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

### **The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls on the Republic of Albania:**

1. To sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe that the Albanian state has delayed for years in an unclear and irresponsible way.
2. To officially recognise the Macedonian minority on the whole territory of the Republic of Albania.
3. To grant all the minority rights to the Macedonian minority especially in the regions of Golo Brdo and Gora, as these are implemented in the region of Mala Prespa.
4. To teach the Macedonian language as mother tongue in public schools in Golo Brdo and Gora and across the territory of the Republic of Albania where a significant number of people belonging to the Macedonian minority are present.

The Macedonian minority in Republic of Albania considers the administrative reform implemented in year 2015 as a setback for the rights of the Macedonian minority in the regions of Golo Brdo and Gora. Before the administrative reform was implemented the government of the Republic of Albania assured that the municipalities where the Macedonian minority lives will not be dissolved. Since the year 1913 the regions of Golo Brdo and Gora had been in separate administrative units.

The administrative reform implemented in 2015 did not meet not one of the criteria set by the government of the Republic of Albania, let alone take account of the demographic, geographic, economic and cultural factors in these two regions because the Macedonian minority lives here. The closure of the municipalities in the region of Golo Brdo complicates life for residents of the regions of Golo Brdo and Gora; even for a simple administrative document they have to travel nearly two hours.

### **The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls on the Republic of Albania:**

5. To create in the regions of Golo Brdo and Gora two municipalities, the Golo Brdo Municipality and the Gora Municipality.
6. To provide financial support from the Ministry of Culture of Albania for cultural and educational activities of the Macedonian minority in the Republic Albania.

# RESOLUTION 2016-04

## Resolution on the situation of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece

submitted by the Delegation of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace:

Friendship, Equality, Peace Party; Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association;  
Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

### Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece

The status and the rights of the Turkish minority of Western Thrace in Greece are established, prescribed and safeguarded by bilateral and multilateral agreements, treaties and protocols since 1913. Within the framework of these agreements, treaties and protocols the Turkish minority of Western Thrace has the right to establish, manage and control at their own expense any charitable, religious and social institution, any school and other establishment for instruction and education with the right to use their own language and to exercise their own religion freely therein.

The autonomy in education was exercised until the Greek military junta regime in 1967, but was not restored after the return to democracy in 1974.

During a fact-finding mission in 2012 with the participation of Hans Heinrich Hansen, President of Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), former Member of the European Parliament François Alfonsi (France) and Willy Fautre, Director of Human Rights without Frontiers Int'l, the delegation found that the problems in the field of education are alarming.<sup>1</sup>

Considering that in Greece;

1. At the pre-school level, minority children are obliged to attend public kindergartens where the instruction is only in Greek under Law 3518/2006 which extends the compulsory period in education in Greece from nine to ten years, but this does not include the minority schooling system.
2. At the primary level, when the former UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues Ms. Gay McDougall carried out a fact-finding in 2008, there were 194 minority primary schools in Thrace with courses taught in both Turkish and Greek. The Greek authorities merged the minority primary schools in the region without taking into consideration the autonomous status of minority education, the geographical difficulties of students in access to education and the quality of education depending on the consequences of the economic crisis. As a result, the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.abttf.org/images/22\\_Raporlar/2012-1128-Report-Ethnic-Turks\\_.pdf](https://www.abttf.org/images/22_Raporlar/2012-1128-Report-Ethnic-Turks_.pdf)

number of minority primary schools in the three provinces of Western Thrace decreased to 140 in 2015.

3. The number of minority secondary schools is not sufficient. Although almost half of the population in Western Thrace is Turkish-speaking, there are only two minority schools operating in Komotini and Xanthi and two Islamic schools in Komotini and Echinus against many public (secondary and vocational) Greek-language schools.
4. All the teachers are paid by the school board. Although the above mentioned minority secondary schools should be administered and run as any other private secondary schools in Greece, the Greek Government determines how many students can attend and how they will be enrolled.
5. The 1968 Cultural Protocol between Greece and Turkey provides for the production and use of textbooks in minority schools for both the Turkish minority of Western Thrace and the Greek minority in Istanbul. There are long and unreasonable delays in distribution of the textbooks sent from Turkey to the minority schools in the region.
6. On 16 September 2015, the right of horizontal transition in graduate programs for the members of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace who have a special quota of % 0.05 in entrance to the higher education in Greece has been removed by the interim government headed by the Prime Minister Vassiliki Thanou. This may end with the increase in drop-out rates in higher education because many minority students prefer to have education in universities which are close to their home town due to the huge economic crisis in Greece.
7. Law 4310/2014 was prepared with no prior consultation and/or dialogue with the Turkish minority and introduced reforms and changes in administrative organizations, in issues related to teaching staff at minority schools, issues related to the functioning and scientific-pedagogical support of the minority schools, establishment of a teacher training school under Democritus University of Thrace and appointment and hiring of educators to primary minority schools.
  - The Department of Minority Programme Teacher School will give a graduate diploma to members of the minority who have a four year undergraduate education. In addition to that, teachers who have graduated from domestic elementary pedagogic departments in Greece should complete the supplementary teaching training programme in order to have the right to teach in minority schools. The right to education in that department should not be limited to only those who have graduated from pedagogic departments in Greece but also graduates of universities abroad.
  - According to the provisions of the above mentioned law, members of the Turkish Minority who have graduated from Greek faculties of education and are teachers of Greek curriculum in minority schools are not allowed to teach the mentioned curriculum any more. This application is an example of violation of the principle of equality enshrined in the Greek constitution.

The violation of religious rights of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace has been a significant problem during the past two decades. Recent laws and regulations as well as attacks on sacred places and religious leaders have caused the emergence of new problems.

Some examples of the unacceptable implementations, physical and verbal attacks concerning the freedom of religion are mentioned below:

- Law 4115/2013, known as the '240 Imam Act' inhibits the Turkish Minority's freedom to choose its imams.
- Attack on the Macedonia – Thrace Muslim Cultural and Educational Association in Thessaloniki on 17 December 2015: the association's funeral vehicle's windows were broken and tires cut. The perpetrators were not found by the authorities.

- Members of the organisation who identify themselves as ‘Guardians of Thrace’, beat on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 an official working for Xanthi’s elected Mufti forcing him into a vehicle and tried to spread fear by stating ‘tell the Mufti, it’s his turn’.

Reminding that the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace is and should be autonomous in the field of education and religion under the 1923 Peace Treaty of Lausanne;

**We call on the Government of Greece to:**

1. respect its obligations under the Treaty of Lausanne and take measures in order to restore the autonomous structure in the field of education and religion. Greece should respect, protect and promote the rights enshrined in the Lausanne Treaty and act in full compliance with the provisions of the Treaty and the core international human rights treaties of which Greece is a party,
2. establish bilingual minority kindergartens in Western Thrace in line with the minority schooling system, and allow the Turkish Minority to establish private nursery schools where the language of education will be Turkish and Greek,
3. revise its policies concerning the minority primary and secondary schools, including their number and their location, the training and hiring of teachers, curriculum and textbooks to be used,
4. amend Law 4310/2014 regarding the educational supervision and the appointment of minority school teachers and improve the quality of minority schooling system,
5. make good use of all available domestic and international instruments including advisory and consultative bodies in order to address problems in minority issues,
6. respect the religious autonomy and abolish Law 4115/2013 which contradicts with the provisions of international treaties,
7. take measures concerning the free practice of religion in Western Thrace and ensure safety of life to religious leaders of the minority.

## **RESOLUTION 2016-05**

### **Resolution on the failure to fulfil the obligation imposed by the Council of Europe in relation to the repatriation back to the homeland of Meshketian Turks who were deported in the Soviet Union in 1944**

submitted by the International Society of Meshketian Turks “VATAN”

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

On the failure to fulfil the obligation imposed by the Council of Europe in relation to the repatriation back to their homeland of Meshketian Turks who were deported in the Soviet Union in 1944.

Since 1995 at the FUEN Congresses several resolutions were adopted about the difficult situation of the Meshketian Turks. Committees established by FUEN visited the areas of origin and talked with the President of Georgia about the issue of effective repatriation of the Meshketian Turks back to their homeland. After persistent and consistent efforts undertaken by FUEN, the Republic of Georgia accepted its obligations towards the Council of Europe to repatriate the Meshketian Turks back to their homeland.

However, these obligations were not fulfilled until the present day, despite the adoption of the “Law on the repatriation of person deported by the former Soviet Union from the former Socialist Republic of Georgia in the 1940s” in 2007 and the end of the period of validity of this law in 2010.

The Delegates of FUEN repeatedly pointed at the serious flaws and contradictions of this law, already before its adoption by the Parliament of Georgia, and also afterwards, during its period of implementation.

Just as predicted by experts, the principles laid down in the law, the limitations and possibilities foreseen in the law did not offer a solution to the problems at stake.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN expresses hereby its deep concern about the failure in solving the problems in relation the repatriation of Meshketian Turks to their homeland in the Republic of Georgia. The practical results of the repatriation programme confirm the destructive character of the actions on the part of the Georgian authorities.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls upon the Council of Europe to demand the effective implementation of the obligations accepted by the Republic of Georgia.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN furthermore demands from the authorities of the Republic of Georgia to revive the programme and the procedures to repatriate the Meshketian Turks. It is useful as a first step to define reasonable and realistic procedures and conditions for the repatriation of the deported persons, and to create infrastructure for the implementation of the elaborated procedures for rehabilitation and repatriation of interested persons within the responsible authority.

The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN calls upon the President, the Parliament and the Government of Georgia:

- to show a consistent and principled approach vis à vis their former co-citizens and grant them, as one of the peoples of Georgia who were criminally deported by the former Soviet Union, a real and humane chance for coming back to their homeland without discriminatory provisions and without a time limit;
- to make amendments to the already adopted law in order to remove discriminatory provisions;
- to maintain the time limit for applications for repatriation only for those people, who need the financial help of the state.

# RESOLUTION 2016-06

## Resolution on the situation of linguistic rights of the Frisian-speaking population in the Netherlands

submitted by the Ried fan de Fryske Beweging – Council of the Frisian Movement

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

The Netherlands has signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) and also signed the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

### **The scaling-up as a threat for the Frisian language.**

Nearly all the head offices have disappeared from the Province of Fryslân and the board language in the businesses has become Dutch, even in agricultural companies. The same is now happening in the administration, schools, courts, broadcasting, police, and health care (even in the emergency room). According to the Law on the use of the Frisian Language the authorities not only have to preserve the Frisian language, they also have to encourage its use. The “Ried fan de Fryske Beweging” never has noticed any duty of care for the Frisian language at any reform of administrative bodies. The reform of the courts in the Netherlands shows the opposite: more and more sessions of the court are transferred to the neighbouring non-Frisian-speaking provinces, because of the specialisation of the prosecutors. One of the most striking examples recently concerns a Frisian-speaking suspect who had to go to a court outside the province of Fryslân. He could get an interpreter if he wanted to, but Fryslân has in its own capital a court where everyone can use the minority language without any problem.

### **The implementation of the Law on the use of the Frisian Language is a dead letter.**

There are dozens of examples that the Law on the use of the Frisian Language is not being implemented. The “Ried of the Fryske Beweging” concludes with great concern that nor the central government, nor the municipalities have a budget for implementing the Law. The province of Fryslân has a small budget. Just to give an example: One of the municipalities De Fryske Marren has a budget (2015) of € 122,400,000 and spends € 5000 for preserving the Frisian language and it has no language policy (which it is obliged to according to the Law). There exists a covenant between the municipalities, the province and the central government that Frisian language policy must at least stay at the same level when scaling up municipalities, like was the case with De Fryske Marren. In real life, the new community falls back to the lowest level.

### **We call upon the Dutch government and the Frisian provincial government:**

1. To do everything to implement the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and also to

stop the violation of the European Convention of Human Rights that everyone has the right to a fair trial and to use their own language.

2. In accordance to the Law on the use of the Frisian language (and the signed Language Charter and Framework Convention on European level), to preserve the Frisian minority language and to encourage its use in the administration, schools, court, broadcasting, police, health care and emergency room. That means also that there should be enough funding available.

# RESOLUTION 2016-07

## Resolution on the situation of the Turkish community in Rhodes and Kos

submitted by the Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

In view of the fact that, along with the Turkish minority in Western Thrace, in Greece, there is also a Turkish minority of 6,000 people living in the Dodecanese, based mainly in Rhodes and Kos;

Taking into consideration that the Greek authorities do not recognise the minority rights of the Turkish community in Rhodes and Kos on grounds that they were under Italian rule when the Lausanne Peace Treaty was signed in 1923;

Bearing in mind that the ethnic identity of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos is denied by Greece, which calls the minority as “Greek Muslims” and that the Greek authorities also interfere with the right of the Turkish minority to freedom of assembly and association by not registering the associations which bear the word “Turk/Turkish” in their titles;

Noting that the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos cannot enjoy the right to learn their mother tongue since 3 bilingual schools, including the “Suleymaniye Madrasa” in Rhodes and 2 bilingual schools in Kos were closed down in 1972 by the Greek authorities;

Taking into consideration that the children of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos, who are identified as “Greek Muslims” by the authorities are paradoxically not given the option to have classes on Islam at schools although they are exempted from the classes on Christianity;

Given that the right of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos to enjoy freedom of religion remains limited and their right to choose their religious preachers is denied;

Due to the fact that the Greek Government supervises the administration of waqfs (foundations) belonging to the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos since 1967; with many waqf properties being managed by an administrator assigned by Greek authorities/waqf properties being sold despite the fact that it is forbidden to sell the waqf properties;

Recognizing the need for the Greek authorities to take further measures to ensure that their historical monuments/mosques are protected and renovated to their original state;

Emphasising that some 60 thousand members of the Turkish minority in Greece, including those living in the Dodecanese, were stripped of their Greek nationality and accordingly of their EU citizenship under Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code, and that the repeal of this article in 1998, which had applied only to Greek nationals of non-Greek ethnic origin, did not pave the way for those who lost their nationality to automatically regain their citizenship;

Given the fact that that the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos occasionally becomes the target of hate speech, and is subject to increasing pressure by authorities when they engage in efforts to protect their culture and identity;

The Assembly invites the Greek authorities to:

1. Fulfil its responsibilities in the field of human rights as a member of the European Union, as stated in its Constitution and in line with international conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights and other human rights documents;
2. Acknowledge the right of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos to express their ethnic identity and the right of freedom of assembly and association and take necessary measures to protect their ethnic identity, culture and religion;
3. Provide the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos with the right to education in their mother-tongue, by allowing the opening of bilingual private schools in Turkish and Greek as well as the re-opening of the "Suleymaniye Madrasa";
4. Respect the religious autonomy of the Turkish minority in Greece in Rhodes and Kos and acknowledge their right to choose their religious preachers;
5. Allow the members of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos to elect the boards of their waqfs and ensure their full control and supervision over their waqfs/waqf properties;
6. Take the relevant steps to protect and renovate their cultural heritage and monuments;
7. Restore the Greek citizenship of the members of the Turkish minority in Greece, including those in the Dodecanese, who had been stripped of their Greek citizenship under the now-repealed Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code;
8. Engage in dialogue with the representatives of the Turkish minority in Rhodes and Kos to settle their long-standing problems.

# RESOLUTION 2016-08

## Resolution on the revitalization of the endangered language heritage in Europe

submitted by the Association of German Social and Cultural Societies in Poland

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

- in due consideration of the needs expressed by the autochthonous minority communities, whose heritage languages have no longer been transmitted to the new generations or their transmission has been critically disturbed,
- in due consideration of the postulates formulated by the autochthonous minority communities, who have undertaken substantial measures to revive or revitalize their heritage languages,
- in due consideration of the demands expressed by the autochthonous minority communities, who endeavour to reconstruct their identity embedded in and transmitted by their heritage languages

the Federal Union of European Nationalities and the representatives of minorities and language groups recognize an urgent need

- to counteract the processes of accelerated language endangerment, language death and language attrition among the European minorities,
- to support processes of revitalization and revival among and in favour of Europe's most endangered heritage languages,
- to ask for a constant and effective support of the European Union and the Council of Europe aiming the protection of the European language heritage and ultimately maintaining Europe's linguistic diversity.

We consider:

- (1) that the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is effective primarily as an anti-discriminatory instrument, also in the domain of minority language policy and language planning;
- (2) that the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has proven a highly operative instrument in aid of protecting Europe's linguistic diversity, particularly in regard to those minority or regional language communities, who have managed to maintain their heritage languages and have been strong enough to work out effective language policies on a local, regional and/or European level;
- (3) that in the previous years there have been several successful European initiatives and projects, including FUEN basic documents, the FUEN Programmatic Declaration in 2013, the Language Diversity – a European campaign to raise awareness for multilingualism project, the Compendium on Language Planning by RML2future, The Roadmap for Linguistic Diversity (NPLD2020) initiated by the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity etc.;

- (4) that the 2013 European Parliament's Resolution on Endangered Languages and Linguistic Diversity in the European Union, adopted by an overwhelming majority of the European Parliament, refers to European wide priorities for language revitalization, and that the revitalization and long term survival of Europe's regional and minority languages should continue to be a matter of European concern;
- (5) that more efforts and endeavours of respective institutions, organizations and communities should be aimed at reviving language transmission in the home and the learning of endangered languages within the educational system, essentially through the language immersion as well as the language-and-culture learning-and-teaching models;
- (6) that the specific histories and the resulting current conditions of the Central and Eastern European language minorities have to be addressed by particular models of language-and-identity revitalization programs, envisioning their long-lasting functioning and erosion under austere conditions of limited democracy;
- (7) that the European success stories of minority language maintenance and empowerment of minorities with language rights and language policy/planning instruments should be promoted and enacted on a larger scale throughout Europe;
- (8) that the successful stories and good practices of/in language revitalization or revival should be given more attention, support and recognition by international, national and regional institutions and organizations in order to create wider models of preventing substitution, attrition and death of heritage languages;
- (9) that the Federal Union of European Nationalities and its European partner institutions and organizations should work on a universal and holistic program/platform of support for those communities whose heritage languages and linguistic identities face imminent danger of extinction or substitution.

# RESOLUTION 2016-09

## Resolution on the situation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia

submitted by the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

The KMKSZ believes that the essential conditions for constitutionality, stability, and restoring peace are the appropriate enforcement of laws, the protection and enlargement of the rights of the national minorities suitable in accordance with the European standards.

### On the military conflict in Ukraine

We consider it important that both sides put an end to the military conflict in Eastern-Ukraine peacefully as soon as possible. We fully agree with all efforts, which aim the establishment of peace between the two opposing sides. Our organisation believes that every means must be used to ensure the peace and cease-fire in that area.

### On the governmental crisis

It is very alarming that apart from the existing economic crisis and serious military conflict, Ukraine is also facing a political turning point which causes a far-reaching delay in the execution of the announced reforms as well as the country's rapprochements with the European Union.

### On the development of Transcarpathia

Especially the constant development of the trans-border region Sub-Carpathia we consider extremely important, including the opening of new border crossings, the promotion of economic stimulus programs, which improves the living conditions in the rural area and stops the rural exodus. We recognized the importance of the creation of a Hungarian-language educational institution bringing together the independent Hungarian regional academic education sector.

### On the situation of the Hungarian community

We resent the lack of progress concerning the situation of minorities, and the lack of implementation of the language law.

The KMKSZ is extremely concerned about the recent manifestations and anti-Hungarian acts of extremist and nationalist Ukrainian organizations. Our association believes that such behaviour brings fear among the populations and threatens the peace between nationalities. Such acts are contrary to the Constitution of Ukraine and break several laws, and our international commitments.

# RESOLUTION 2016-10

## Resolution on the situation of the non-Muslim minorities in Turkey

submitted by the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

Having regard the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (1948), the “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” (1966), the “Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief” (1981) and the relevant Reports of U.N. Special Rapporteurs (E/CN.4/2006/5), as well as the “Guidelines For Review Of Legislation Pertaining To Religion or Belief” prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief in consultation with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);

Taking into account the article 40 of the Lausanne Treaty (23/7/1923) that declares: “Turkish nationals belonging to non-Moslem minorities shall enjoy the same treatment and security in law and in fact, as other Turkish nationals. In particular, they shall have an equal right to establish, manage and control at their own expense, any charitable, religious and social institutions, any schools and other establishments for instruction and education, with the right to use their own language and to exercise their own religion freely therein”;

Recalling the article 42 of the abovementioned Treaty which indicates that “...The Turkish Government undertakes to grant full protection to the churches, synagogues, cemeteries, and other religious establishments of the above-mentioned minorities. All facilities and authorizations will be granted to the pious foundations, and to the religious and charitable institutions of the said minorities at present existing in Turkey, and the Turkish Government will not refuse, for the formation of new religious and charitable institutions, any of the necessary facilities which are guaranteed to other private institutions of that nature”;

Noting the fact that:

- a) The Government of Republic of Turkey, through the decision of the General Directorate of Welfare Foundations, has prohibited elections of the members of the Administrative Bodies in the Minority Welfare Foundations since January 2013, by canceling the existing election regulation without introducing a new one. This issue is pending the last 3,5 years, despite the submission of draft regulations by minorities and numerous appeals. This situation is creating serious difficulties to all non-Muslim minorities of Turkey.
- b) All the Greek-Orthodox Historic Monasteries in the Istanbul islands, the islands of Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos) as well as two Churches (St. George Churches in Edirnekapi and Tarabya districts) in Istanbul remain under the “Fused (Mazbut) Status”, a fact that forestalls the administration of these Foundations by its legal owner, the Greek-Orthodox Community.
- c) The three historic churches and their real estate properties in the Karaköy (Galata) district belonging to Greek-Orthodox Community is being under the illegal occupation, for many decades, by the so-called self-declared “Turkish-Orthodox Church”, having as members only the descendants of the family of late Eftim Karahisaridis;

Affirming that the religious prospect is of major concern for the maintenance of the existence of a minority;

Calls the Government of the Republic of Turkey to:

- a) Acquire all the obligations arising from international treaties on the issues of non-Muslim minority welfare foundations;
- b) Permit elections in the non-Muslim Welfare Foundations in Turkey, by resolving the issue of the relevant election regulation;
- c) Recognize the legal personality of the Fused (Mazbut) Greek-Orthodox minority welfare foundations and allow their administration by the Minority;
- d) Return to the Greek-Orthodox Community the three Churches and their properties in the district of Karaköy being under the illegal occupation by a self-declared “Turkish-Orthodox Church”, which has no members from the community.

# FUEN & YEN RESOLUTION 2016-11

## Resolution on the refugee situation in Europe

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) and the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) are the two largest European networks, representing the ethnic, national, and language minorities in Europe. YEN and FUEN, together with over 130 member organisations, work actively for the preservation of minorities and their rights and strive, through intercultural exchange with the majority population and other minorities, to support and live a united, inclusive, and diverse Europe. We as YEN and FUEN believe that every person should be treated equally.

Migration has taken place throughout history and has shaped Europe. Today Europe has to face a huge challenge due to the influx of people for example from the Middle East and North-African countries. Syria has been suffering from war for the last five years, during which most of the infrastructure was destroyed, so many people do not have any other chance than leaving this country. These refugees have no other choice but starting a dangerous journey to come to Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea if they want to live a decent life. According to UNHCR, 3735 people died in 2015 while taking these sea routes hoping for a better life. Refugees spent a huge amount of money in order to reach Europe, more than 90% of asylum seekers had to pay a large fee to human traffickers to bring them to Europe.

States should put all their efforts in establishing a common European approach to tackle the situation. Individual Member States approaches, e.g. by building fences, can not be effective in an European Union of 28 Member States and will only lead to partial solutions and isolation of entire societies.

This refugee situation should be approached first of all from a humanitarian perspective. Many volunteers throughout Europe have shown their solidarity by helping the 1,8 million refugees, who arrived in Europe.

Unfortunately, media operates with negative stereotypes by using a language, which creates fear. Refugees face cultural prejudice of European citizens. Many people do not try to understand the cultures, beliefs and values of the refugees but rather stick to their own prejudices against foreigners. This may lead to racism, xenophobia and neglecting basic human values.

Therefore, we, the Youth of European Nationalities and the Federal Union of European Nationalities urge European countries and institutions to:

- Find a common European approach for tackling the refugee crisis.
- Ensure conditions for the preservation of the cultural identity of people fleeing to Europe as preserving cultural diversity is one of the main goals of YEN and FUEN. Governments and European institutions have to work on the social inclusion of refugees granting them access to education and the social system.
- Build inclusive societies in order to prevent exclusion of these people. History taught us that exclusion of parts of the population leads to radicalization and social unrest.

- Work together to find a common policy, to stop unequal treatment, hate speech, sexual, xenophobic and racial violence against refugees and prevent them from forced labour.
- Punish the use of hate speech, especially on social networks. While legislators and politicians have to work on proper regulations, public campaigns such as “no hate speech movement” and #DiversityConnects should raise awareness on this topic in order to prevent violation. Hate speech of political parties, organisations, media and people that influence public opinion have to be outlawed.
- Respect the arrangements of the Geneva Convention and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which state that refugees cannot be forced back to the countries they fled from if their life could be in danger there.
- Prevent the breakdown of families and facilitate cross-border family reunification.
- Provide access to education, vocational training and the labour market for asylum seekers as soon as possible. Furthermore, the validation of previously acquired qualifications abroad has to be facilitated.
- Guarantee young people the right of residence, at least until they complete their apprenticeship, training or studies.
- Act against ideologies that lead to jihadist terrorism or lead to parallel societies in which European values are systematically undermined (the rule of law and fundamental rights, the freedom of speech, equal rights between women and men and dialogue between religious communities are essential elements of our value system)
- Establish a European framework of integration addressing the challenges of urban ghettos, providing language and integration courses, respect for our values and the role of the state and state authorities;

Furthermore, YEN and FUEN call on European and national media to:

- Pay more attention on the language used in public. Media play a significant role in public dialogue and the use of inappropriate language creates fear.

## RESOLUTION 2016-12

### Urgent Resolution on the expansion of the boundaries of the city of Opole disregarding the regulations concerning the protection of national and ethnic minorities

submitted by the Association of German Social and Cultural Societies in Poland

At the Assembly of Delegates in Wrocław / Breslau, on 21 May 2016, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities adopted the following resolution:

One of the basic principles of European democracy is the principle of respect for human and civil rights. In addition to broadly defined personal and economic rights and freedoms of citizens, this includes the principle of tolerance and respect for the rights of minorities living in a given society. One of the definitions of democracy states explicitly that democracy denotes “majority rule with respect for minority rights”.

In this context the Assembly of Delegates of FUEN expresses its negative opinion about the plans of the Mayor of Opole to expand the boundaries of the City of Opole. The initiative of the Mayor of Opole was not preceded by dialogue, so essential in such situations, with the local communities living in the municipalities of Dąbrowa, Dobrzeń Wielki, Komprachcice, Prószków and Turawa, some of the villages of which are to be incorporated into the City of Opole. The proposal for such changes contravenes the well-established, centuries-long, historic as well as economic structure of these local communities. That is why people living in these communities have started a grassroots movement, expressing their opposition to the idea. Public consultations held in February and March 2016 in each municipality covered by the expansion plan showed that over 93% of the residents were opposed to the proposal.

The localities that are to be affected by the planned changes of administrative boundaries have been inhabited for many generations by, among others, members of the German minority, as is evidenced by the most recent censuses as well as social and cultural activities of this community in the municipalities in question. In these municipalities the results of the last National Census of Population and Housing of 2011 were as follows: 14% of the residents of the Municipality of Dąbrowa, 17.8% of the Municipality of Dobrzeń Wielki, 17.4% of the Municipality of Komprachcice, 26.2% of the Municipality of Prószków and 21% of the residents of the Municipality of Turawa said they were part of the German minority.

As an international organisation bringing together nationalities from all over Europe, FUEN supports positive development of European regions, which is in the interest of all citizens of Europe. We believe, however, that in 21st-century Europe of considerable importance to the development of cities and regions is the integrated territorial approach, which is a response to a growing need to see territories and the planning of their development from the perspective of their functional areas and not administrative boundaries. This means that projects are to be implemented in a coordinated, complementary manner producing synergies. We are convinced that the strengthening of a multicultural Opole region, taking into account the development of the City of Opole, should unfold in conditions of social consensus and respect for the subjectivity of local communities.

This is why our opinion is negative when it comes to attempts to apply measures – without the consent and acceptance of the interested parties – that will alter the proportions of the population in the local communities and limit the possibilities of proportional political participation in these areas inhabited also by persons belonging to the German minority. We would like to note that such plans contravene

Article 5(2) of the Polish Act on National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Languages, which introduces a ban on “measures aimed at changing national or ethnic proportions in areas inhabited by minorities” as well as Article 16 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, under which the “Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention”.

We are convinced that the strength of a state lies in, among others, its approach to the minorities living within its territory. By ratifying both the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Poland joined countries with very high standards in the protection of minority rights. What remains an elementary part of this legal system, however, is dialogue, which makes it possible to look for solutions respecting minority rights. The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN asks the Polish state authorities not to consent to the expansion of the boundaries of the City of Opole and to revive the social dialogue which is essential to proper development of the region.



# FUEN

FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES  
FÖDERALISTISCHE UNION EUROPÄISCHER VOLKSGRUPPEN  
ФЕДЕРАЛИСТСКИЙ СОЮЗ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ МЕНЬШИНСТВ  
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