



ELECTION CHECKSTONES OF FUEN

Elections to the European Parliament from 6 to 9 June 2024

Election Checkstones of FUEN

Answers by the Social Democratic Party of Croatia (Socijaldemokratska partija Hrvatske) (SDP)

- 1. Will you advocate for the stronger engagement by the EU institutions, particularly the European Commission, to protect autochthonous national minorities and language groups? Will you support the development of a comprehensive set of legal and policy standards for a more advanced protection and equal treatment of minority rights in the EU? Will you support the full implementation of the Copenhagen criteria, particularly the provisions on minority rights protection, in the EU candidate countries? If yes, how?**

The SDP of Croatia and the representatives of the SDP in the European Parliament continuously promote and work on the protection of the rights of national minorities as a horizontal principle and value. We fully support the Copenhagen criteria, with a special focus on the stability of institutions that, among other things, commit to respecting and protecting national minorities. In Croatia, this refers in particular to the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, which was adopted in 2002 under the SDP government.

We believe that the issue of the status of national minorities is not only a question of the individual and collective rights of minorities, but also of the entire democratic structure of the Republic of Croatia.

Our party will continue to work for the further development and stronger protection of national minorities at all levels and in all bodies, including within the framework of the enlargement processes of the European Union. This includes, for example, advocating the full implementation of important European documents such as the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and co-operation with national authorities in the development of legislation in this area.

- 2. Do you agree the EU needs a stronger political representation of national minorities and language groups? How could the political representation of minorities in the European institutions be guaranteed? Will you support the re-establishment of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament? Are you committed to working for a more minority-friendly electoral system in your Member State for the next European elections?**

The SDP of Croatia, our MEPs and candidates on the list believe that every national minority and linguistic community has the right to adequate political representation, both in national and European and international institutions, and we support every initiative aimed at protecting the rights of minorities.

During the past parliamentary term, our representatives in the EP have continuously supported all proposed progress in the field of protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities, including, for example, in the framework of annual reports on human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union. In these documents, which have been supported by our MEPs, we point out and remind Member States that they are obliged by international treaties and agreements to protect the rights of minorities on their territory and call on the governments of EU partners to respect the rights of national, ethnic and linguistic minorities, including their cultures, languages, religions, traditions and history, in order to preserve diversity and linguistic and cultural identity.

- 3. Do you agree more meaningful dialogue and exchange between policymakers and minorities' experts and civil society is needed? Will you support the establishment of the Advisory Group on minority issues under the auspices of the European Commission and the European Forum of national and linguistic minorities to consult both the EU and the Council of Europe? Through which other channels or mechanisms can such sustainable exchange and consultations be ensured?**

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