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»Regional Diversity of Minorities
and the Cross-border Cultural Cooperation«
»La diversité des minorités à l'échelle régionale
et la coopération culturelle au-delà des frontières«
»Die regionale Minderheitenvielfalt
und die grenzüberschreitende kulturelle Zusammenarbeit«
»Региональное многообразие меньшинств и межграницное
сотрудничество в области культуры«

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Romedi Arquint:

President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities

Opening speech of the 47th Congress of Nationalallities in Subotica, 09 May 2002

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Romedi Arquint

The 47th FUEN Congress is focusing on the region. This is no coincidence. Since it was established, FUEN has been standing up for the preservation of lingual and cultural diversity in Europe; even in the founding phase, it took up the cause of a Europe made up of regions. Then in post-war years, the old institutions of national states were able to assert themselves. This led FUEN to amend its strategy which then fought for the rights of national minorities and defended and demanded federalism as the ideal political structure to establish this diversity; this brought it into discredit with states having central-state rule like France. On the other side the work of FUEN during the last more than 50 years has provided the sensitivity and the basic element as well for the elaboration of the Framework Convention of the protection of national minorities by the Council of Europe.

The Voyvodina for its part has a long history as a region—one of blood and peace, of independence and oppression, of uniformity and divided political structures; despite the various paths of history, Voyvodina has remained a region.

Ethnic communities have lived side by side from time immemorial in this region blessed by a wealth of natural resources.

At present Voyvodina is again in a historic situation requiring new political definitions and preservation and rejuvenation of the historic heritage of lingual and ethnic diversity. This is why I am pleased that FUEN is able to put to debate its original topic—the role of regions in tomorrow's Europe—particularly here in the 'exemplary' region of Voyvodina.

I would like to initiate the congress with 4 hypotheses.

1. Traditional and historic regions are best suitable for rediscovering and conceptualising the diversity of languages and cultures as a positive value.

This value is discriminated against by the nation-state ideology and has been forgotten for more than 150 years. The nation-state ideology has replaced the idealistic value of lingual and cultural diversity by that of the majority as the fundament for the state principle. This issue is not a matter of preserving the diversity of languages, cultures and traditions as a spiritual heritage of our continent, nor is it a matter of mutual exchange, of encounter, and by no means of the conviction that this exchange in particular, this peaceful competition among lingual and cultural communities is a spiritual element, that ultimately provides the base for the civil achievements of Europe. No, the nation-state ideology relies on the unity of the state with an ethnic majority. Other communities become a discarded product, they become 'minorities', who were granted rights to individual and collective identity with great reluctance and extreme political pressure. Ethnic conflicts have consequently also left behind their trails of bloodshed in Europe over the last 50 years; yes, we witness continuing tension and unsolved conflicts.

This concludes to provide the first hypothesis: the expressions 'national minority', 'minority protection', etc. are to be abolished and replaced by 'promotion of the diversity of nationalities'.

A 2nd hypothesis teaches us to return to the region

In its lingual and cultural policy, the state has to discriminate positively against all lingual communities, i.e. it has to grant equal rights to the preservation of individual and collective



The conference registered more than 250 participants.

identity to the members of all traditional lingual communities living in its state territory.

If it is correct that it was the regions that succeeded, despite the strong opposing trends of nation-states, to keep the idea of positive aspects of intercultural life and a natural coexistence of various peoples alive in a state, the conclusion arises that: neutral lingual policy, i.e. no favouring of any particular language by the state is an element of positive valuation of the lingual and cultural diversity in Europe, i.e. all lingual communities have a fundamental and equal right to existence and promotion. This promotion is to be oriented to the real needs of individual lingual communities.

These are best to be perceived from their basis; they belong as part of the political responsibility of the population directly affected, and this is first the region. Here, far away from ideological premises marked by ethno-nationalism, here, near to the concrete and pragmatic problems to be solved, is where the problems barring peaceful coexistence of various peoples can be best solved. This is why cultural self-administration in the region takes on significance for the future. It is a vision for which the Council of Europe has paved the way with the charter on local and regional self-administration. We will have the opportunity to discuss these instruments in more detail. Unfortunately, the instrument of cultural self-administration is not sufficient to preserve the diversity of peoples. It must be backed up and

actively preserved by overriding units, like a clear constitutional basis. However, the Council of Europe has also set the direction with the two instruments (Convention on the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages). In contrast to the EU, which finds this difficult; unfortunately, the convent leaded by Giscard d'Estaing, the former president of France will hardly lead to exact formulations. The dilemma of unanimous decisions under states with opposing views in state philosophy on what the tasks of the state in respect to its citizens are, stand in the way of a clear decision for the ethnic diversity and against uniformity.

3. On federalism and regionalism

Regionalism is a matter of state institutions, a national policy problem that concerns all citizens and has to be solved by all together. Regionalism is primarily a problem of state organisation, it concerns all citizens and involves the whole state territory. It is the citizens who have to decide whether their state should have a centralist, federal structure and which competencies and tasks should be decided on which levels. There is the widest variety of ways to distribute power among the state, regional and local institutions. The fact is that regional structures are especially suitable for sensitive areas like language and culture. In several cases a state structure with an asymmetrical

regionalisation can be either a first step or an appropriated solution. Yet it is still problematic to reduce the issue of regions as institutions of a state to ethnic lingual and cultural dimensions and call for these only for multicultural regions. This only kindles a fast and unfounded fear of separatism among the majority population that makes fact-oriented solutions more difficult or prevents these altogether. The issue of regionalism has to remain an overall political matter and the questions of political self-responsibility, economic independence and cultural development, etc. must be contained in this.

4. If the region is rehabilitated as a mutual place for living, state borders have to be interpreted as bridges, and not as obstructions.

Most lesser-spoken languages and national minorities are located on the periphery and near to the state borders, many of them are the majority language in the neighbouring state. We are reinterpreting the traditional definition of the border as a separating element as a contact axis, as a bridge, that facilitates contact with each other, and thus promotes cooperation between states. Lingual and cultural contact beyond borders must be promoted and not obstructed. I am delighted that expert discussion partners are present who will elucidate the policy of their countries on cross-border contact—particularly using the example of Voyvodina.

Two final comments:

1. There is no single recipe for a solution to

preserving the lingual diversity in Europe. The population of Europe numbering 767 million comprises 87 peoples living in 36 states (not including those with less than 1 million). Only 11% of the languages have more than 1,000,000 speakers. The 53 stateless languages are integrated in nation-state structures that make them just as much minorities as minorities with a 'king state'. It is decisive everywhere to be convinced that the preservation of the diversity, when problems arise, is a task of European dimension and, secondly, one that is to be asserted on the basis of the democratic constitutional state and international norms.

2. One principle, however, seems to me to be fundamental, and here I refer to a recommendation by the Council of Europe. For both coexistence within the region and within Europe, it is of decisive significance for the citizens of Europe to overcome the phase of using just one language and become multilingual.

It is necessary both on a regional and state level to develop and implement a concept of multilingualism, while the recommendation of the Council of Europe should lead the way as mentioned previously: in addition to one's own language comes that of one's neighbour and, as a third, English.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am looking forward to interesting information and debates with you here in the hall and to the many encounters and meetings in the next few days here in Voyvodina. I now declare the 47th FUEN Congress open.

Prof. Dr Jovan Komsic:

*Counsellor to Mr Rasim Ljajic, Federal Minister for Ethnic and National Communities
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 09 May 2002*

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour that on behalf of the Federal Ministry for National and Ethnic Communities and the Minister, Mr Rasim Ljajic, I can greet the participants of this very important 47th Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities. Minister Ljajic planned to take part in the work of this Congress. Yet, contrary to the situation we had two years ago, our country is opening and our politicians, as you know, travel all around the world and such an international visit hampered the Minister to be with us today.

The honour of hosting such an important Congress belonged to Subotica and this, according to my assessment, can be interpreted also as an important political indication and an appreciation

to Voyvodina Province, the state of Serbia and the FRY. Why do we say "honour" and why do we highlight this moment as a landmark to our society?

Firstly, the topics of the Congress are of crucial importance and the President of the Federation has already spoken about them in his introductory. Also, Serbia today is a country of reforms, very unique reforms and their combination is highly complex. The three identical reforms - the economic, the political and the social ones - are indeed the will and the task of the citizens of Serbia, all persons belonging to national communities in Serbia. The task of transition to a democratic society. At this very moment when the democratic political actors of the country, the citizens and the civil organisations are mobilising



Prof. Dr Jovan Komsic

a lot of energy and knowledge to direct the country to the road towards European integration processes, the new minority policy of Vojvodina, Serbia and the FRY represents the benchmark of the mentioned reforms. In this context, we look forward to hearing highly relevant discussions during the days of this Congress for facing our situation in the light of comparative experiences of Europe. Simultaneously, I hope to hear concrete, very instructive and inspirational initiatives stemming from this Conference.

When I say "new minority policy" I mean, primarily the fact that the Parliament of the FRY has recently adopted the new federal Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities. The basic aims and the content of this Federal Law are to institutionally grant and regulate a whole set of minority rights and freedoms. According to the assessment of a number domestic and European experts, the principles and the instruments of this Law represent an important step ahead in relation to the inherited situation and encourage the tendency of profiling new liberal-democratic, higher quality matrixes of life, culture and politics. In this sense, this Law should be a relevant criterion for the "future state of affairs" including the implementation of the European standards in the legal and political life of our community. At the same time, this Law should be a hindrance to those forces that, eventually, would have liked to return to the atmosphere of isolated society, nationalism, hatred, intolerance and lack of confidence among the representatives of national minorities, all what, regrettably, characterised the past ten years of the Milosevic regime .

Politically, the multiculturality of the state and the society is sufficiently consistently recognised by this Law and consequently, it affirms a new model of democracy that corrects the weaknesses of the majority democracy in ethnically heterogeneous states. And so, in the political field the institutions of the so called consensual or consocietal democracy are created that facilitate the participation of the minorities in decision making and managing public affairs, in the implementation of their specific rights as to the use of language, information and culture and also, grant the rights to direct, efficient participation in the processes of decision making on issues directly affecting the maintaining and development of national identity, affirm the institutions of positive discrimination, independent political association and organisation as well as the inclusion of the cultural and political elite of the minorities directly in the general political life and ensure the "unity of the state in diversity".

Finally, my standpoint is that it is essential that this Law represent a specific concretising of the new, democratic authorities in the field of Serbia's decentralisation and regionalisation with developed local self-governments and the autonomy of the Vojvodina Province.

Approaching the end of my rather long introductory, let me say few words about wider regional aspect of the new minority policy, first of all about the necessity of the opening of our country to its neighbours and the opening of our neighbours towards us all in the context of integration into the Europe of regions and the European Union.

The opening of a country and its regions towards the neighbours and the wider European environment isn't just a complementary process of the society's internal democratisation and of the creation of a new minority policy. What's more, I do believe that there are no real presumptions for the stabilisation of democracy in new, post-communist countries in the CEE without a new concept of borders between peoples, nations and states. As signs and metaphorically "guards" of identity, borders cannot exist without intercultural communication and a certain type of information exchange process between individuals, ethno-national groups and political communities. In this process the institutionalised, legally granted borders are indeed important prerequisites of autonomy, of getting to know each other's culture and of tolerance.

Yet, during the last and the beginning of the new centuries, it proved that political state borders protecting the identity of the majority - or as some in this region like to say "the state constituent nations", - quite frequently aggravated or even frustrated the reproduction of minority

identity. This fact was one of the root causes of the alienation of minorities from the state and hindered their full inclusion in the value patterns and institutional procedures of the political community. Because of these and also some other reasons the modern civilisational comprehension of political and ethno-cultural borders must start with the right to the freedom of diversity and with free, equal communication.

An integral part of such an approach is another imperative. Modern borders should be conceived as means of getting to know the similarities among us. Similarities which we do not want to escape and which are not understood as reasons to increase the distance and to intensify mutual conflicts, including the wish to destroy the "other", who reminds us to ourselves in some kind of a "bad mood". I would like to refer, here, to a prominent scholar of the former Yugoslav region, the late professor Rudi Supek, from the Croatian Academy of Science and Arts. In one of his books he wrote that nationalist, as those who hate other cultures, usually assimilate others' faults .

So, bearing in mind that presently as an exit from this context of hatred, people and citizens of this region are offered the road to European standards of economic freedom and political tolerance, we indeed have reasons and needs to say that these

are not abstract, far away and incomprehensible categories. What's more, in these Vojvodina regions we came more or less closer to European standards in certain fields, we were the top model of interethnic tolerance, when we realised that the matter in question is "the measure of life of the normal people" and had the strength to profile institutions based on the principle of equality of the individuals and their community.

These are all reasons to conceive the current democratisation of the system as a unique opportunity to transform multiculturalism and its tendencies for the maintenance and development of ethno-national identity from the inherited trauma of the "apple of destruction" to a fundamental channel of economy, culture, information and communication among all the neighbours. It is the only way on which we have the chance to assimilate the virtues of others, instead of their faults, more precisely, to tolerably reconcile the eternal clash between the principles of ethnos and demos.

Maybe it will be the fastest way for us to become virtuous citizens who created such an atmosphere in the society and in the state which is not a "foreign land" but the "Europe of regions" or the "Europe of minorities" having their homeland in their native province, and with citizen services in the national (state) and European political structures.

Ulrich Bohner:

*Deputy Chief Executive of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe CLRAE
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 09 May 2002*

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.coe.fr/cplre>

Good afternoon Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I was a young boy, I grew up at the border between Germany and France. At that time, in the early 50s, this was a real border, where you needed visas, and with heavy and serious customs controls. Nobody could have imagined that, after 50 years of existence of the European Organisations and the conclusion of the Schengen agreements, these borders in Western Europe would tend to disappear in the eyes of the people and the ordinary traveller, if not on their minds. Today, we can experience this kind of borders only in a few countries and rather towards the East of our continent. You can imagine that, as a boy, I was angry at this state of affairs restricting my freedom to travel.

It was therefore a great pleasure for me to start my work at the Council of Europe, 30 years ago, by ensuring the secretariat of the Cultural Committee at the first ever Symposium of border

regions organised by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in 1972. It was my pleasure to work with the great European Federalist Denis de Rougemont who, on that occasion, defined the borders as "scars of history". It is true indeed that most of our borders are results of wars and other historical developments, even when some people tend to believe that they are "natural borders". The fact that many of these borders have often moved also shows that this idea of natural borders does not correspond to reality.

The particular thing about scars is that the younger they are, the more they hurt. If in Western Europe we have a tendency to forget about these scars or at least to look at them as parts of history, this is more difficult in countries that have just broken up and where sometimes large numbers of people have died, suffered or, all of a sudden, find themselves -often unwanted- citizens of a different State.

But if you want the scars to heal, the most

important thing is not to reopen them again. In Europe, this has been achieved in 1975 by the Helsinki final Act through which the existence of the borders has been accepted by all countries in the respect of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all, and since then, if it is true that some countries have split up and at least one has united again, in no case any border in Europe has been moved.

Transborder co-operation, indeed, can be conceived only once you accept that the border exists and then you try to make it gradually less important, rather than trying to move it from one place to another, which, in general, gives it additional importance and constitutes a renewed source of conflicts.

We all remember the important changes that Europe underwent in 1989. Since then, the membership of the Council of Europe has grown from 21 to 44 States, including recently Bosnia and Herzegovina and, hopefully tomorrow, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or Serbia and Montenegro, as it may be. The oldest European organisation, the Council of Europe, attached to basic values such as human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy, will then be established on the whole European continent (with the exception of Belarus) and embrace more than 800 Million people.

In the period since 1989, as we were gradually becoming more familiar with the realities of Central and Eastern Europe, many of us were surprised by the importance the borders still had in this part of Europe, as an obstacle to any transborder co-operation because, not being familiar with real life in the East of our continent, we had assumed that the life in the common political system of Comecon and Warsaw Pact would have contributed also to diminish the importance of borders in that part of Europe.

In the West of Europe, transborder co-operation has also been a difficult issue at the start. Many countries were jealous of their sovereignty and their national integrity and feared that such co-operation could lead to a situation where borders would be moved again. But slowly, the necessity to authorize decentralised organs of local and regional government to co-operate across the borders became more and more obvious, as we want to unite our countries more closely, as it is foreseen in the first article of the Council of Europe statute. In the end, the European Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation was adopted in 1980, and since then, two Additional Protocols have been adopted. This now provides the possibility to create commissions, euro-regions and other structures of transborder co-operation, with their own legal personality.

It has appeared, however, that one of the most difficult areas in this context is South-East Europe, or the countries involved in the Stability



Ulrich Bohner

Pact. Here, many of the borders are young, identities of new States have to be consolidated and accepted by the neighbours. In the last two years, the Council of Europe and the Congress of local and regional authorities of Europe have organised several forums for economic co-operation between regions. On these occasions, several requests have been formulated with regard to transborder co-operation. First of all, the Council of Europe's legal instruments should be signed and ratified by all. Second, there should be negotiations between the countries concerned in order to abolish visa requirements that seriously hamper transborder co-operation between the people involved, even in areas where the same people are living on one and the other side of the border. Third, the governments of the countries concerned should, beyond the Convention of 1980, engage in a more direct co-operation in this particular geographical area, as is the case for instance between the Nordic countries. This would mean in the first place the conclusion of a kind of "gentlemen's agreement" or solemn declaration authorizing local and regional government structures to co-operate beyond the borders, as luckily they have already started to do by themselves in many places. And fourth, it would also imply to conclude a binding multi-lateral inter-State agreement putting such co-operation on serious legal basis in order to allow it to develop in the near future.

These issues have recently been promoted at the last Economic Forum in Novi Sad, only one month ago, and they will be discussed again at the next Session of our Congress in Strasbourg in early June. This will also be the occasion for us to involve more and more the associations of

local self-government of this part of Europe and the elected representatives from these countries who are sitting as members or special guests in our Congress.

At its recent Session held in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Committee of Ministers also decided to promote regional co-operation, which was the key-topic of the meeting and the issue of a Declaration. Indeed, in the Vilnius "Declaration on regional co-operation and the consolidation of democratic stability in Greater Europe" the Committee of Ministers underlines that, "according to the particular situation of the countries involved and their common aims, regional co-operation helps to implement the Council of Europe's founding principles of pluralist democracy, human rights and the rule of law at grass-roots level, by strengthening the protection of national minorities while respecting the territorial integrity of states;" it also encourages member states, in view of the experience acquired by regional co-operation mechanisms, to reinforce this co-operation, especially with regard to transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities and the setting up and development of Euro-regions, and with regard to freedom of movement and contacts between people, especially youth. We hope that this political will can be put into practice very soon, under the new Luxembourg chair of the Committee of Ministers, which states among its priorities, that (I quote) "it is important to ensure that persons who belong to national minorities are better protected, inter alia through the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and of other instruments, such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and that of Local Self-Government." The Macedonian minister of local government proposed that a political declaration on the development of transfrontier co-operation of local and regional authorities in South East Europe be prepared with the help of appropriate Council of Europe bodies. At the same time, preparatory work on a multilateral agreement in this field could also start.

Let me say how happy I am to be this time here in Subotica, having already visited many other places in Vojvodina, in Serbia, Montenegro and in other countries in the Balkans. For us, in the Council of Europe, Subotica is a highly valued symbol. It is indeed here that, in 1993, the first ever Local Democracy Agency was created by the Congress of local and regional authorities of Europe. Over ten years, this kind of institution has spread over the former Yugoslavia and we have now ten such Agencies in 4 different countries. The principle of their functioning is simple: instead of having a specific bilateral city twinning, the Local Democracy Agency implies that several cities of other European countries engage themselves on a multilateral basis in a continuous co-operation with the city in the Bal-

kans and do have a permanent structure on the spot. If this has proved to be difficult sometimes under the Milosevic regime, I am glad to see now that this effort has been continued over the last ten years.

But your Conference is mainly dealing with minorities. It is easy to understand that the splitting-up of countries or the moving of borders has led to a situation where Millions of people today live in countries where their specific ethnic or language group does not constitute the majority. But let me say that in a Europe of 800 Million people, we are, all of us, minorities, there is not one single group that can be considered as the majority in Europe. In that sense, a territory like Vojvodina where many ethnic communities traditionally live together, can be considered as a kind of small-scale model of what Europe will hopefully look like in the future. The acceptance of diversity, not as an obstacle for the European construction but as its basis and as an important asset, is essential for the Europe we want to build. But even in the West of Europe, the recognition and the acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity, the existence of minorities, has been problematic and still is in certain member countries. It is felt often as a threat to national unity, sometimes not without any reason, when minorities or other groups inside the minorities develop terrorist actions to pursue their aims. But it would appear that an open policy towards minorities and their rights is probably the best way of fighting against such endeavours.

It has taken quite some time within the Council of Europe to try to establish a legal framework in which this respect of minorities could be ensured on our continent. In this way, the European Charter on Regional or Minority languages proposed by the Congress of local and regional authorities of Europe has been adopted by the Committee of Ministers as a Convention in 1992. Following the 1993 Summit of the Council of Europe held in Vienna, the Committee of Ministers was also able to approve in 1994 the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Today, even if not all countries have signed and ratified them they are considered as being part of the basic texts of the Council of Europe, right after the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Charter on Local Self-Government. New member countries do therefore commit themselves to sign and ratify these texts when acceding to the Council of Europe.

This has recently been the case for Bosnia and Herzegovina and we trust that it will soon be the case for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this latter country, earlier this year, a Federal Law on the Protection of National Minorities has been adopted, on which the Yugoslav authorities have worked together with Council of Europe experts. Your Conference in Subotica, in the border area between Yugoslavia, Hungary and Croatia is therefore a good symbol to say that it

is possible in today's Europe to solve matters related to borders and minorities in a peaceful way and through dialogue. It is the ambition of the Council of Europe and its Congress to provide help for such a dialogue wherever these questions are at stake.

Let me now roughly introduce to you the main instruments of the Council of Europe that were elaborated in this perspective.

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

The protection of regional or minority languages has been a long-standing concern of the Council of Europe and is based on Article 14 of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits discrimination, in particular on the grounds of language or association with a national minority.

From the 1950s onwards, the Parliamentary Assembly made several calls for more concrete protection - in particular, in Resolution 136 (1957) and Recommendation 285 (1961) - with a view to affording minorities the right to their own cultural life, to use their own language and to open their own schools.

In 1981, the concern was taken up by the European Parliament. That year, both it and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe came back to the subject, respectively in a resolution and in Recommendation 928, and concluded that there was a need to draw up a charter for regional or minority languages and cultures. In the end, it was the Council of Europe's Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, now known as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), that took up the task of drawing up a draft charter during the 1980s.

Since 1992, the Council of Europe has offered its member states the possibility of protecting their linguistic heritage by signing and ratifying a Council of Europe Convention, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The charter confirms the Council's commitment to protecting and promoting Europe's cultural heritage, in which the diversity and wealth of its languages play a fundamental role. The text of the Charter encourages transborder co-operation in this domain.

Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges:
The Parties undertake:

a. to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture,

education, information, vocational training and permanent education;

b. for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.

The situations of regional or minority languages in Europe vary widely. Because each such language is a special case, the Charter avoids imposing the same demands on all countries.

Therefore, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was designed to be used "à la carte". It is based on 8 basic principles and a choice of 68 specific undertakings in 7 areas of public life listed under Articles 8 to 14 of Part III of the Charter. Each Party is required to select at least 35 of the 68 undertakings.

Croatia and Hungary have signed and ratified this Charter and it entered into force on 1 March 1998. Romania has signed it but not ratified yet.

	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Ratification</u>	<u>Entry into force</u>
Croatia	05 Nov 1997	05 Nov 1997	01 Mar 1998
Hungary	05 Nov 1992	26 Apr 1995	01 Mar 1998
Romania	17 July 1995	-	-

THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

The Framework Convention seeks to promote the full and effective equality of national minorities by creating appropriate conditions enabling them to preserve and develop their culture and to retain their identity.

This Convention entered into force on 1 February 1998. It is the first legally binding multilateral instrument devoted to the protection of national minorities in general. Its aim is to specify the legal principles that States undertake to respect in order to ensure the protection of national minorities.

Through this Convention, international and transborder co-operation are also implied and supported. I quote:

Preamble:

Considering that the realisation of a tolerant and prosperous Europe does not depend solely on co-operation between States but also requires transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities without prejudice to the constitution and territorial integrity of each State; Art. 1:

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-

operation.

As of the 25th of April 2002, 34 State Parties have ratified this treaty, among which we can find Croatia, Hungary and Romania. In the three countries, the Framework Convention entered into force on 1 February 1998.

The implementation of the principles set out in this framework Convention is a crucial element of dialogue between the Committee of Ministers, experts of the CoE and the member States: The implementation shall be done through national legislation and appropriate governmental policies. However, the Convention has a monitoring mechanism based on the examination of State reports. Reports have been received by 21 States and are public. The main monitoring body of the convention is the Committee of Ministers, which is assisted in this work by an Advisory Committee of independent experts. (The Advisory Committee adopts opinions on the implementation of the Framework Convention in the States Parties. Subsequently, the Committee of Ministers adopts its conclusions and, if necessary, recommendations to the State concerned.)

In this respect, the Committee of Ministers has just adopted conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Romania (13 March 2002). Regarding Croatia and Hungary, the conclusions of the Advisory Committee and the related recommendations were published respectively in February 2002 and in September 2001.

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION MONITORING

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION			
	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Ratification</u>	<u>Entry into force</u>
Croatia	06 Nov 1996	11 Oct 1997	01 Feb 1998
Hungary	01 Feb 1995	25 Sep 1995	01 Feb 1998
Romania	01 Feb 1995	11 May 1995	01 Feb 1998
MONITORING			
	<u>State report to the Advisory Committee</u>		
Croatia	16 Mar 1999		
Hungary	21 May 1999		
Romania	24 Jun 1999		
	<u>Publication of conclusions & Rec. of CM</u>		
Croatia	06 Feb 2002		
Hungary	21 Nov 2001		
Romania	13 Mar 2002		

Some important issues were raised by the conclusions of the Advisory Committee and recommendations of the Committee of ministers, followed by the comments of the state concerned. For example, regarding Romania:

The Advisory Committee regrets that important organisations and institutions representing minorities were not informed that the State report was being prepared. It notes that awareness of the Framework Convention should probably be

improved. The Resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers underlines the efforts to support national minorities and their cultures, the progress made in the representation of minorities in the Parliament, and it encourages further promotion of intercultural dialogue. Despite the determination of the authorities that was shown, the situation of discrimination toward the Roma minority is still preoccupying. Since the publication of this report, the Romanian State has made several comments concerning the implementation of the Framework convention: first of all it points out at the recent significant changes that have taken place in Romania in the field of human rights in general and in the protection of persons belonging to national minorities, for instance the institution of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman), a new Education Act developing the education system for national minorities and a strategy for improving Roma standards, improvements in political representation and institutional framework. Furthermore, Romania adopted a new Law on Public Administration in 2001, giving new opportunities for the use of minority languages in local government.

EUROPEAN OUTLINE CONVENTION ON TRANSFRONTIER COOPERATION BETWEEN TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES OR AUTHORITIES +2 additional protocols

Open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe, in Madrid, on 21 May 1980. Entry into force: 22 December 1981.

The Convention is intended to encourage and facilitate the conclusion of cross-border agreements between local and regional authorities within the scope of their respective powers. Such agreements may cover regional development, environmental protection, the improvement of public services, etc., and may include the setting up of transfrontier associations or consortia of local authorities.

To allow for variations in the legal and constitutional systems in the Council of Europe's member States, the Convention sets out a range of model agreements to enable both local and regional authorities as well as States to place transfrontier co-operation in the context best suited to their needs.

Under the Convention, Parties undertake to seek ways of eliminating obstacles to transfrontier co-operation and to grant to authorities engaging in international co-operation the facilities they would enjoy in a purely national context.

The Protocols, which were opened to signature in 1995 and 1998, aim to strengthen the Outline Convention (ETS No. 106) by expressly recognising, under certain conditions, the right of territorial communities to conclude transfrontier co-operation agreements, the

validity in domestic law of the acts and decisions made in the framework of a transfrontier co-operation agreement, and the legal corporate capacity ("legal personality") of any co-operation body set up under such an agreement.

As the general legal framework for co-operation of local/regional authorities across borders in Europe, the Outline Convention together with its Protocols will be useful to the new member States in their governmental reform processes.

The CLRAE was at the origin of the framework Convention on transfrontier co-operation between territorial communities or authorities and now constantly tries to encourage its implementation. Several South-East Europe countries have not signed yet this important Convention of the Council of Europe. Although it has not been ratified by Croatia and Romania, the two countries as well as Hungary have signed it.

	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Ratification</u>	<u>Entry into force</u>
Croatia	7 May 1999	-	-
Hungary	6 Apr 1992	21 Mar 1994	22 Jun 1994
Romania	27 Feb 1996	-	-

NB : Only Romania has already signed the Two additional Protocols (5 May 1995)

Another organ of the Council of Europe, The Venice Commission (European Commission for Democracy through law), works on helping member states to implement COE treaties in their constitution and internal law, or in adopting agreements.

Let me give you two examples:

Serbia and Montenegro

The Venice Commission provided legal advice to Mr Javier Solana during the negotiations between the President of Yugoslavia, Mr Kostunica, the Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr Djindjic, the President of Montenegro, Mr Djukanovic, the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr Vujanovic, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Mr Labus, when they signed "Proceeding Points for the restructuring of relations between Serbia and Montenegro" on 14 March 2002. This document contains the main principles for transforming the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into "Serbia and Montenegro".

Report on the preferential treatment of national minorities by their kin-State
(adopted by the Venice Commission at its 48th plenary session, 19-20 October 2001)

The Venice Commission recently drafted a report on the preferential treatment of national minorities by their kin-State
The concern of the "kin-States" for the fate of the persons belonging to their national communities who are citizens of other countries ("the home-

States") and reside abroad has led them to show their wish to intervene more significantly, and directly, i.e. parallel to the framework of international co-operation in this field in favour of their kin-minorities. The main tool which kin-States dispose of in this respect is the negotiation of multilateral or bilateral agreements aiming at the protection of their kin-minority, with the relevant home-States. The potentialities of bilateral treaties in respect of reducing tensions between kin-states and home-states appeared to be significant, to the extent that they can procure specified commitments on sensitive issues.

In order to control these instruments aiming at securing the respect of national minorities in their "home-States", Romania's Prime Minister, Mr A. Nastase, requested the Venice Commission to examine the compatibility of the Act on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries, adopted by the Hungarian Parliament on 19 June 2001, with the European standards and the norms and principles of contemporary public international law. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr J Martonyi, also requested the Venice Commission to carry out a comparative study of the recent tendencies of the legislations in Europe concerning the preferential treatment of persons belonging to national minorities living outside the borders of their country of citizenship. Before its creation by the Venice Commission, no supervision or co-ordination of the laws and regulations in question has so far been sought or attempted. But the recent concern for this issue shows the impellent necessity of addressing the question of the compatibility of such laws and regulations with international law and with the European standards on minority protection.

In its report, the Venice Commission analysed several domestic laws or regulations adopted among others by Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary regarding minorities' protection. The conclusions remind that the responsibility for minority protection lies primarily with the home-States. The Commission notes that kin-States also play a role in the protection and preservation of their kin-minorities, aiming at ensuring that their genuine linguistic and cultural links remain strong. The Commission considers, however, that respect for the existing framework of minority protection, as stipulated by European initiatives must be held as a priority. Therefore, the new treaties and laws should be interpreted and implemented in good faith in the light of the principle of good neighbourly relations between States. These conclusions have been accepted both by Hungary and Romania.

THE STABILITY PACT

Bilateral treaties are considered as an attractive tool for guaranteeing stability in Central and Eastern Europe. In 1993, a French initiative ("the Balladur initiative") towards concluding a Pact on Stability in Europe was proposed. It aimed at

achieving "stability through the promotion of good neighbourly relations, including questions related to frontiers and minorities, as well as regional co-operation and the strengthening of democratic institutions through co-operation arrangements to be established in the different fields that can contribute to the objective".

The Pact, which was signed by 52 States and was adopted in 1995, concerned Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, all of which had expressed an interest in joining the European Union. These States were called upon "intensifying their good-neighbourly relations in all their aspects, including those related to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities"; this intensification was deemed to require the effective implementation of the principles of sovereign equality, respect of the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, cooperation amongst States and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

It constitutes a valuable contribution to develop democratic citizenship, stimulate co-operation among professionals, foster entrepreneurial initiatives and assist in management questions. The Congress has been playing a role in the implementation of the Stability Pact in Southeast Europe. Transborder co-operation and multicultural dialog were listed as priorities of the Stability Pact at the meeting of Portoroz in May 2001.

Under the Stability Pact for South-East Europe the Directorate General of Human Rights is undertaking three important projects with substantial funding from the Swiss Government. The first of these is a "non discrimination review", under which the countries in the region will be invited to undertake, with assistance, a comprehensive and thorough review of their laws, policies and practices with a view to identifying and removing all discriminatory aspects. The second project concerns "acceptance and implementation of

existing standards". This project will include a series of targeted meetings and bi-lateral ad hoc expert assistance in order to substantially improve the acceptance and implementation of existing international standards. The third project concerns "bi-lateral co-operation agreements" as a tool for promoting good ethnic relations.

These projects, starting in February 2001, will run for an initial period of 12 to 24 months.

The Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (and the CoE) considers the principle of subsidiarity in the perspective of local autonomy. It is very important that local authorities enjoy enough power, not only to be able to protect the minorities under their jurisdiction, but also to have the right to take part in cooperation, and in transborder co-operation in particular.

CLRAE activities in the field of trans-border cooperation aim

- to encourage the participation of local and regional authorities in trans-border cooperation. Therefore it organises a series of European Conferences of Border Regions and forums of cities and regions of South-East Europe,
- to implement the Stability Pact in South-Eastern Europe,
- and therefore to sponsor the Association of Local Democracy Agencies since 1993
- to encourage the creation of Euroregions

The main partners for the promotion of partnerships with cities in south-east Europe are:

- the Foundation for the Economic and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (FEDRE)
- Specialised NGOs, which act as the coordinators of the concrete partnerships in various European countries
- The Association of European Border



- Regions (AEBR)
- The Stability Pact
- The European Union, and its Committee of Regions in particular.

FORUMS OF CITIES AND REGIONS OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

These forums are held in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. They bring together elected representatives from cities and regions from western, eastern Europe and south-east Europe, alongside representatives of intergovernmental organisations and of NGOs, as well as representatives of key economic players. The aim of the forum is to boost local economies through shared experience, building up a mutually supportive network between southeast European local and regional authorities

and other European cities and regions. It acts as a meeting place to develop partnerships with cities and regions from southeast Europe, promoting exchanges of know-how in various fields. Transborder co-operation was a key issue of the last 3 forums.

The last Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe, held at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in Novi Sad (18-20 April 2002), led to the first step toward a major achievement. It adopted a final declaration launching the preparation of a multi-lateral inter-state agreement on transfrontier cooperation between local and regional authorities in South-East Europe. This agreement had been put under discussion since the Conference of Border Regions that took place in Timisoara in 1999.

Dr Tamas Korhecz:

*Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
at the 47th Congress of Nationalallities in Subotica, 09 May 2002*

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Ladies and gentlemen!
Honourable Delegates!
Dear Guests!

Let me greet you on behalf of one of the sponsors of this Congress, the Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities of the Province of Vojvodina, and to greet you on my own behalf and the Government of the Province as well. I am honoured and pleased that this 47th Congress of FUEN is being held in Subotica, the town where I was born, in Vojvodina, and in Yugoslavia. I think that this is a nice recognition of the new course of the affairs in the country. Still I think there are also other reasons for holding this Congress here and that the organisers did not make a mistake when they decided to hold it in Subotica, Vojvodina, Yugoslavia. The first reason is linked to Subotica, because in this country there is no nicer and more glamorous hall for holding a congress than this Ceremonial Hall - I can responsibly say that. Secondly, Subotica is among those few towns, if not the only one in Europe, where mostly the same number of three nations, three peoples live together. From about 100.000 inhabitants of the town, slightly more than one third are Hungarians and the others are Croats, Bunjevacs and Serbs in nearly the same number. So, there are a few towns where multiculturalism is reflected not only in the dualism of coexistence but also in some tripartite division. The second reason for the selection is the existence of Vojvodina, more precisely the features of Vojvodina. We can hardly mention as large a region in Europe as Vojvodina where



Dr Tamas Korhecz

there are more than 10 nations and ethnic communities living together actively and culturally. Ten diverse communities - not only statistically but according to their diverse cultural life, creative work, events, magazines, TV programmes and living mother tongue, more precisely education in mother tongue. It can be

said, that it isn't news in Vojvodina where, for over 300 years at least three languages have been in official use in the public education system. Presently there are five languages in the official use in the primary and secondary schools in Vojvodina. Hopefully, the sixth one will start this autumn, as classes in Croatian will also be opened then. The third reason for the right choice of the venue of this Congress is that the legislative reforms of the country - once the pre-election promise of the present government,- were implemented in the field of protecting minority rights to the greatest extent. I would have been very happy if these legislative reforms in other vital areas like jurisdiction, fight against corruption, European integration, privatisation and foreign investments had been so rapid and successful as in the case of protecting minority rights. You have already heard that in February the Federal Law on the Protection of Minority Rights and Freedoms was adopted which, according to the assessment of the OSCE and the High Commissioner for Minority Rights Protection meets the requirements of the most updated trends and highest standards of the Council of Europe and OSCE respectively. The Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities has also been ratified and confirmed, and what is even more important is that our Vojvodina Parliament adopted a number of important regulations for the protection of the rights of national minorities. I can inform you from the horse's mouth, that yesterday a decision was adopted at the Vojvodina Parliament on founding a Croatian weekly Hrvatska rijec that will be financed from the budget of the Province and that will be the only such weekly on the territory of Yugoslavia and so, the injustice over the Vojvodina Croats by the previous and even by the communist regime will be corrected. At the same session of the Vojvodina Parliament another decision was adopted on including the Croat language among the 5 official languages of minorities in the work of the bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Even earlier, last year The Parliament of the Province adopted two regulations for the implementation of the rights of national minorities. One enables entering the qualification exams at the Novi Sad University on mother language while the second one governs the issue of civil documents, certificates in two languages, more precisely in minority languages as well. I can also add that other regulative measures are being elaborated as well. The new law and the amendments of the Law on the Official Use of Language respectively are in the parliamentary procedure in the Parliament of the Republic and these will enable the implementation of the official use of minority languages in accordance with the highest standards known in the world, will return the previous good practice of using five and six official languages in official bodies and courts which featured Vojvodina prior to the Milosevic regime. Still, let me tell you two more things in order to avoid creating the feeling about all this

as a propaganda of the new authority focusing on the integration in the Council of Europe, on the membership in the Council of Europe. Firstly, the progress on the legislative scene does not mean considerable and essential change in the status of national minorities. In order to achieve this all these laws and regulation should be consistently implemented. A law is worth as much as is implemented of it. You are all well aware that one of the greatest problems of protecting rights, of the legal protection of national minorities is indeed in the non-implementation of declared rights. It is encouraging though that the new law on the authority of the Autonomous Province delegates the competency in safeguarding these rights and in the implementation of the regulations and even in the implementation of the Federal Law on the Protection of National Minorities to the bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Therefore, the primary right of the monitoring and implementation of these rights in the field of culture, education and official use of languages on the territory of the Vojvodina Autonomous Province will be the competency and task of the bodies of the province. Naturally, this will not solve all the issues, but believe me, that on the level of the government of the Province as these regulations evidence, there is sufficient political will for the implementation of these legislative measures. What makes us cautious, besides these important changes is the fact that Milosevic and the heritage of his regime, his memorandum-type policy as well as all that happened over the last 15 years in Serbia left its signs.

The changes that happened on the 5th October, have not changed the awareness of the people. We live in the same environment, with the same people who had supported the policy of "Great Serbia", the policy of nationalism and chauvinism on rallies with millions and millions of participants. The remains and traces of such a policy are still present in the awareness, in the way of thinking of the people, although, luckily, they do not represent the majority of the people, still all this present in the minds of a significant number of citizens, Serbs by nationality, but also among others belonging to other national communities. It is therefore the field we have to work on intensively to improve the situation. A recent research made in Subotica showed, that here, in Subotica, in this town with rich multicultural tradition, 70 percent of the Serb inhabitants is against the official use of the language of national minorities and is against bilingual labels and inscriptions and is against education in mother tongue. So if we take a closer look at the data, it can be seen that there is a lot to be done not only in the heads of the authorities but primarily in the head of the citizens and because of that I am of the opinion, that this issue should be approached very cautiously but comprehensively in order to obtain long-term and viable results in the reality. Finally, I wish you a successful work and a pleasant stay in Subotica and in Vojvodina. Thank you!

István Ispánovics:

Municipality of Subotica , Mayor

at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 09 May 2002

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Mr István Ispánovics

Ladies and Gentlemen!
Dear Guests!

Let me greet you on behalf of the host, the town of Subotica. Probably it is the first time for a lot of you to visit this place. I wish you a pleasant stay here for this few days and I also wish that



Deputy Mayor and FUEN-Vice-President Bela Tonkovic being interviewed by the local press

you come back some other time, as tourist so that you could get acquainted with the other beautiful buildings of Subotica besides this marvellous Town Hall. Subotica is the most modern municipality in present Yugoslavia and Serbia respectively, some 10 kms away from the Hungarian border, the future border of the European Union that will become reality within 2 or 3 years. Mr Korhec has already told you some details about this town. He told you that Subotica is a multicultural, multiconfessional environment where Croats, Hungarians and Serbs live in almost the same number together with some other, greater minority communities, though they are smaller in size. Mr Korhec has also spoken about some of the difficulties we faced during the 10 years of the Milosevic regime. We, the citizens of Subotica are proud of the fact that political parties that supported the Milosevic regime have not succeeded on any of the election between 1990 and 2000 in this municipality. It means, neither on the federal elections, nor on the elections on the level of republic, province, municipality, nor on the elections for the president of Serbia or Yugoslavia. In other words, all elections were won by people who were at the top management of the town and at the same time were against the Milosevic regime. Naturally, it all resulted in certain consequences and while some were the favourites, we were neglected but it was important to be persistent on our way.

Luckily in October 2000 - you were probably watching those happenings in Belgrade in 2000 on your TV screens,- for days, this square next to this Town Hall was crowded with citizens protesting against the Milosevic regime.

Allow me to say few words about the political programme of the party I am member of, which is the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians and which is the most important political party of the Hungarian national community in Yugoslavia and Serbia respectively. This program which we advocate fits in the programme of the Federal Union of European Minorities. We advocate the maintaining of language and culture, historical values and national identity. You have already heard about certain laws that passed on the level of Republic and Federation, the so called "omnibus law" that delegates a lot of competency to the level of Province. Mr Korhec and Mr Komsic both mentioned the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedom of National Minorities. I must add that these laws are very much in line with the commitment of my party. As the matter of fact the concept we defined sometime in 1999, during the attack against our country, when we defined some guidelines that are being accomplished now both through the omnibus law and the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Minorities.

At the end, let me express my gratitude to the



Mayor István Ispánovics (left) with FUEN-Vice-President Joseph v. Komlossy

Vice President of FUEN, Mr Bela Tonkovic, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Vojvodina Croats (DAVC) and the Vice Mayor of Subotica as well as to Mr József Komlósi, the representative of the Hungarian national minority group at FUEN for their commitments in promoting the issues our minorities are facing with in this region. I wish them a successful work in the future. Thank you very much.

Dr Walter Kemp:

*Senior Advisor to the OSCE –High Commissioner for national minorities / The Hague
Building on Basic Principles: “Commodius Living” in Multi-Ethnic States
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 09 May 2002*

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.osce.org/hcnm>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this meeting. The OSCE High Commissioner, Rolf Ekeus, is unable to attend and I will be speaking in his place. I am an adviser to the High Commissioner, covering Central and Eastern Europe.

I have been asked to speak about basic principles in the context of minority rights and harmonious inter-ethnic relations.

In doing so I will refer to international standards, but I want also to highlight the importance of policy. Bearing in mind the theme of this conference, my presentation will refer to minority and policy and standards both within and between states.

A basic principle, which is the very foundation of peace, stability and prosperity in multi-ethnic states, is for people of different ethnic backgrounds to respect each other and to find ways of peacefully living together. This may seem obvious, but we all too frequently see examples of inter-ethnic fear, hatred and violence both within states and between states. This can manifest itself through dangerous political rhetoric, discrimination, and even violence (the worst example being ethnic cleansing).

Some might say that the creation or purification of nation-states is the only solution and that multi-ethnicity is either inherently destabilizing or inviable. But multi-nation states are the norm, not the exception. And there is nothing inevitable about inter-ethnic conflict. Anyone who doubts this should visit Vojvodina and see how this region – one of Europe’s most pluri-lingual and multi-ethnic – has not been plagued by the types of conflicts which have marred other parts of Europe in recent years.

What can poison otherwise good relations are extremism and intolerance. The past century, particularly the last decade, have given us enough proof of this. We should be on our guard against such dangers and do our utmost to create an environment where extremism does not find fertile ground.

‘Commodius Living’

Bearing that in mind, when we talk about basic principles it is important to consider them in the context of “commodius living”. What do I mean

by that? The expression comes from Hobbes’ Leviathan. In his famous passage from the Leviathan, Hobbes says that without some form of functional social contract, we would find ourselves in a state of nature where the life of man is “solitary, poore, nasty, brutish and short.” The alternative to such a fate is what he calls ‘Commodius Living’.

How can we foster “commodius living” in multi-ethnic states?

Protecting human rights is a baseline. The starting point is to guarantee inalienable universal human rights. If basic human rights are respected in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, then all persons, regardless of ethnicity, language or religion, will have the opportunity and the equal right to freely express and pursue their legitimate interests and aspiration.

In quite a number of cases specific additional rights relating to persons belonging to national minorities are also necessary. These rights, for example concerning language use, minority representation, anti-discrimination legislation and education, can act as a safety net in cases where minorities are vulnerable to majority decisions that affect their interests and concerns. These rights do not privilege persons belonging to national minorities, but act to ensure equal respect of dignity, in particular their identity. In this respect, the OSCE’s Copenhagen Document and the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities provide useful guidance.

It is important for states to harmonize their legislation in line with these standards in order to create the legal space in which minority rights are protected. It is worth mentioning that, as a good example, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has recently taken great strides through the adoption of the Law on the Protection of National Minorities. Croatia is currently reconsidering its Constitutional Law which deals, *inter alia*, with minority rights. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also currently reviewing a draft Law on the Rights of National Minorities. The High Commissioner has praised the Yugoslav initiative and attaches importance to the satisfactory completion and adoption of both the Croat and Bosnian pieces of legislation. In all cases the High Commissioner stresses the importance of implementation.

I must stress that the Copenhagen Document and

the Framework Convention are minimum standards – they provide the foundation for States to go even farther in providing a legal framework for minorities. At worst, states must not be allowed to interpret obligations and commitments in a restrictive manner.

And it is not only standards that matter. Policies which help minorities to be fully active members of society are vital. The goal should be to enable minorities to maintain their own identity and characteristics while integrating them in the overall life of the state. Of course, this depends on the context, particularly the size and density of minority communities. But several general observations can be made. For example, education and language policies should be implemented that allow minorities to maintain their linguistic identity and enable cultural reproduction through the use of their mother tongue. Minorities who have been displaced or who are refugees should be encouraged to return and should be assisted by the State in issues relating to security and property. The public service should reflect the public that it serves and be in a position to meet the needs of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity. This is particularly important in situations where public officials have an interface with minorities, for example through the legal system, in official communications, the police and social services. A great deal can be accomplished through public administration reform – the Romanian law of public administration adopted last year is a good example. Minorities should be involved in decisions that affect them. This may require special minority representation in parliament, an electoral system that facilitates minority representation, and advisory or consultative bodies that give minorities input into decision-making structures and processes. It may also require decentralization and/or self-government to allow minorities to play a proportional role in the running of their communities. The recent omnibus law on greater self-government for Vojvodina is a good example of how such a process should be addressed and carried out. The challenge now is to implement the relevant legislation in order to put the spirit of the law into effect.

These types of steps should not be taken because States must follow some sort of checklist of international standards and good practices that will win them favour with the international community. Rather, these steps should be followed because experience has shown that they make sense: it is good governance. Peace, stability and prosperity are best served by ensuring that persons belonging to national minorities can effectively enjoy their rights and have the freedom to realize their identities. As with any citizen, provided that this liberty does not harm others, it is not a threat to the state and indeed enriches it.

On the contrary, the repression of the rights of a significant proportion of the population could

cause difficulties. Maybe not in the short term, but in the longer term. That is not to suggest that accommodating minority concerns should be equated with blackmail. Rather, if the state marginalizes or seeks to assimilate a large section of its population, it is very possible that those individuals will feel that the state does not



Dr Walter Kemp

represent their interests. And that is a recipe for strengthening divisions within society.

Of course, it works both ways. Like all citizens, minorities have obligations as well as rights. This is a basic principle. Minorities should not pursue their individual cultural identities to the detriment of others. Nor should they ghettoize themselves within the state by, for example, refusing to learn the State language or disrespecting state institutions. As with Hobbes' Leviathan, what is needed is a social contract whereby members of minority and majority communities inter-act in a common state with common institutions and equal rights despite their cultural diversity. And this is what I refer to as Commodius Living.

Good Neighbors

Commodius Living also applies to relations between states. This conference will allow us to compare experiences and opinions on regional diversity and cross-border cultural co-operation.

Generally speaking, regional diversity should be regarded as a strength rather than a source of weakness. In the same way that there is a

misperception that heterogenous societies are inherently fragile, there is also a view that ethnically diverse regions are unstable and border regions are cultural – even civilization - fault lines. There is little evidence to support this. Multi-ethnic cities, states and regions have a richness based on multi-culturalism, tolerance and openness. People from such places have a tradition of inter-acting for business, pleasure or politics that somehow bridges cultural differences. And that is the norm in the global marketplace. As borders open up, communications quicken and distances become ever shorter, we increasingly come into contact with people who speak other languages, have different traditions and come from other cultures. And we find a way to get along, and to communicate.

Where borders are becoming increasingly porous, border regions take on a new character. Regional identities develop, not strictly along ethnic lines, but more on the basis of geographical proximity and a sense of shared priorities and history. Vojvodina is a good example. This region is defined by its landscape, its multi-culturalism, industries and so on. The same can be said of other European regions like Transylvania, Schleswig, or South Tyrol. Issues in such regions can have national characteristics, but usually have more to do with regional government and the economy.

The same can be seen in terms of trans-border co-operation. There is often more inter-action between border communities than between those communities and their capitals. And why not? That is the nature of commerce, social interaction and travel and it is usually these everyday types of contacts (rather than ethnicity) that determine relationships. This has been demonstrated – quite effectively – by municipal twinning projects, co-operation among Euro-regions and initiatives under the Stability Pact, particularly the Szeged process.

This type of pragmatism and co-operation is evident in bilateral treaties. Such treaties can be a useful way of building confidence and strengthening good neighborly relations. From the perspective of the High Commissioner's office, an important element of such treaties is that they often contain clauses concerning the protection of persons belonging to national minorities. It may also be the case that governments decide to address the issue of minorities through special bilateral agreements. This is clearly the intention of the Federal Government in this country which is currently in the process of drafting bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities with Romania, Croatia and Hungary. Such agreements and treaties can put to rest any concerns that neighbors may have about the treatment of a so-called kin-minority. They may also ease suspicions about the use of minority issues as a

pretext for external interference, and create mechanisms both to facilitate cultural exchanges of mutual interest and benefit, and also respond to points of dispute which may arise. The High Commissioner has, for example, noted the importance of bilateral treaties as a basis for resolving minority issues between Hungary and its neighbors.

That being said, experience has shown that bilateral agreements including provisions on minority rights must include reciprocal elements. They can not be one-sided. They should be based on established international standards and must certainly not go below or compromise existing obligations or commitments. To this end, they should contain a clause to the effect that the contents should not be construed in ways that conflict with international law. In addition, bilateral treaties should avoid preferential treatment for certain minorities over other groups or individuals in society. They should also not necessarily be viewed as static. Because new issues arise and relationships change, treaties should provide mechanisms for political consultations and/or joint commissions to follow-up on the provisions of the treaty in order to ensure that their spirit is being lived up to. The use of such consultative bodies at an early stage can reduce the chance of misunderstandings later on.

Bilateral treaties are no substitute for good domestic policy and legislation, nor do they supersede other international standards. One must also be wary that provisions of such treaties are not used as tools to meddle in the internal politics of States. In this respect, bilateral treaties can not replace multilateral mechanisms which have the essential attributes of independence and impartiality.

Kin-States

That brings me to a rather sensitive and timely issue, namely the issue of protecting "kin" in neighboring states. On this subject – with which I am closely involved as the High Commissioner's advisor for Central and Eastern Europe – I would like to echo the points made by Ambassador Ekeus in his statement of 26 October 2001 entitled "Sovereignty, Responsibility and National Minorities".

Firstly, and most importantly, protection of minority rights is the obligation of the State where the minority resides. This is a cornerstone of international standards concerning minority rights protection which have been developed in the past fifty years.

Secondly, a kin-state may have an interest in persons of the same ethnicity living abroad. Persons belonging to national minorities in one state should enjoy unimpeded contacts across frontiers with citizens of other States with whom

they share common ethnic or national origins. It is also possible that a State may grant certain preferences, either with the consent of the State where the minorities live or within its own jurisdiction, on a non-discriminatory basis. But a State does not have jurisdiction over its so-called kin which live in other countries. As the High Commissioner said in his statement, and I quote, "History shows that when States take unilateral steps on the basis of national kinship to protect national minorities living outside the jurisdiction of the State, this sometimes leads to tensions and frictions, even violent conflicts".

Therefore, it is important that initiatives designed to assist ethnic kin are not discriminatory and that they are in conformity with the laws of the State in which they are to be applied. That suggests that the relevant legislation should be in line with international standards and, if it has extra-territorial effects, should be properly explained and discussed with neighboring states.

I do not want to go into details concerning the Act

on Hungarians Living in Neighboring Countries. Suffice it to say that the High Commissioner remains closely involved in the process and hopes for progress after the new Government has been established in Hungary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The subject of this congress is both timely and topical; in terms of developments in Vojvodina, the federal Republic of Yugoslavia, South Eastern Europe and indeed Europe as a whole. Celebrating regional diversity and improving cross-border co-operation are what will make all of our communities stronger and more integrated. Diversity is an asset and can enrich our lives. Those who fight against diversity for the sake of a narrow, national agenda stand in the way of progress and threaten to tear the fabric of our societies. We must therefore maintain and even build on basic principles in order to improve the chances of 'commodius living'.

Slaven Dulic:

*The Democratic Union of Croats in the Vojvodina
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

ENGLISH

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me welcome you as the host of this 47th Congress of the Federal Union of European Minorities hosted by the Democratic Alliance of the Vojvodina Croats. As to the topic of this round table, I would like to say few words about the status of the Croat minority in Vojvodina at the moment. Ten years of dictatorship, and also the periods before that were disastrous for the Croat minority. The period under the reign of Mr Josip Broz was also a contribution to the destruction of everything that was Croat in Vojvodina. Owing to the agreement within the Yugoslav Communist Party, everything that was Croat became Serbocroat without any Croatian influence. I wouldn't like to go into the reasons of it, but as a result of such a policy all Croat institutions were abolished like the Croat Theatre or the weekly Hrvatska rijec by 1956. In regions of Vojvodina where Croats used to live, the Yugoslav identity was promoted and it is evidenced by the results of censuses from 1971 until 1991. Namely, the number of Yugoslavs increased in those municipalities where Croats lived in significant number, like Subotica, Sombor, Bac, Sid, Apatin. The only towns that fell out of this circle were Novi Sad and Sremska Mitrovica. Secondly, in regions where the Bunjevac and Shokac sub-ethnicity used to live,

the identification as either Bunjevac or Shokac was forced and the result of it is, that nowadays we have a greater number of those who identify themselves as Bunjevac but only a few as Shokacs. The Croat language was used only by Vojvodina Croat writers after 1956. The year 1990 was expected by the Croats of the region, i.e. from Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Vojvodina, with full optimism as they thought that all political injustices would be corrected by the introduction of the multi-party system and that the tradition of the Croat Farmer's Party, which is being continued by the DAVC, would be continued. By the way, DAVC was one of the first political parties established in Serbia. Yet, problems started to intensify only then. One of the basic issues left after the Milosevic regime was the exile of some 25-40 000 Croats from the FRY. This have been not discussed a lot lately. I have often heard the word loyalty on various meetings of minorities. Croats have always been loyal and participated in the reservist units of the Yugoslav Army in a great percentage during 1991-1992, still they were exiled. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the notion of loyalty does not exists for minorities, receptively that an authority's relation to a minority does not depend on the minority's loyalty or - as there is a new word for it - on its state constituency. Yet, it should be highlighted that after 5th October considerable changes had

happened that were reflected on the status of the Croat minority. Firstly, Croats are not a stigmatised minority any more in these regions, Croat parties and their initiatives are esteemed. The adoption of the federal Law on minorities has positive effect on this minority as well. It should be underlined that especially the Vojvodina Province authority has an understanding for the Croat minority.

Croatian language has been introduced as an official language, as you have heard, then, the institution Hrvatska rijec was founded, other associations and projects for the Croat minority are being financially supported. What is also news, is that the doors of the Federal Ministry for National and Ethnic Communities are also opened for us as well. There are still five problems distressing the Croat community. The exile of some 25-40 000 Croats is one of them. They are not mentioned anywhere but are an enormous loss for us. A week ago it was ten years from the tragic events in Hrtkovci. The media hardly covered it at all and in the indictment of Milosevic there isn't a word about the genocide of Croats in Vojvodina. So, his indictment should include the genocide of Croats in Vojvodina. The second topical issue of the Croats is the direct parliamentary mandate because the Croats, as the fifth minority according to size in the FRY do not have members in the Parliament. We should give this idea a second thought because, for example in Hungary this problem was made topical by the recent apply from the meeting of representatives of minority governments, namely that direct parliamentary mandate for minorities should be introduced in the Hungarian Parliament as well. Maybe we should also think in this sense in order to avoid the situation of our neighbours lets say some 10-15 years after the transition and introduction of positives laws on minorities. This would also be necessary from the point of view of the concentration of minorities, because in the cases of diaspora this proves to be the only way of their political profiling. The third important problem for the Croats in this region is the media coverage with two major issues. Part of this problem has been solved by the establishment of the Hrvatska rijec institution, but there are still two other problems: television and radio coverage. As to the television, The Republic of Croatia does not pay full attention to Croat minority on this region, as it is, lets say, done by Duna TV for the Hungarian minority in Vojvodina. It is also important to mention that the law on radio-diffusion has not been adopted



The Regional Diversity of Minorities as exemplified by the Vojvodina was focused on 10th May 2002 in Subotica. Representatives from following minorities were present and had the opportunity to comment on their current situation as regards the regional diversity of minorities there: the Hungarians (Secsei Mihaly), the Croats, (**Slaven Dulic**) (3rd from right), the Germans (Rudolf Weiss), the Gypsies (Stanko Dimitrov), the Slovaks (Juraj Cervenak), the Romanians (Jon Cizmas) the Ruthenians (Julijan Tamas) and was chaired by Jozsef Kasza, Vice prime minister of Serbia

yet, and there is a lot of pressure for Vojvodina not to ensure two frequencies, whereas one is foreseen for the minorities. I think that the Croat minority would find its place there because the second frequency is planned for 8 languages and not seven as it was the case so far. But some, allegedly liberal and free forces prevent the approval of the second frequency for Vojvodina and therefore I think that on this roundtable, a declaration of all the minorities could be adopted in order to make pressure on the Belgrade authorities to allow the utilisation of the second frequency. The fourth problem of the Croats in the region is education. As since 1956 the Croat language has not been used officially in Vojvodina, a lot of people think that it is not necessary, but the Croat community and its representatives do not think so. All the precondition for the education on Croat language were created, but except for the positive political approach and political presumption as well as the will of the authorities, there is no enough strength to work out a quality curriculum. It should have been done long time ago and the pupils and their parents should have been prepared as well. Concerning political presumptions, everything can be implemented: the buildings, the written approval of the curriculum by the Secretariat of the Province, co-financing of the elaboration of curriculum, co-financing of the pupils' bus tickets and others. Obviously, there is no sufficient intellectual support for something like that. Also, in some of the mentioned problems the Croatian State might do something, if the survival of the Croats in these regions is an interest. A solution of the minority problems could be the modification of the electoral system, which could be direct proportional without census in the case of Vojvodina, so that fragmented minorities like the Roma and Croats for example would have a great number of delegates more precisely, greater than so far. Let me tell you a typical example. In the electoral unit of the representative of the DACV in the Vojvodina Parliament 60% are Croats and 40% others. It means that in all his

activities he represents all the Croats of Vojvodina, but in fact other citizens elected him as well.

I think that these are the major problems of the Croat community, but they are not insoluble and I know that this government has the power to face them. The fact that the Croats point out the

problems and that they have certain problems does not mean that they are the subservient to, lets say Croatian state politics. I think that we are completely liberated from the influence of Zagreb and we neither want to be a so called state constituent minority close to Belgrade. We are ours on our land and autochthonous in decision making. That's all.

Mihály Szecsei:

*The Alliance of Hungarians in the Vojvodina
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

I was delegated by the Alliance of the Vojvodina Hungarians to greet this Congress and wish you all a successful work. I was honoured by getting this task because these are very, very difficult moments when contacts, friends and relations with Europe and other organisations are vitally needed. The Hungarian minority community in Yugoslavia lives in the most developed part of the country, although if you look at the life standard of the persons belonging to our national community, you would not say that. I am telling you this, because in the Memorandum of the Serb Academy of Sciences it stays that on territories



The Hungarians from Slovakia (Lancz, Alexander), the Hungarians from Romania (Zsolt, Nagy) and the The Hungarians from Ukraine (Brenzovych, Vasyl) also participated in the conference.

where Hungarians live the national income is 118 000 units per capita, where the Serbs live it is 85 000 and where the Albanians live it is 34 000. Therefore it is a hard working community and the results are really so if we look at the natural indicators. Secondly, what I have said is that the life standard and generally, the social standard does not reflect these results. It would be more important to check nowadays what are the possibilities in the region of the Danube - Kires - Mures - Tisza rivers to earn income. We face the highest rate of unemployment. In Mali Idjos it is 61%, in Kanjiza it is 52%, in Senta it is 38% etc. These are the problems we have to solve, therefore we are checking the methods how to get the

necessary funds for starting businesses. These small local ethnic communities should be supported, because they are highly jeopardised. To achieve this goal we need experts and it is not a science fiction, as we used to have education in mother language on all levels. In 1974, it means some 30 years ago, at the Faculty of Economy in Subotica we used to have 81 professors and 23 of them were Hungarians and had classes in Hungarian. Therefore, the conditions are created so it is possible. But if we look at the status of our people, we will see that among the first 200 most successful businessmen in Serbia there is not a single Hungarian and neither is a lot of Hungarians among the 1000. So in view of the status there is no equality as Mr President has highlighted. The root causes of the problems could be in the fact that the process of privatisation avoided indemnification. We know that besides the German it was the Hungarian community the mostly affected by nationalisation, agrarian reforms, confiscation, expropriation and other forms of forfeiture. Therefore, I think, we tend to create such a status for this community in the economy which enables the full implementation of their skills and abilities. I can even hear the questions arising now: will you make an economic sub-system, is it possible to build up an economic sub-system that functions in this economic system without questioning the limitation of the inner sovereignty? Surely, I cannot answer all the question here and now. There is a dangerous centralisation, because all who live here can see that the decision makers and the executive bodies, regardless of their geographical location and ideology, the most hardly give up their authorities in the sphere of economy and finances and unwillingly delegate their authority over material resources. We and our community see it, therefore we tend that in our economic self-government, when the law will be implemented, the national council will make an influence on the engagement of resources at disposal in favour of this national minority as much as possible. I think it is a marginal thing how can a sub-system program comply with the expectations of coalition partners, as we are in a coalition. It is less

important nowadays, because our program was not made for one mandate period nor to gain power, but it was made for the survival of this national minority without assimilation and emigration. We have partly created the elements of the future sub-system, the centres and offices. We have offices and institutions for the development of SMEs, for regional development and we are of the opinion that establishing such institutions is not a complex problem. The real question is how to get the resources and the type of discrimination alluded by Mr Chair, so how to eliminate it, when we know that 63% of the Hungarians live in agrarian regions. In agriculture, in the supply of materials and sales through 5 agents who hold monopoly, inherited from the previous regime, and indeed they are those who take that part of the national income, I have already mentioned. We have difficulties also in the field of services. On the market of capital, we are not able to equally participate in privatisation. In this field, to my mind, the support of foreign partners and of the kin state is of pivotal importance. We do not have the necessary financial institutions and we miss them very much and if we want to create these institutions we must accept voluntarily another burden on the expense side. Luckily we did not have a Hungarian bank, so we do not have institutions under bankruptcy etc. Creating these institutions and their functioning will not go without additional expenses and that is what I call expenses, and for sure, we will have to create it additionally but it should be done within the local governments so that the utilisation of these resources at disposal is transparent. This region is not a poor region. I have to refer to the great Hungarian scholar, István Széchenyi who in his book Credit on page 41 says: " We are poorer than we should have been as to our property and rich is a man, who uses his resources wisely". Should we create conditions to wisely utilise our resources? I would not deal now with the consequences of plunder during the previous regime because it affects other nations as well who live with us, but we are very much affected by it as well as by the bad centralisation so typical in this region. The territorial organisation of this region or Vojvodina is neither rational nor optimal. And as I said, it

affects us more because Hungarians are mostly settled in agrarian regions. Small municipalities with 15 000 inhabitants do not have the same chances neither in business nor in economy as do municipalities with 150 000 inhabitants. The second problem that affects the Hungarians is the issue of districts. These districts do not comply with the requirements and interest of regionalisation, because they were artificially created as some statistical regions, marketing structures for the authority of the previous regime. Decentralisation today is understood by some as the dislocation of tasks and problems to municipalities with as scarce funds as possible. This also affects our life and we want to improve the situation. Therefore, we want to develop local initiatives. NGOs are fairly strong. The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians advocates the setting up and development of mechanisms for the protection of economic interests of persons belonging to our community, and I know, it is instantly given an ethnic feature when a minority governing structure takes over the role of the advocate of protecting economic interest of ethnic groups, both consumers and producers. We think that in the future region of Danube-Kires-Mures-Tisza, along the border, on the other side, in some local governments 25% of the entrepreneurs are Yugoslav, not only Hungarians. These Yugoslav went to Hungary in the early 1990s. The mentioned regional cooperation offers the possibility to take advantage of it. The institutions that we created and their functioning have the aim to prepare our community for applying for funds at foreign donors, for estimating our resources and offering them to foreign partners. Surely, we are limited by the regulations. Lets say, the Law on Spatial Planning, in which nothing is planned for small regions. We are of the opinion that small regions should be developed. We think that our participation in the government is good, - and this is not an advertisement, - but sometimes, because of our participation in high level decision making we put aside decisions on small regions. It is a very difficult task to synchronise the tasks, but we are working on it and we think we have sufficient manpower to resolve it.

Thank You.

Jon Cizmas:

*The Romanians in Serbia
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

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Thank You Mr Chair! Ladies and Gentlemen!
Dear Representatives of the great family of European nations! I am honoured to greet you on behalf of the Romanian community in Yugoslavia.

And now, allow me to greet you all in my native language.
I meant by speaking Romanian that now I am enjoying my constitutional right to use my native

language in Vojvodina, in the Republic of Serbia and Yugoslavia. I want to say, that the Romanian Community in Yugoslavia contributed to the ousting of dictatorship in Serbia and Yugoslavia and therefore the representatives of minorities became part of the team that creates and puts down the foundation of a democratic and more civilised Serbia. I am the member of the Committee for Interethnic Relations in the Parliament of Serbia and also the governor of the South Banat District, one of the greatest districts in the Republic of Serbia. The democratic power of the Republic of Serbia and Yugoslavia makes efforts to create a civil society and the foundations for the democratisation of society has already been laid down. I will speak about the Romanian national minority. According to the last census from 1991, according to the official data there were over 42 000 Romanians, but we are of the opinion, that this year the number will be more significant, because those who once identified themselves as Yugoslavs now have the courage to declare themselves Romanians. On the other hand, we have a crucial problem within the Romanian national community, namely the problem of identity in one part of the community those who declare themselves as Vlachs or did not have the courage to declare themselves as Romanians and they are to be considered as persons belonging to Romanian national minority. The Romanian Community in Yugoslavia welcomes the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Minority Rights and we are of the opinion that the implementation of this law in everyday life is very important. The most important thing is the creation of national councils that will take over the responsibility for the development and solution of the problems of

national minorities in Yugoslavia and Serbia. On the other hand, we are of the standpoint that the process of decentralisation and de-concentration of authority is of pivotal importance because economic aspects of development should be created in those parts of the country, especially in local governments where persons belonging to national minority live. You are well aware of the fact that the Law on Local Governments has been adopted and its implementation will soon start. We think that this law will solve a number of elementary developmental issues including the rights and obligations of national minorities. It is ahead of the Romanian Community in Yugoslavia to solve the problem of organising along the line of religion. Over the last 20 years more than 13 schools were closed. According to our analyses as well as possibilities, we would now open schools in Romanian in those regions where Romanian national community lives in significant number. The next important thing, not only for the Romanian national minority but for all minorities, is the return of nationalised and confiscated property. We are of the opinion that it belongs to the posterity, more precisely to us because our ancestors built the buildings that were nationalised. On the other hand it is essential from the cultural and historical point of view that we can enter our foundations or buildings that were built by our ancestors. I agree that regional cooperation is very important especially if it is within the Danube-Tiszka-Mures-Kires Euroregion because our co-operation with other national minorities, not only in Vojvodina and Serbia but also in other countries will contribute to better understanding and solution of the common problems. Thank You.

Julijan Tamas:

*Association of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Yugoslavia
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me to remind you that I am one of the founders, and was for two mandates the president of the Association Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Yugoslavia and also the author of scientifically well founded books Ruthenian Literature, History and Status - two editions - , Gavrilo Kosternik between the Doctrine and Nature, published 1986 and Ruski Krstur: A Chronicle and History 1985-1991 . In these books I deal with the self, identity and tradition of Ruthenians in Vojvodina and Central Europe. I reminded you of these facts so if someone is specially interested in this field, s/he can refer to these wider explanations. For two and a half centuries, a phenomenon has been living on the south of Hungary and Vojvodina

respectively, not only as a recidiva of the historical past but also as a living reality. All over this period the wandering and classification of their identity and belonging has been going on. Are they a separate historical - though not state constituent - nation or are they part of the Ukrainian nation. Sounds like the issue of Bunjevac and Croats. My answer is as follows: Ruthenians are a regional identity of the Ukrainian nation like the Provencal and French, Latin and Italians, old and modern Greeks. Consequently, they are and they are not Ukrainians because linguistic differences are indisputable and this is the basis of the international protection of minority rights. At the same time, they are historically a completely legible community, a

destiny in Central Europe and Vojvodina. My standpoint is scientifically undeniable though it always challenges those who base their right to identity on emotions and political reasons according to which an individual can identify him/herself, as s/he likes it. Yet, it does not mean that s/he can escape from things that were historically determined to a community. I keep on arguing that the Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Vojvodina are two aspect of a diaspora and not two national minorities and this does not deny the necessity of protecting and maintaining of both linguistic traditions. According to the new Law on the Protection of National Minorities, it is not crucial whether there will be two national councils or just one. Here I would add a verbal footnote. Those well informed know that over the last ten years there has been a project, an effort to integrate the Ruthenians in Central Europe into a Ruthenian nation with one language. I myself as a Ruthenian am not against this project if I would have believed that this would not be a utopia but something viable. I think it will be hard to accomplish such a projects and this is proved by the last ten years, because the Ruthenians are small communities in a number of countries. In some places there are only a few of them, in others their number is more significant. They are the most significant in Poland. In Lenka there are about 150 000 Ruthenians while in the Ukraine - together with those integrated in Ukrainians - their number could reach about a million. I would naturally like that their number reaches a million, but unless a concrete census is done we will not know precise figure and I am afraid that if a census is done, the results will be disappointing for the idea of integrating the Ruthenians into one nation. It means, it would have been a tough work to create the Ruthenian state on the territory of a number of central European countries. Neither is the job easier in respect of the language, because there is the so called Lower Ruthenian spoken here in the Backa and the Upper Ruthenian spoken on the territory of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. It should finally be mapped which dialects are closer to Upper Ruthenian and which are based on the linguistic system closer to eastern Slav family of languages. The Lower Ruthenian is closer to western Slav linguistic tradition. So the linguistic integration will also be a slow and complex process. Of course, everyone chooses the project of one's own, mobilises energy and thinks that it is needed. My personal standpoint was, as I have already said and I can only wish luck for such projects. Let me continue with my thesis. For me it is more fundamental whether there is sufficient will to implement the formulations and solutions of the law. On the level of declarations, we had good solutions so far that could have been implemented but were bypassed frequently in the sense that everybody has the right to work, but it does not mean that everybody works, or to put it in the Orwellian manner: all animals are equal but there are animals who are more equal. Without political and social will for the implementation

and without the necessary financial support of the state, to support the rights in the professional sense, this law will be just a set of empty words on a paper. Like it or not, we live in a poor society and the self-financing of the minority means the fading of their cultural and national life and we have been the eyewitnesses of this for the last decade. So, minorities more precisely Ruthenians and Ukrainians but also the other minorities in Vojvodina are economically inferior regardless their high educational rating. Lets put it straight: where the money and the political power are, there are no persons belonging to minorities. Secondly, minority identity cannot be degraded to the right to an amateur performance of songs in native language and of dances. The birds and the bears also enjoy this right. The crucial thing is the defence of the minority identity that enables the continuation of cultural amateurism, internationally relevant professionalism in science and culture. This is the only way minorities can be equal with the majority nation in creative fields. The new Law on the Protection of Minority Rights had already been adopted, when the Ministry of Sciences in Serbia allocated one, I underline: a single one, project for the four departments of minorities at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad where there are 50 MAs and PhDs. It means that all those who deal with the issue of minorities in Vojvodina are financed for their researches for two or three months, while the projects of the majority nation lasts six to eight research months at the same Faculty. In order to create a more complex situation, the project was refused as not well founded because it is interdisciplinary. Interdisciplinarity is more complex than a single professional profile and the whole team is incompetent, and at the end of the story in the presence of the present minister, Mr Domazet, it was ascertained that the competency indexes were wrong and as such stored in the computer. Instead of apology - in the world it would mean the resignation of the minister - the mentioned charity was awarded to the project in an amount three times lesser than for other projects. A repeated mistake becomes a policy, gentlemen, a policy that is directly in contradiction with the words and spirit of the law we are discussing today. To make the story more indicative, my colleagues belonging to minority communities - though they were humiliated both as scientists and human with regard to colleagues with the same title at the same faculty but belonging to the majority - decided to keep silent because of opportunism or fear from reprisal in the forthcoming years. The Milosevic regime abolished the literal life of minority. Does it mean now that the DOS - regime will abolish the scientific life of minorities? Nobody from us wants it, but what are we doing in this respect? Are we for equality only in story-telling and not in reality? What meaning does it have in the political sense when the law emphasises that the volume of implemented minority rights should not and shall not be decreased? Whose interest is this? That is my question.

Ladies and Gentlemen! I think it is my responsibility, as an intellectual in minority status to draw your attention to the problems of certain hypocrisy in the field of minority policy, not because I want to make some trouble to the new government but because I want to support real changes in favour of the new government and the minority - meaning creative - communities themselves. Though such attempts have already forced me to exile during the last decade two

times, in 1993 and in 2000. I hope I will not have to leave the country for the third time. As a metaphysician and a melancholic man, I am fully aware that man fulfils his destiny and does not govern it. I would like to comfort you with the verses of Dragutin Tadijanovic, an excellent poet of our hosts:

"When we will not be anymore,
the sun will still shine above the fields".
Thank you.

Martin Ispanovic:

*Government of Hungary
at the 47th Congress of Nationalallities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

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Mr President!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me to most sincerely greet all the participants of the Conference and to thank the organisers for inviting me. As the representative of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities of the Government of Hungary, which Office monitors the status of minority, I would like to address the positive role of the national and ethnic minorities in the cooperation of the Republic of Hungary with neighbouring countries. Also, the bilateral minority cooperation of our country with the neighbouring states. At the very beginning I would emphasise that Hungary has a special interest in mutual co-operation with the neighbouring countries as well as in the cooperation of minority communities. If we look at our neighbouring countries, we can conclude that there are persons belonging to Hungarian community and also that in Hungary there are minorities who are linked to the majority nations of the neighbouring countries. If we add that the greatest number of Hungarians outside Hungary live in the border regions, the importance of mutual cooperation becomes easily comprehensible for everyone. National and ethnic minorities who live in Hungary have considerable tradition and hundred years old history. The specificity of national and ethnic minorities is also that they are comprised of settled national groups who have lived in coexistence with the Hungarians and other minorities for hundreds of years. These national groups nowadays live mostly dispersed all over the country and represent only the minority of the inhabitants in settlements. Yet, there is a smaller number of settlements where persons belonging to minority make the majority of the inhabitants even nowadays. The Constitution of the Republic of Hungary recognises that the national and ethnic minorities living on the territory of Hungary are state constituent factors. It also recognizes their right to maintain culture, use of native language and education in native language and the right to

use their names in their native language and their collective participation in the public life are also granted. The Hungarian Parliament has adopted the Law on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities as early as 1993. The aim of the Law on Minorities is to create such conditions that enable the hindrance of assimilation of the minorities and the strengthening of their identity. The Law identifies 13 minorities who are under the accepted conditions in Hungary recognised as autochthonous minorities. This Law is valid only for those national minorities that are autochthonous and whose members have the citizenship of Hungary. The Law emphasises the right to national and ethnic identity, belonging to the native region and free maintenance of relations with the kin states and nations, protection from assimilation as well as the right to establish local and nation-wide governments. An important, basic principle is that besides individual rights, the Law includes collective rights of the minority communities as well. Article 14 grants the individual rights of the persons belonging to minority group on maintaining relations with the kin state and its social institutions as well as with the peoples who use the same language used by the given minority and also, with minorities living in other states. Among the collective rights, Article 19 of the Law stipulates that minorities and their organisations have the right to build up and maintain wider international connections. So, the Law offers a wider range of cooperation and includes not only the cooperation of the minority and its kin state, but also the links among the minority communities that belong to the same linguistic and cultural heritage. For us Croats living in Hungary, this is of pivotal importance as it enables cooperation with all the autochthonous communities living in Europe. The Croat nation-wide government organised the Forum of Croat Youth from Central Europe in Budapest in April. By ratifying the Framework Convention of the European Union, Hungary has accepted that the building of connections of the



The conference also focused on the Regional Diversity of Minorities in the Vojvodina and the Legal Aspects of Minority Protection in Yugoslavia, Croatia, Hungary and Romania. During a round table discussion chaired by Dr Florian BIEBER from the European Centre for Minority Issues cross-border cooperation was elucidated using the examples of Yugoslavia (Rasim LJAJIC), Hungary (Martin ISPANOVICS), Romania (Ovidiu GANT) and Croatia (Mila SIMIC). The President of the FUEN Committee, the minority delegate of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein Ms Renate SCHNACK, also took part in this discussion and took the opportunity to present the FUEN Committee which was formed in 2000.
F.l.t.r.: Ispanovics, Bieber, Ulrich Bohner (Council of Europe), Schnack, Gant and below Simic.

minorities with the kin states will not be hindered, i.e. that they can freely cooperate with individuals and organisations who have the same national, cultural, linguistic and confessional identity and common cultural heritage. The Minority Law grants the minority governments the right to cooperate with social institutions and organisations outside their country. A recent questionnaire made by a group of experts' shows that the building and maintaining of links with the kin state appears as one of the most important tasks of the minority governments. Owing to positive legal background and to the intensive work of the minority governments and NGOs, the relations of minorities to the kin states have been strengthened in the past few years in various forms. We can mention the educational and cultural cooperation between schools and cultural groups, twin or partner towns and settlements as well as the business contacts of entrepreneurs. Signed agreements include the interest of minority communities as well. It was so during the conclusion of the agreement between Novi Sad and Pecs, signed this year. Among the good practices is the initiative of the Slovakian minority government, which organises each year the Forum of Entrepreneurs from Slovakia and Hungary. An important role was played by the local governments and local minority communities in opening new border crosses. These new crosses have to a great extent facilitated the everyday

cooperation of the regions along the borders. The relations between churches gain more and more important role in the cooperation of minority communities. In Hungary, owing to the democratic changes, the confessional activities of the minorities are intensified. Yet, we do not have a sufficient number of priests who speak minority languages. The church authorities of the kin states support their minority, send priests and take part in the religious holidays. Last week, the Croat and the Slovak Archbishops, Josip Bozanic and Jan Sokol visited Hungary at the same time. Archbishop Bozanic served mass in Gy_r on the joint pilgrimage of the Gradiste Croats from three neighbouring countries, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, while Archbishop Sokol was the guest of the Slovak village Mlinki, close to Budapest. There was also a conference on the topic of religion under the auspices of the Hungarian and Slovak Bishopric Conference. Since the democratic changes, the Hungarian government made efforts to build friendly relations and good cooperation with the kin states of minorities living in the country. This is proved by the signed bilateral agreements. When drafting the agreements, Hungary endeavoured to take into consideration the grants for minority protection as well. In some cases the stipulations on the protection of minorities are integrated in the so called basic agreements, as with Slovakia, Romania while with other countries special agreements were signed on the protection of

minorities, and these countries are the Ukraine, Slovenia, Germany, Croatia. In accordance with the stipulations of the agreement mixed committees were established that discuss the topical issues of minorities and evaluate the implementation of the obligations from the agreement. Between Hungary and Yugoslavia the negotiations on signing the agreement on the protection of minorities are in process and this agreement will hopefully in a satisfactory manner regulate the minority cooperation of the governments. We also know that the governments of the central and south European region are in different stages of accession to the European Union. We should be prepared to the times, when Hungary will be the member and it will create a new situation in the field of contacts with the kin states. We should be prepared for these changes in due course of time in favour of the given minorities and Hungarian communities outside the border of Hungary so that we have the possibility of maintaining the versatile and precious content of the connections and simultaneously, enhance regional cooperation. The mentioned trends of developing cooperation among the states of our region, the Euro-Atlantic integration and the regulation of the protection of national and ethnic minorities according to European standards, are not a contradiction but they mutually strengthen each other. We hope

that the recognition of this fact is in the interest of all European countries and that it will be in the favour of all of us. In a favourable political environment, where the rights of national and ethnic minorities are granted and implemented, we can be convinced that the democracy to be built will be real and supported by all social actors. The Government of the Republic of Hungary aims at creating such an environment that is favourable for minorities and where citizens belonging to a minority freely enjoy their rights granted by the law. Maintaining minority culture means not only a task stemming from internationally binding obligations but also arises as the national interest of the Hungarian State. As we see it, the existence and the activities of the minorities do not threaten the security of our countries and the region; on the contrary, we count on it that minorities will contribute to the stronger tightening of cultural and economic links of our countries. We encourage minorities to build cross border contacts, to become bridges between peoples of diverse culture but also a link with kin states and communities. The recognition of the human and minority rights of national and ethnic minorities, their widely accepted role in international relations as bridges between nations will to a great extent influence the creation of a stable and democratic Europe.

Ovidiu Gant:

Government of Romania

*Evolution of the national minorities' protection system between 2001 and 2002
at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002*

ENGLISH

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Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am really pleased to join you today at the 47th FUEN-Congress on Nationalities in Subotica. I would like to thank our hosts for their invitation to address such a distinguished audience. I will refer in the following minutes to the evolution of the protection for national minorities in Romania between 2001 – 2002, from the point of view of the Romanian Government.

Between 2001 and 2002, improvement and update of the Romanian system of national minorities' protection were patterns of an ongoing process. The Department for Inter-ethnic Relations (DIR) of the Ministry of Public Information has been one of the main promoters and performers of such an evolution.

Outstanding progress has been made with regard to the legislation regulating human rights and national minorities' rights, particularly as concerns related institutional networking and

promotion of specific policies and programmes, meant to ensure a real protection for this category, which amounts to over 10% of Romania's population.

Development of the legislative framework

In April 2001, the **Law on local public administration** was adopted, establishing a series of measures concerning national minorities. Thus, in those territorial administrative units where inhabitants belonging to national minorities represent at least 20% of the total population, decisions of the local council shall also be brought to the notice of inhabitants in the language of those minorities. Also, in their relations with the authorities and staff of the local public administration, inhabitants belonging to national minorities may also communicate with them orally and in writing in their mother tongue. Also, Local Councils shall hold their meetings in the respective language, while the locality shall bear a bilingual name. Applications submitted in writing shall be accompanied by an authenticated



Ovidiu Gant

Romanian translation. Where the representative of the public authority or the official does not understand the minority language concerned an interpreter shall be used.

After the adoption of the Government Ordinance no 137 on Preventing and Sanctioning All Forms of Discrimination in September 2001, the *Department for Inter-ethnic Relations* supported its validation by both chambers of the Parliament with specific data and reliable argumentation. **Law no 48 for the approval of the Government Ordinance 137 on Preventing and Sanctioning All Forms of Discrimination** entered into force in January 2002, with no major changes compared to the original text. The new regulation approximates Romanian legislation with the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin and the Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. Hence Romania adopted the latest international standards and fulfilled one of the conditions required by the accession to the European Union in the field. Focusing on implementation is the issue to be further dealt with.

In March 2002 the Government issued the **Emergency Ordinance no 31 prohibiting the activity of organisations and respectively the display of symbols with fascist, racist and xenophobic character and the worship of persons guilty of committing crimes against peace and mankind**. The document includes

definitions of the organisation with fascist, racist and xenophobic character, of symbols with fascist, racist and xenophobic character, and of the person guilty of committing crimes against peace and mankind, stipulates cases of law infringement and contravention, and sets the applicable sanctions. Accordingly the Public Ministry can proceed to dissolving the legal entities performing activities or displaying symbols with fascist, racist and xenophobic character, or promoting the worship of persons guilty of committing crimes against peace and mankind, and the fascist, racist and xenophobic ideologies through propaganda. Public administration authorities shall neither build up statues, statuary places or memorials to commemorate persons guilty of committing crimes against peace and mankind, nor assign the name of such a person to any public place or organisation.

At that time the Government also approved a decision for the **amendment of the regulations on the description and use of the national flag, anthem and seal bearing the coat of arms**, allowing to national minorities the use of their own symbols at official gatherings.

Also in March 2002 the Government issued the **Emergency Ordinance regulating the right to property of the Federation of the Jewish Communities from Romania** over Mosaic places for worship, cemeteries and other assets. The document stipulates that the assets of a significant value for the history, the culture and the universal and national civilisation are integral part of the national cultural heritage, and are to be considered historical monuments or, if the case, assets belonging to the national cultural estate heritage. At the advice of the Mosaic representatives, places for worship, baths, ritual abattoirs and any other Mosaic real estates will be built up and restored, provided that traditions and specific rules of this religion, as well as legal provisions are observed. According to each case, infringement of its provisions involves civil, administrative, material, disciplinary, contravention or penal responsibility. Total or partial wrecking, degrading or bringing to a state of uselessness, as well as desecrating the respective estates are considered law violations and shall be sanctioned according to the Criminal Code. Contravention in terms of the ordinance shall be sanctioned as such. The adoption of this regulation brought progress to the reconstruction of the right to property over community and clerical assets belonging to national minorities.

The framework for the restoration of community assets will be further developed throughout 2002.

At the beginning of 2002, the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations took specific action towards the ratification of the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**, an important legal instrument that the Council of Europe adopted with regard to the protection of

national minorities. Romania signed the European Charter in 1995. Up to now, consultation with member organisations of the Council of National Minorities was held in order to help the forthcoming drafting partnership between the Ministry of Public Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to the law for the ratification of the European Charter. A seminar on this subject will be held in May, in Bucharest, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, as an activity of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The Collaboration Protocol between the Social Democrat Party (SDP) and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (DUHR) was renewed in 2002 to further continue and support the national policy for the protection of national minorities in Romania. Also this document makes reference at the ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

The Law on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries gave rise to discussion also in Romania. All aspects related to its appliance were clarified and brought to a solution through bilateral negotiations between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which led to a Memorandum of Understanding. For Romania the document sets up exception from certain provisions of the Hungarian law, considered as extraterritorial and discriminatory. Representatives of the DUHR are also members of the commission that carries out the supervision of the territorial appliance of the Memorandum. The signature of the Memorandum eliminated a source of conflict and reached the idea of developing a more pragmatic system of intergovernmental co-operation, in which case Romania is a role model for the countries in the region.

Institutional framework

The governmental body in charge with national minorities' issues, once re-organised as the **Department for Inter-ethnic Relations** within the Ministry of Public Information, continued the promotion of specific programmes with focus on enhancing understanding between majority and minorities. Another priority of the DIR is the social inclusion of Roma, therefore finding solution to problems this minority encounter is the reason for strengthening the **National Office for Roma (NOR)** within the DIR. The NOR is headed by one of the vice-presidents of the Roma Party and doubled the number of its staff.

During 2001 the **Council of National Minorities (CNM)** was re-organised as the main partner of the DIR. Thus the Governmental Decision 589 of 2001 establishes the CNM as a consultative body of the Government, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Public Information. The normative act establishes that all issues related to national

minorities shall be addressed to the minister for discussion in the Government meetings. Therefore participation of national minorities' organisations in the decision-making process is ensured at executive level.

Accordingly, the Council of National Minorities takes up activity in trimestrial plenary sessions, as well as in working sessions. The normative act regulating the organisation and operation of the CNM was amended in November 2001, enhancing the responsibilities that the body carries out. As a result, six working commissions (namely the Commission for Legislation, the Commission for Social and Economic Issues, the Commission for Culture, Cults and Media, the Commission for Education and Youth, the Commission for Civil Society and International Bodies and the Commission for Financial Issues) are operational at the moment and have a consultative role in discussing law drafts or promoting joint programmes.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Public Information, the Government approved the Decision no 1194 for the organisation and operation of the **National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD)** in November 2001. The NCCD shall play a role in implementing the principle of equality between citizens without discrimination as stipulated by the Ordinance no 137 of 2000 on Preventing and Sanctioning All Forms of Discrimination. The NCCD has own budgetary funds starting with 2002 and shall become operational once management and headquarters are established. Among others, the NCCD will carry out activities to combat discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, education, health, employment, or public services.

At this stage, the Ministry of Public Information collects proposals from the ministries with regard to the assigning of the offices of member, then the Prime Minister shall decide upon the final structure.

Policies and programmes

The Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations aimed, throughout 2001 and in the first part of 2002, to develop concrete programmes. Special attention was therefore given to the enforcement of the strategy for the Roma, to the promotion of intercultural dialogue by organising or supporting inter-ethnic projects, as well as to the co-operation with various international bodies.

The 19 organisations members of the Council of National Minorities benefited in 2001 from a total amount of lei 90 billion (\$3,000,000) from the state budget, so as to properly function and develop programmes aiming at the maintenance of their respective mother tongues, traditions and cultures. The budget for programmes that was earmarked for the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations amounted to approx. lei 4 billion (\$

133,000); a special line of projects for combating racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance was added to it (lei 0.8 billion, approx. \$ 27,000), as well as a line for co-financing the Phare programme for the Roma (lei 1,2 billion, approx. \$40,000).

For 2002, the state support the state is structured as follows: for the administration and activities of CNM organisations – lei 126,5 billion (\$ 3,8 million); as far as the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations is concerned, the following amounts have been earmarked: lei 4,4 billion (\$ 133,000) for inter-ethnic programmes and lei 2.7 billion (\$ 80,000) for programmes to combat racial or ethnic discrimination.

Following the adoption of the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Roma Situation in the previous year, the Ministry of Public Information focused on setting up the framework for its implementation and monitoring: specialised structures have been established at the level of ministries, prefectures and mayoralties, where Roma personnel were compulsorily employed. In order to evaluate the emergencies that have to be solved within Roma communities, joint working groups made up of representatives of county offices, representatives of NGOs, as well as representatives of Roma associations in each area. All Roma personnel in these structures went through training courses and seminars last year. Also, most county offices for the Roma were endowed with electronic equipment.

The National Office for the Roma maintained a close collaboration with all institutions, by organising trimestrial meetings with the members of the Joint Committee for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy, made up of secretaries of state and representatives of Roma organisations.

A series of sub-programmes corresponding to certain issues in the strategy have simultaneously started. Thus, the Ministry of Health and the Family in partnership with Romani Criss develops a programme for training sanitary mediators – a new profession in Romania – aiming at improving the general state of health in Roma communities. A similar programme is developed by the Ministry of Education and Research, where a programme for training school mediators is under way, as well as other projects, such as: a strategy for diminishing the number of Roma pupils dropping out of school, a study regarding the establishing of several institutions of primary, secondary or professional education for the Roma. Also, in accordance with one of the points in the strategy, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Interior so that throughout 2002, a number of 100 policemen will be employed from Roma communities. A series of cultural or informative programmes were initiated with the help of institutions with attributes in the field. Among these, worth mentioning is the weekly one-hour

broadcast in the Romani language on Channel 2 of the Romanian National Television.

Simultaneously, the National Office for the Roma continued the implementation of the Phare RO9803.01 programme aiming at the improvement of the Roma situation, programme that benefited from an overall financing of approx. 11 MEURO. The programme focused on two directions: substantiating the costs involved by the implementation of the national strategy for the Roma, spaced out on 10 years; and the development of a series of pilot-projects aiming at the improvement of partnerships among institutions, local authorities and Roma organisations. The amount earmarked for these projects – 900,000 EURO – is currently used for financing the 40 proposals selected out of the over 300 received and judged. Multiplication of those pilot-projects with positive results will follow the evaluation of the pilot-projects.

Taking into account the fact that the first Phare project for the Roma proved itself useful, increasing the interest and coherence in the approach of the Roma situation, but also the impossibility to solve their problems without international support, the National Office for the Roma elaborated a proposal for a new Phare project, which would develop one of the points in the National Strategy – the National Plan for Local Development of Roma Communities. The proposal entails financing in amount of approx. 11 MEURO.

Throughout 2001, the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations joined several important European programmes and ideas, as follows:

Within the *European Year of Languages – 2001* (a campaign taking place in 45 European countries), Romania organised seminars for teachers, local authorities, published various books, theatrical performances, youth camps. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the international seminar “Plurilinguism and education”.

Through the Department of Inter-Ethnic Relations, Romania takes part in several programmes developed in the framework of the Stability Pact, Working Table 1, (Reviewing anti-discrimination legislation, programme co-ordinated by the Council of Europe; the Link Diversity Campaign, which attracted numerous proposals for projects and for which a secretariat and a National Organising Committee were created). Romania's experience in the field of inter-ethnic relations becomes increasingly recognised, not only by countries in the area of the Stability Pact, but also by other European states taking part in the programme. Participation in the Stability Pact is considered to be an important test in Romania's accession to the EU, even if it doesn't involve large financing. In this respect, Romania becomes increasingly both a donor country and an expertise provider.

Another concrete line of activity of the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations consists of preventing and combating discrimination. While supporting the approval by Parliament of Government's Ordinance 137 on preventing and combating all forms of discrimination, representatives of the Department took an active part in the sessions of the Working Committees of the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, South Africa, 2001. In January 2002 the Ministry of Public Information was invited to participate – through the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations - in the Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination (2001 – 2002); the activities will start in 2002.

Following the adoption of the new **Law on local public administration** no 215/2001, the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations supported its enforcement, conveying a series of documents (the list of counties where inhabitants belonging to a national minority represent more than 20% of the total population, the list of names – as translated in the respective mother tongue - of localities where inhabitants belonging to a national minority represent more than 20% of the total population, the list of the territorial-administrative units where inhabitants belonging to a national minority represent more than 20% of the total population) to the Ministry of Public Administration.

In order to eliminate sources of discrimination in the field of education, such as ensuring necessary textbooks, the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations decided to finance the publication of such textbooks for schools with teaching in minority languages from its own budget, the chapter referring to combating racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance. Several such titles will be published in 2002, with an expected continuation of the programme in the following years. Meanwhile, talks are conducted with the Ministry of Education and Research and with the specialised commissions in Parliament for compensating the acute lack of textbooks from primary and secondary schools with teaching in the languages of national minorities.

International co-operation was dynamic and diversified in 2001, and it may increase in 2002. The co-operation with the Council of Europe is very effective, as shown by the development of three projects together with the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations in 2002. Besides the programmes organised and developed within European initiatives, numerous reports, answers and comments were completed at the request of various international bodies.

In the context of the preparations for Romania's accession to the EU, the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations takes part in several programmes co-ordinated by the Ministry of European Integration, since evolutions in the field of minority

protection are considered in the chapter "Political Criteria". Moreover, in 2001-2002, the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations contributed to the negotiations for Chapter 13, "Social Policy and Employment", where combating discrimination still represents an important issue. The Department is also present at all meetings of Sub-committee 7, referring to the same chapter.

In December 2001 a common statement of national minorities was adopted, through which the organisations of national minorities underline their support for Romania's accession to the EU.

At the level of the Department of Inter-Ethnic Relations, a series of meetings with representatives of European institutions were organised, among which meetings with Hans Peter Furrer, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, with Mr. Klaus Schumann, with members of the delegation from the ECRI of the Council of Europe, with the new OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, with representatives of the governments of Germany and the former Yugoslav Republic. Contacts and collaboration with the UNDP mission in Romania, with the British Council, the French Institute, the German foundations Hanns Seidel and Konrad Adenauer, the German and Austrian embassies, made possible the development of various collaboration projects in the field of national minorities.

Maintaining and developing relations with various partners in Romania, especially with the organisations of citizens belonging to national minorities also represented a constant preoccupation of the Department. Collaboration with such partners as the Intercultural Institute in Timisoara, the Ethno-Cultural Diversity Resource Centre in Cluj, the Euro-regional Centre for Democracy in Timisoara, the Centre for Legal Resources in Bucharest and many others proved to be extremely rewarding.

The main programmes promoted by the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations were also made public by means of the specialised discussion group NATMINET, as well as by means of the electronic publications VOLUNTAR (edited by CSDF) and DIVERS (edited by Mediafax).

To conclude this first part allow me please to quote the 2001 European Commission Regular Report on Romania's Progress towards Accession, according to which "positive developments took place during the reporting period in the area of minorities rights and protection of minorities".

Before closing, let me say few words about multinational cross-border co-operation. At present, Romania is member of several euroregions and I mention here the Carpathian Euroregion, the Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion, as well as

the Lower Danube Euroregion.

Considered as a real model of regional development in Central and Eastern Europe, the Carpathian Euroregion was the first euroregion created exclusively from regions of the former Eastern countries, with no participation of any EU member state. At the moment, the Carpathian Euroregion is rearranging its priorities from the promotion of constructive dialogue through cultural events, fairs and exhibitions towards concrete and feasible projects with impact in the economic field. Also, a strategy for development was established as the objective of a project meant to approach an economic dimension by developing commercial relations in the region and to strengthen co-operation at local administration level.

Co-operation within the Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion has continuously focused on programmes for enhancing and upgrading economic partnerships, transport and communications infrastructure, the protection of the environment, tourism, science and culture,

education, health and sports of the member countries at regional level.

Also the Lower Danube Euroregion was created in order to stimulate the development of member regions through cross-border co-operation by promoting concrete action-oriented economic, scientific, ecological, educational and cultural programmes. Following the Lower Danube Euroregion initiative, an agreement for setting up the Upper Prut Euroregion has been reached as part of the high-priority objectives for Romania's co-operation with Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Above all, Romania is aware of the role multinational cross-border co-operation plays in the integration process, therefore promoting European standards at all levels in an euroregional area is a notable asset for Romania's accession to the EU.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Thank you very much and allow me to say that this conference will prove to be a real success.

Mila Simic:

Government of Croatia

at the 47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 10 May 2002

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Dear Mr President!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great pleasure and honour that I can greet you on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and I sincerely thank the organisers of this Conference. The Republic of Croatia regulated the status of national minorities by its Constitution, Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms, the rights of ethnic, national communities and minorities and by two especially important laws that refer to the implementation of cultural autonomy, and these are the Law on Education in the Languages of Minorities and on the Official Use of the Languages of National Communities and Minorities. In the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia it is stipulated that the Republic of Croatia is established as the national state of the Croat people and persons belonging to 10 autochthonous national minorities as: Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians, Jews, Austrian, Ukrainians and Ruthenians as well as others who are citizens of the state. In the normative part of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia all national minorities are granted the equality. Equal status and the protection of the rights of national minorities is regulated also by the constitutional law. Beyond general electoral rights, persons

belonging to national minorities are given the option of a special right to elect their representatives in the Croat Sabor. Freedoms of expressing national identity, free use of native language and writing, cultural autonomy. In the Republic of Croatia the official language in use is Croat and the Latin writing but other languages and writings, like Cyrillic, can be introduced under the conditions stipulated by the Law. The stipulation that besides general electoral rights, persons belonging to minority can be granted a special right by a law to elect their representatives in the Croatian Parliament was included in the Constitution in 2000. This stipulation is of fundamental importance from the aspect of granting and ensuring the political rights of national minorities in Croatia, because national minorities are recognised, besides the electoral right another special minority electoral right on the constitutional-legal level, which stipulates the principle of positive discrimination in favour of the national minorities. In 1991, the Republic of Croatia among the first ones in the central European states in transition adopted a special Law regulating the status of national minorities. This is a constitutional law on the human rights and freedoms and right of ethnic national communities and minorities. According to the last modification of this constitutional law,

because it has undergone several amendments, the equal status of 22 national minorities is being protected, so for all those who have nationally identified themselves during the last census in 1991. In the preamble of the constitutional law the wish has been expressed that by its adoption the rights of the human and the national minorities are protected and granted at a highest possible level. That the citizens in their enjoyment of their civil, political and other rights will not be divided on the base of their nationality, language, religion, inherited or naturally conditioned human features. According to the constitutional law, the Republic of Croatia supports the development of relationship between the minorities and the peoples living in their kin state in order to enhance their national, cultural and linguistic development. National minorities enjoy the right of self-organisation and association in order to implement their national and other interest, they have the right to cultural autonomy, and the Republic of Croatia is obliged to ensure the full respect of the principle of non-discrimination, the right to protection from any activity that can or could jeopardise their existence, right to identity, culture, religion, public and private use of language and writing, education, protection of equal participation in public affairs and the right to decide which national minority one wants to belong to as well as the enjoyment of all rights in relation to this choice. The constitutional law also grants the freedom and possession of the use of minority signs and symbols while the statutes of the local governments can regulate the way of using national flags and symbols. Persons belonging to a national minority can freely organise their informative and publishing activity in their own native language and writing, can freely establish cultural and other societies to maintain their national and cultural identity. These associations are autonomous and the state and the bodies of the local government financially support their work within their possibilities. The Republic of Croatia protects the monuments and cultural heritage of the national minorities as an integral part of the overall cultural heritage of the Republic of Croatia. The constitutional law grants to persons belonging to national minority who are represented in the population of the Republic of Croatia with more than 8% the right of proportional representation in the Croatian Parliament - the Sabor - and the government of the Republic of Croatia and also in the bodies of the high court. Those minorities whose percentage is less than 8% have the right to elect minimum 5, maximum 7 representatives in the house of representatives in the Sabor, according to the law on the election of representatives in the Croatian Sabor. As I have said, the rights of minorities in the Republic of Croatia to cultural autonomy are granted by two laws, i.e. the Law on the Use of the Language and Writing of National Minorities and the Law on the Education in the Languages of Minorities. The latter one regulates the conditions of the official use of the language and the writing of national minorities and with it

grants its equal status with the Croat language and Latin writing. The implementation of these minority rights is delegated to the level of local and regional self-governments. In Croatia these are the municipalities, the towns and the counties, where the use of language and writing is of utmost importance in the everyday life of the persons belonging to minority. The equal official use of minority languages and writing is being implemented under the conditions as follows:

1. when persons belonging to a certain minority make the majority of the inhabitants in certain municipalities or towns,
2. when it is stipulated by international agreements which were signed by the Republic of Croatia
3. when it is stipulated in the statute of the municipality or the town and
4. when it is stipulated in the statute of the county where in certain municipalities and towns the minority language is in equal official use.

On the territory of a municipality, town or county the equal official use of the language and writing is implemented in the work of representative and executive bodies of the municipality, town or county, it is implemented in the procedures of the governing bodies of the municipality, town or county, in the procedures of the bodies of state administration of first level, in courts of a first instance, state prosecutors and attorneys of the first instance, notary public and legal subjects having civil authority. The equal official use of minority language and writing is introduced by the rule on the whole territory of the municipality or town. In municipalities, towns and counties where the language and writing of a national minority is in official use, the work of the municipal and town bodies and municipal and town authorities as well as county assemblies and authorities is done in Croat language and Latin writing and in the officially used language and the writing of the minority. In these municipalities, towns and counties the bi- or multilingual writing of texts, seals and stamps with the same font size is granted as well as the inscriptions of the representative executive and governing bodies of the municipality, town and county and the legal subjects having civil authority, and the writing of documents with the same font size. The delegate, member of the authority or the citizens has the right for bi- or multilingual documents from the meetings, protocols and decision and publishing official information and invitation. So, municipalities, towns and counties where the language and the writing of a national minority is in official use, will grant the right of the citizen to obtain civil documents and certificates in his/her native language and that forms used for official purposes are printed in two or more languages. The font sizes must be the same and also, traffic signs and

other signs with inscription in the traffic should be bilingual as well as the names of the streets and squares, settlement and geographic objects. State administration bodies, courts of the first instance, prosecutors, public attorneys of the first instance, public notaries and legal subjects have the right on the territory where besides the Croat language and Latin writing the language and the writing of the minority is in official use and they are also obliged, to inform the client on the right to use the language and writing of the national minority in the procedure and also to record in a protocol a statement which language will be used by the client during the procedure. They are also obliged to submit the client and other actors in the procedure all documents not only in Croat language and Latin writing but also in the language and writing of the national minority which is in the official use if the clients and other actors use this language during the procedure. It is also valid for the submission of letters, submissions, official publications and other documents issued and necessary in the second instance. The Law on Education in the languages and writing of the national minorities is the second law that is crucially important for the implementation of the cultural autonomy of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. So, education in the language and writing of national minorities is implemented in pre-school institutions, in the primary and secondary schools as well as in other educational institutions and in other forms of education like summer and winter schools. Schools implementing teaching in the language and writing of national minorities can be established for a fewer number of students than defined for the beginning of the work of the school where teaching is accomplished in Croat language and writing. If there are no conditions for the establishing of a school, then the education in the language and writing of the national minority can be implemented in classes or in educational groups. The name of the school where teaching is implemented in the language and writing of the national minority, its seal and stamp is written in Croat language and Latin writing as well as in the language and writing of the national minority. The curriculum besides the general part includes contents that are in relations to the specificity of the national minority. These are native language, literature, history, geography and the cultural heritage of the national minority. Enrolment to schools, classes or educational groups is made under the same conditions as the enrolment to schools with

teaching in Croat language. besides their language and writing the pupils learn Croat language and Latin writing. The educational work is done by teachers who belong to the national minority and have full knowledge of the minority language and teachers respectively who do not belong to the minority but have the full knowledge of the writing and the language of the national minority. Headmasters are elected in the same way. The school documentation is registered in Croat language and Latin writing parallel with the language and writing of the minority. Textbooks in the languages and writing of the minorities are fully subjected to the general regulation on textbooks. Schools where teaching is accomplished in the language and writing of the minorities can use textbooks from the kin state, naturally, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education and Sport. Funds needed for the regular work of the public schools are granted from the state budget, yet schools in the languages and writing of minorities can obtain funds from other sources in compliance with the law. These two laws were passed in 2000 and they arrange the questions related to minority rights, so to the official use of and education in minority language and they also represent a considerable contribution to the stable protection and enhancement of the cultural autonomy of minorities in Croatia. Their importance stems from the fact that education is the most efficient means of ethnic reproduction. If the normative solutions accepted by the Croat legislator in these two laws are considered, it can be established that these laws enable the achievement of some of the vital aims in the protection and enhancement of the cultural autonomy of minority groups in Croatia. Besides these laws that regulate the status of minorities in the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Croatia endeavours to sign agreements with the neighbouring countries on the protection of minority rights and it has already been done with Hungary and Italy. The conclusion of such an agreement is in process with Yugoslavia and negotiations are being conducted with Slovakia. Besides these agreements, Croatia signed two very important international documents more precisely accepted the Framework Convention on the Protection of Minority Rights and the European Charter on Regional Minority Languages. We are well aware of the importance of good neighbourly relations and make efforts to normalise these relations in soonest possible period. Thank You Mr President.

Romedi Arquint:

Jahresbericht des FUEV-Präsidenten anlässlich der FUEV-Delegiertenversammlung am 09. Mai 2002 in Subotica

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Europa befindet sich gegenwärtig in einem Umwandlungsprozess historischen Ausmasses. Unser Kontinent gleicht einer Küchenmannschaft, die zwar weiss, dass sie ein 5-Gangmenu vorbereiten muss, die Rezepte hiezu aber noch nicht kennt. Wie soll die EU intern so restrukturiert werden, dass sie eine demokratische und politische Struktur erhält, hinter der alle Mitgliedstaaten stehen können? Wie soll sie aussehen, wenn sie sich für die neuen Staaten öffnet? Aber auch der Europarat muss sich fragen lassen, ob er es sich leisten kann, in allen Bereichen gesellschaftlich relevanter Fragen - ausser dem Bereich der Menschenrechte – eine „Palaverstruktur“ zu erhalten und keine für alle Mitgliedstaaten verbindlichen Regeln durchsetzen zu können.

Die Nationalstaaten bleiben von diesem Wandlungsprozess nicht unbeeinflusst. Von der Basis her werden lokale, regionale und grenzüberschreitende Kompetenzen eingefordert; im Zuge der Globalisierung und der Vormachtstellung von Wirtschaft, Industrie und Technologie wird die besungene „Souveränität“ der Staaten angenagt und relativiert. Neue Kompetenzverteilungen erfordern ein neues Selbstverständnis der staatlichen Institution.

Auch der Bereich, der die Angelegenheiten der FUEV angeht, ist von der Unsicherheit, wohin die Reise gehen soll, geprägt. Wir sind noch stark verhaftet im Paradigma der Nationalstaatsideologie, das auf der einen Seite die Mehrheitsbevölkerung sieht, die selbstverständlich mit allen Rechten und Kompetenzen ausgestattet ist, und auf der andern Seite die sogenannten Minderheiten, denen „gnädigst“ von der Mehrheit

entsprechende Rechte zu gewähren sind. Am andern Pol winkt ein Europa, das sich von dieser Unterscheidung verabschiedet und von der gemeinsamen Idee ausgeht, Europa gründe auf der Vielfalt der Sprachen und Kulturen; dieses historische Erbe gehe Mehrheiten gleichermassen an wie die Minderheiten und lasse sich nicht künstlich aufteilen.

Die beiden Konventionen des Europarates – die Konvention zum Schutze der nationalen Minderheiten und die Europäische Charta der Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen – sind erstens nicht Gemeingut aller Mitgliedstaaten, sie sind zweitens rechtlich nicht bindende Instrumente (demnach ist es den Nationalstaaten weitgehend anheim gestellt, ob und wie sie die Implementierung vollziehen), drittens haben sie die Verwaltungsmühlen in Gang gesetzt, Tausende von Seiten Papier wurden produziert: wir warten gespannt auf die Reaktionen der Staaten auf die ersten Berichte der Expertengruppen. Eine kleine Umfrage, die die FUEV in diesem Zusammenhang bei 12 Mitgliedorganisationen gemacht hat, ist eher ernüchternd. Die Berichte der Staaten bestehen weitgehend in einer Bestandesaufnahme mit wenig neuen Verbesserungen, nur in wenigen Staaten ist ein echter - kontinuierlicher und partnerschaftlicher - Dialog initiiert worden. In der EU hat der Gipfel in Nizza kaum Fortschritte gebracht; es ist zu befürchten, dass auch der neu einberufene Konvent angesichts der widersprüchlichen Interessen der EU – Mitgliedstaaten kaum substanzelle Aussagen zum Schutz und der Förderung der Kleinsprachen und nationalen Minderheiten machen wird.

Die FUEV hat mit zwei Projekten vergeblich



versucht, von der EU finanzielle Unterstützung zu erhalten, was uns nicht davon abhält, die Anstrengungen auf eine Anerkennung unserer Arbeit in Brüssel fortzusetzen.

Im Zentrum der internen Arbeit stand die Überprüfung der bisherigen Arbeit und die Entwicklung einer zukunftsweisenden Strategie. Dieser Prozess ist angelaufen, wir können aber nicht sagen, er sei schon zu Ende gedacht und es liege ein konkretes und sauber definiertes Konzeptpapier vor. An zwei Sitzungen in Sankelmark (mit den Delegierten der neuen demokratischen Staaten in Mittel- und Osteuropa) und in München (mit den „alten“ Mitgliedorganisationen) wurden erste Leitplanken gesetzt:

Der FUEV mangelt es angesichts der beschränkten finanziellen Ressourcen nicht an Professionalität im organisatorischen und administrativen Bereich, wohl aber kommt der inhaltliche und projektorientierte Bereich zu kurz. Es wird demnach zunächst darum gehen, die finanziellen Ressourcen sowohl zu diversifizieren wie auch zu verbessern. Da aus verständlichen Gründen bei den Mitgliedorganisationen kein grosser Spielraum besteht, werden sich die Anstrengungen auf die EU, auf die Staaten, in denen Mitgliedorganisationen leben sowie auf internationale Stiftungen richten.

Die inhaltliche Arbeit der FUEV könnte wesentlich verbessert werden, wenn es gelingt, die wissenschaftlichen Institute, die sich mit Minderheitenfragen beschäftigen, mit der Arbeit und den Projekten der FUEV zu verbinden. Dies betrifft vor allem die Institute ECMI in Schleswig-Holstein, CIFEM in Kärnten und die Europaakademie in Bozen.

Neidlos, aber immerhin festzustellen ist, dass eine Organisation der direkt Betroffenen zivilgesellschaftlichen Partner es ungleich schwerer hat, öffentliche Gelder zu erhalten, als dies für wissenschaftliche Institutionen der Fall zu sein scheint.

Ähnliches gilt für die internationale Tätigkeiten seien es Seminare oder Fact Finding Missions: Den Hauptharst der an diesen Veranstaltungen Beteiligten bilden die Verwaltungsbeamten, Politiker und die Wissenschafter, die Angehörigen der Sprach- und Kulturgemeinschaften selber sehen sich oft nur in der Rolle der Exoten, die eben doch auch eingeladen werden müssen.

Beirat

Der Beirat der FUEV – präsidiert von der Minderheitenbeauftragten des Bundeslandes Schleswig-Holstein Renate Schnack – befindet sich in der Aufbauphase. Er versteht sich als informelles Gremien, das der FUEV beratend zur Seite steht. In diesem Sinne hat er auch anlässlich der zwei Tagungen in Bozen und in München sich vor allem mit dem Tätigkeitsfeld der FUEV beschäftigt. Er sieht seine Aufgabe darin, die FUEV finanziell zu unterstützen bzw. Hilfe zu

leisten zur Erschliessung weiterer Finanzquellen sowie ihre Möglichkeiten zur Verbesserung der Zusammenarbeit mit den in den betreffenden Regionen sich befindenden wissenschaftlichen Instituten spielen zu lassen. Der Beirat hat zudem zwei interessante konkrete Vorschläge gemacht, die vom Präsidium auch aufgenommen wurden: Zum einen wurde die Idee einer der FUEV zur Seite stehenden Gruppe von Persönlichkeiten europäischen Kalibers, eines „Freundeskreises“, der sich für unsere Arbeit stark machen und die von Fall zu Fall für die FUEV oder für Anliegen einzelner Mitglied-



Romedi Arquint mit Renate Schnack

organisationen „abrufbar“ sind. Ein zweiter Vorschlag zielt auf die Schaffung einer Auszeichnung für verdienstvolle Persönlichkeiten. Diese Auszeichnung könnte vor allem auf unsere Anliegen aufmerksam machen und damit eine breite Öffentlichkeitswirkung erzielen.

Ich verzichte dieses Jahr auf eine ausführliche Darstellung der vielen Anlässe aufmerksam zu machen, an denen ein Mitglied des Präsidiums oder unser Geschäftsführer teilgenommen haben. Eine entsprechende Liste befindet sich in der Dokumentation, die Ihnen ausgehändigt wurde. Lassen Sie mich zur Erinnerung nur die wichtigsten aufzählen:

Mit Erfolg konnten auch im vergangenen Jahr die traditionellen Zusammenkünfte der slawischen und der deutschen Gemeinschaften in der Kromeriz (Slowakei) und in Sankelmark (Deutschland) durchgeführt werden. 4x traf sich das Präsidium, einmal in Kärnten anlässlich des Volksgruppenkongresses in Ossiach, neben den normalen Tagungen in Strasbourg nahmen wir an zwei Tagungen des Europarates in Nordwijkerhout und in Vilnius teil. Über die wichtige und erfolgreiche Arbeit im Europarat wird Pierre Lemoine gesondert berichten. Die FUEV ist daran, mit weiteren Partnern ein Projekt im Baltikum zu realisieren.

Vermerkt werde kann im weiteren das in Tiflis von der FUEV organisierte Seminar zu den Nationalitäten Georgiens (ein Bericht dazu wird in Bälde vorliegen) sowie Besuche in Mazedonien,

in Czernowitz, in Timisoara, in Belgrad und Subotica (Treffen mit den Nationalitätengruppen sowie zur Vorbereitung des Kongresses), in Cornwall sowie in Inguschetien, der kleinsten und jüngsten Republik der russischen Föderation (auch hiezu liegt ein ausführlicher Bericht vor).

Es bleibt mir zum Abschluss zu danken: Den Präsidiumsmitgliedern für ihren weit über das Ehrenamtliche hinausgehenden Einsatz und Bela Tonkovic für die grosse Vorbereitungsarbeit. Einen Dank auch an Frank Nickelsen für die

saubere und speditive Geschäftsführung. Schliesslich danke ich auch den Mitgliedern des Beirates unter der Leitung von Renate Schnack sowie allen Vertretern der Mitgliedorganisationen, die sich für die FUEV eingesetzt haben oder deren Vermittlung und Unterstützung gewünscht haben; es freut mich, dass wir in zahlreichen Fällen für solche Aktionen angefragt wurden. Ich danke auch den Sponsoren, die mit ihren finanziellen Beiträgen wesentlich am Erfolg der FUEV – Arbeit beitragen.

Frank Nickelsen:

Jahresbericht des FUEV-Geschäftsführers anlässlich der FUEV-Delegiertenversammlung am 09. Mai 2002 in Subotica

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Herr Präsident, liebe Delegierte, meine Damen und Herren,

Kommen wir zum Tagesordnungspunkt Jahresrechnung 2001. Das Jahr 2001 schloß mit einem Plus von 1.479,61 DM ab; d.h. in Euro 756,30 (siehe Tabelle) Die veranschlagten Zahlen im abgelaufenen Jahr wurden wie in den Vorjahren ziemlich genau kalkuliert. Ich verzichte wie im letzten Jahr auf detaillierte Kostenaufstellun-



Frank Nickelsen

gen, Den Delegierten liegen die abgerechneten Zahlen vor. Sie wurden den stimmberechtigten Mitgliedsorganisationen unmittelbar vor dem

Kongreß per Email verschickt.

Im Grunde genommen müßte die FUEV froh sein, wenn sie zum Jahresende mit einem leichten Verwaltungsüberschuß abschließt. Wenn man sich vor Augen führt, daß die FUEV im Gegensatz zu den meisten ihrer Mitglieder einen extrem überschaubaren Haushalt von nicht einmal 175.000,- Euro besitzt, hält sich die Freude – mit einem leichten Plus abzuschließen – allerdings äußerst in Grenzen. Die zusätzlichen Projektbewilligungen erhöhen das Gesamtvolumen nur unwesentlich.

Einigen Delegierten ist die arg bescheidene finanzielle Situation der FUEV sicherlich nicht neu. Jahr für Jahr verlese ich in diesem Zusammenhang ähnliche Berichte. Sie müssen mir glauben. Zu gern würde ich Ihnen andere Zahlen vorlesen.

Dabei hat die FUEV im abgelaufenen Jahr keine Mühen gescheut, diese alljährliche finanzielle Stagnation zu verändern. Genauer gesagt wurde ein mehrjähriges Projekt in Georgien sowie ein Projekt für die staatenlosen Minderheiten zum Europäischen Jahr der Sprachen bei der Europäischen Kommission eingereicht. Beide Projekte wurden leider nicht bewilligt – meines Erachtens aus zum Teil sehr fadenscheinigen Gründen. Auch im Vorfeld des Kongresses sind mehrere Institute, die sich mit Minderheitenfragen und Ost-Westbegegnungen befassen, angeschrieben worden zwecks Mitfinanzierung des Kongresses – leider ohne Erfolg.

Man kann es auch auf eine kurze Formel bringen.

- 1.) Jahr für Jahr veranstaltet die FUEV mehr Veranstaltungen.
- 2.) Jahr für Jahr steigen die Anfragen im FUEV-Generalsekretariat.
- 3.) Jahr für Jahr verrichtet die FUEV mehr

I ORDENTLICHER HAUSHALT			
	IST 2001	SOLL 2001	
	in DM	in DM	in DM
A EINNAHMEN			
1. Zur freien Verwendung			
00000 Verwaltungsüberschuß vom Vorjahr	70,19		
11999 Vermischte Einnahmen	402,23		500,00
25201 Zuweisg. Schleswig-Holstein	40000,00		40000,00
25202 Zuweisg. Autonome Provinz Bozen/Südtirol	24448,50		25000,00
25203 Zuweisg. Autonome Region Trentino/Südtirol	70304,27		70000,00
25204 Zuweisg. Land Kärnten	5006,92		5000,00
28301 Spenden	325,00		5000,00
28401 Mitgliedsbeiträge	45949,46		45000,00
2. Zweckgebunden			
25701 Zuweisg. H-N-Stiftung (FUEV-GS)	150000,00		150000,00
	SUMME	336506,57	340500,00
B AUSGABEN			
	in DM	in DM	in DM
1. Personalaufwand			
41202 Aufwandsentschädig. Präsident	30000,00		30000,00
42501 Vergütung an Angestellte (inkl. Sozialabgaben)	117703,91		125000,00
2. Raumaufwand			
51701 Bewirtsch. Grundst. Gebäude	1551,98		500,00
51801 Mieten u. Pachten	8631,75		9000,00
51901 Unterhaltung Grundstücke	0,00		500,00
3. Sachaufwand			
51101 Geschäftsbedarf	8755,27		4500,00
51501 Geräteausstattung- u. Wartung	9971,60		8000,00
4. Kommunikationsaufwand			
51301 Post- u. Fernmeldegebühren	17288,10		17000,00
52701 Reisekosten INLAND	1999,56		5000,00
52702 Reisekosten AUSLAND	19549,03		20000,00
52901 Repräsentation	1411,81		1000,00
53101 Veröffentlichungen	20015,60		20000,00
5. Tagungen u. Veranstaltungen			
54702 Tagungen u. Veranstaltungen	21053,29		20000,00
6. Aufwand f. Fachberatung			
52601 Allgem. Übersetzungskosten	9182,46		3000,00
54701 Berater- u. wissenschaftl. Tätigk.	4043,07		10000,00
7. Diverse Aufwendungen			
52501 Aus- u. Fortbildung	0,00		500,00
53901 Versicherungen	1000,91		500,00
53999 Vermischte Verwaltungsausgaben	1548,62		1000,00
54703 Zuwendungen an die JEV	2025,67		1500,00
54705 Zuwendung an Organisationen	1074,84		1000,00
57501 Zinsausgaben	434,79		100,00
57502 Bankgebühren	1200,97		700,00
8. Projekteigenbeteiligungen s. II			
	SUMME	335755,92	340500,00

II PROJEKTE mit Eigenbeteiligung			
	Ausgaben	Fremdmittel	Eigenbeteiligg
	142179,22	99237,58	42941,64
C 60003 Kongreß Heerenveen			
60005 Sankelmark AGDM Jahrestagung	78500,00	78500,00	0,00
60006 Sankelmark ECMI-EASH	46371,05	32000,00	14371,05
	SUMME	220679,22	177737,58
			57312,69

Einnahmen aus I	336.506,57
- Ausgaben aus I	335.755,92
	<hr/>
Bestand 31.12.2000	750,65
Bestand 31.12.2001	<hr/> 728,96
	<hr/> 1.479,61
 UNION BANK FLENSBURG Blatt 153/2	761,52
KASSENBESTAND	718,09
	<hr/> 1.479,61

- Öffentlichkeitsarbeit (Presseberichte, FFM-Reports, Stellungnahmen u.ergl.m.)
- 4.) Jahr für Jahr verzeichnet die FUEV immer mehr Internetbesucher (Das ist im übrigen auch der Grund, warum die FUEV den Post versand des Bulletins FUEV-Aktuell ein gestellt hat. Wir haben diesbezüglich vor wenigen Wochen eine Pressemitteilung herausgegeben)
 - 5.) Jahr für Jahr verzeichnet die FUEV immer mehr Mitgliedsverbände

...nur leider ändert sich die finanzielle Situation nur kaum!

Vor dem Hintergrund mangelnder finanzieller Mittel muß man verstehen, daß die FUEV nur begrenzte Möglichkeiten hat, ihrem satzungsgemäßen Auftrag optimal nachzukommen.

In diesem Zusammenhang muß einmal erwähnt werden, daß die FUEV - obgleich sie bettelarm ist, mittlerweile eine ungeheure Außenwirkung erzielt hat. Mittlerweile verzeichne ich bis zu 50 Emails und Anfragen aus der ganzen Welt pro Tag und auf unsere Webseite wird wöchentlich bis zu 11.000 Mal zugegriffen.

Zum Schluß möchte ich mich auch im Namen des Präsidiums bei den Sponsoren für die vertrauensvolle Zusammenarbeit bedanken. Ich danke dem Land Schleswig-Holstein, der Autonomen Provinz Bozen, der Autonomen Region Trentino, dem Land Kärnten und der Gemeinnützigen Hermann Niermann Stiftung für die Bereitstellung der institutionellen Fördermittel.

Außerdem danke ich dem deutschen Bundesministerium des Innern für die Fehlbedarfsfinanzierungen für den 46. Nationalitätenkongreß in Heerenveen, den 47. Nationalitätenkongreß hier in Subotica, der Jahrestagung der deutschen Minderheiten, der Implementierungskonferenz im Dezember 2001 und dem Seminar in Georgien im März 2002.

Auch ich möchte meinen Jahresbericht abschließen mit einem persönlichen Dank. Zwar ist die Geschäftsstelle der FUEV neben mir lediglich von einer Haltagskraft, dem Studenten Gary Funck besetzt. So wird die Arbeit der FUEV doch auf eine Reihe von Schultern verteilt, deren Namen ich hier ohne bestimmte Reihenfolge nennen

möchte:

Ich danke dem gesamten FUEV-Präsidium, Wolfgang Schümann, Dr. Martin Scheuermann, Uwe Jessen, Ole Michael Rasmussen, Benjamin und Ulrike Brodersen-Siering, Sebastian Bosse, Hans-Jørgen Kellner, Peter Hansen, Hans-Otto Mattiesen, meinen Eltern Susanne und Armin Nickelisen, sowie allen Mitarbeitern des European Centre for Minority Issues, des Sydslesvigk Forenings, des Bundes deutscher Nordschleswiger sowie allen weiteren angeschlossenen Verbänden der FUEV mit deren Geschäftsstellen. Abschließend möchte ich mich bei ganz besonders beim Verband der Kroaten in der Vojvodina namentlich bei Branimir, Josip, Slaven, Thomas und dabei nicht zuletzt bei Bela Tonkovic bedanken, der maßgeblich am Zustandekommen des diesjährigen Kongresses beteiligt war.

Auch möchte ich es nicht vergessen, den beiden Revisoren, Herrn Hermann Heil und Karl Kring (siehe Foto) einen Dank auszusprechen, die stets Verständnis für schwierige finanzielle Zusammenhänge - insbesondere bei Kongreßabrechnungen – aufbrachten.

Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!



Die FUEV-Revisoren: Karl Kring (links) und Hermann Heil

REVISIONSBERICHT

Die Jahresrechnung der FUEV für das Jahr 2001 wurde von uns unter Beachtung der haushaltrechtlichen Vorschriften des Landes Schleswig-Holstein und des entsprechenden Bewilligungsbescheides vom 31. Januar 2001 am 11. September 2001, 22. Januar 2002 und am 13. Februar 2002 geprüft.

Sämtliche Buchungen wurden mit den Belegen verglichen und der ausgewiesene Bestand von von 1.479,61 DM (756,51 Euro) am Jahresende festgestellt.

Es ergaben sich keine Beanstandungen.

Flensburg, d. 13. Februar 2002

Für die Richtigkeit zeichnen die FUEV-Revisoren


Karl Kring


Hermann Heil

Frank Nickelsen:

*Haushaltsvoranschlag der FUEV 2002 vorgetragen vom FUEV-Geschäftsführer
anlässlich der FUEV-Delegiertenversammlung am 09. Mai 2002 in Subotica*

DEUTSCH http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

Herr Präsident, liebe Delegierte, meine Damen und Herren,

Der Haushaltsentwurf 2001 ist allen Delegierten unmittelbar vor der Delegiertenversammlung zugestellt worden. Da der Haushaltsentwurf einigen Sponsoren zwecks Antragsstellung schon im Dezember 2001 bzw. Januar 2002 zugestellt werden mußte, sind weite Teile des Entwurfs schon Realität.

Die Zahlen sind nahezu identisch mit denen der Vorjahre – nimmt man einmal Abstand von der Tatsache, daß es sich um Euro handelt - d.h. Einnahmen und Ausgaben in Höhe von 172.033,00 Euro sind deckungsgleich.

Die institutionellen Beiträge des Landes Schleswig-Holstein in Höhe von 20.452,- Euro, der Autonomen Provinz Bozen in Höhe von 12785,- Euro, der Autonomen Region Trentino in Höhe von 35790,- Euro, dem Land Kärnten in Höhe von 2556,- Euro sowie der jährliche institutionelle Beitrag der Gemeinnützigen Hermann Niermann-Stiftung in Höhe von 76695,- Euro sind für die FUEV lebensnotwendig. Das kann man gar nicht häufig genug betonen. Entsprechend dieser alljährlich wiederkehrenden Einnahmen werden dann die Ausgaben veranschlagt. Allerdings benötigt die FUEV

HAUSHALTSVORANSCHLAG 2002		
		SOLL 2002
		in Euro
A EINNAHMEN		
1. Zur freien Verwendung		
11999 Vermischte Einnahmen	255,00	
25201 Zuweisg. D Schleswig-Holstein	20.452,00	
25202 Zuweisg. I Autonome Provinz Bozen/Südtirol	12.785,00	
25203 Zuweisg. I Autonome Region Trentino/Südtirol	35.790,00	
25203 Zuweisg. A Land Kärnten	2.556,00	
28301 Spenden	500,00	
28401 Mitgliedsbeiträge	23.000,00	
2. Zweckgebunden		
25701 Zuweisg. H-N-Stiftung (FUEV-GS)	76.695,00	
Summe Einnahmen =		172.033,00
B AUSGABEN		
1. Personalaufwand		
41202 Aufwandsentschädig. Präsident	15.339,00	
42501 Vergütung an Angestellte (inkl. Sozialabgaben)	63.915,00	
2. Raumaufwand		
51701 Bewirtsch. Grundst. Gebäude	255,00	
51801 Mieten u. Pachten	4.600,00	
51901 Unterhaltung Grundstücke	255,00	
3. Sachaufwand		
51101 Geschäftsbedarf	2.300,00	
51501 Geräteausstattung- u. Wartung	4.090,00	
4. Kommunikationsaufwand		
51301 Post- u. Fernmeldegebühren	8.692,00	
52701 Reisekosten INLAND	2.556,00	
52702 Reisekosten AUSLAND	10.225,00	
52901 Repräsentation	510,00	
53101 Veröffentlichungen	10.225,00	
5. Tagungen u. Veranstaltungen		
54702 Tagungen u. Veranstaltungen	10.225,00	
6. Aufwand f. Fachberatung		
52601 Allgem. Übersetzungskosten	1.533,00	
54701 Berater- u. wissenschaftliche Tätigkeiten	3.060,00	
7. Diverse Aufwendungen		
52501 Aus- u. Fortbildung	255,00	
53901 Versicherungen	255,00	
53999 Vermischte Verw. Ausgaben	510,00	
54703 Zuwendungen an die JEV	767,00	
54705 Zuwendung an Organisationen	510,00	
57501 Zinsausgaben	51,00	
57502 Bankgebühren	358,00	
8. Projekteigenbeteiligungen s. II		31.547,00
Summe Ausgaben =		172.033,00
II PROJEKTE mit Eigenbeteiligung		
C	60003 47. NationalitätenKongreß inkl. Dokumentation 60004 Seminar in Georgien	

mehr finanzielle Mittel, um ihren angeschlossenen Mitgliedsverbänden wirklich helfen zu können, daher wird weiterhin versucht, neben den bereits erwähnten Sponsoren weitere Geldquellen zu erschließen.

Ich hoffe, Sie haben Verständnis dafür, daß ich in Anbetracht der noch ausstehenden Tagesordnungspunkte hier nicht Position für Position erläutere.

Ähnlich, wie bei den institutionellen Beiträgen, verhält es sich bei den Projektgeldern. Denn ohne die alljährliche Zustimmung des deutschen Ministeriums des Innern, welches schon seit mehreren Jahren diese Nationalitätenkongresse mitfinanziert, wäre die FUEV z.B. nicht in der Lage, die Reisekosten für eine Reihe von Delegierten aus den ehem. kommunistisch regierten Ländern zu übernehmen.

Bleiben wir bei der Finanzierung des FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses. Im Rahmen einer tiefergehenden Internet Recherche hat sich gezeigt, daß es zunehmend schwerer geworden ist, für jährlich stattfindende Kongresse - wie unseren traditionellen Jahrestag - zusätzliche Mittel zu beschaffen

Daher wird auch die FUEV nicht umhin kommen, in absehbarer Zeit, insbesondere diejenigen Mitgliedsverbände aus den ehem. kommunistisch regierten Ländern aufzufordern, Teile der Reisekosten selbst zu übernehmen; es sei denn, es finden sich neben der Bundesrepublik Deutschland weitere Sponsoren.

Leichter ist es da bei regionalen Anlässen, die

zudem thematisch eingegrenzt sind und darüberhinaus einen nur begrenzten Teilnehmerkreis anvisieren. Bei dieser Gelegenheit darf ich Ihnen sagen, daß z.B. ein im letzten Jahr abgelehntes Projekt »Strategien zum Spracherhalt autochthoner Kleinsprachen« neu angesetzt wird und von dem Land Schleswig-Holstein finanziert wird. Entsprechende Einladungen wurden vereinzelt schon verschickt. Wir werden zudem unmittelbar nach dem Kongreß entsprechende Pressemitteilungen veröffentlichen.

Ein weiteres Projekt ist in Estland geplant, wo die Vorbereitungen für ein Minderheitenseminar schon angelaufen sind.

Am 1. Juli 2002 übernimmt Dänemark den EU-Vorsitz. Aus diesem Grunde ist ein Seminar mit FUEV-Beteiligung in Kopenhagen geplant zur Überprüfung der Minderheitenrechtsstandards, wo insbesondere den EU-Beitrittsländern Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt wird.

Weitere größere Anlässe sind die Jahrestreffen der slawischen und deutschen Minderheiten in der FUEV im Herbst.

Ich hoffe, daß dieser FUEV-Nationalitätenkongreß weitere neue Projektideen mit sich bringen wird und diese auch entsprechend umgesetzt werden können. Das FUEV-Präsidium und auch das Generalsekretariat werden zumindest alles mögliche versuchen, diese Projektentwürfe zu realisieren.

Ich danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

Jan Diedrichsen:

***Präsident der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen JEV
anlässlich der FUEV-Delegiertenversammlung am 09. Mai 2002 in Subotica***

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.yeni.org>

Herr Präsident, liebe Delegierte, meine Damen und Herren

Dies ist mein dritter FUEV-Kongress – aber zum ersten Mal stehe ich hier als Präsident der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen. Seit unserem Osterseminar in Grou / Westfriesland habe ich die Nachfolge von Anne Hahn angetreten. Des Weiteren sind Kristijan Karall, ein Kroate aus dem Burgenland, Angelina Nadolski von den dänischen Südschleswigern und Frank de Boer von den Westfriesen neu im Präsidium vertreten. Alice Ratyis, Ungarin aus Rumänien, komplettiert unsere Präsidiumsmannschaft.

Neben Anne sind auch Judith Walde, Sorbin aus der Lausitz und Hugo Kristoff, Kärntner Slowene, aus dem Präsidium ausgeschieden.

Das neue und alte Präsidium ist beinah komplett



Logo der Jugend Europäischen Volksgruppen
> <http://www.yeni.org>



Das diesjährige Osterseminar der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen (JEV) fand in Grou, Westfriesland statt. Gastgeber war die friesische Jugendorganisation FYK (Frysk Ynternasjonaal Kontakt). Während der Hauptversammlung wurde Jan Diedrichsen (siehe Foto ganz links) zum neuen JEV-Präsidenten gewählt. Demnach setzt sich das Präsidium der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen wie folgt zusammen: Präsident: Jan Diedrichsen (deutscher Nordschleswiger aus Dänemark) Vizepräsidentin: Angelina Nadolski (südschleswigsche Dänin aus Deutschland), Vizepräsident: Kristijan Karall (Burgenlandkroate aus Österreich), Sekretärin: Alice Rattyis (Ungarin aus Rumänien) und Schatzmeister: Frank de Boer (Westfriese aus den Niederlanden).

Auf dem Foto v.l.n.r. Jan Diedrichsen, Angelina Nadolski, Frank de Boer, Judith Walde (Sorbin in Deutschland / ehem. Schatzmeisterin), Kristijan Karall, Anne Hahn (Friesin in Deutschland / ehem. Präsidentin). Nicht auf dem Foto: Alice Rattyis.

hier nach Subotica angereist und wird die nächsten Tage auch nutzen, um gemeinsam die Amtsumgebung und die weitere Präsidiumsarbeit zu planen.

Auch im organisatorischen Bereich hat es bei uns einige Veränderungen gegeben. Wir haben den Sitz der JEV mittlerweile nach Bozen, Südtirol verlegt. Und können zusätzlich eine neue Mitarbeiterin – Uli Platter - begrüßen. Gemeinsam werden wir an der Professionalisierung der JEV arbeiten. Ich bedanke mich in diesem Zusammenhang beim Südtiroler Jugendring, der seine Mitarbeiterin Uli Platter freistellt und uns so diese neue Anlaufstelle der JEV in Bozen ermöglicht hat.

Vor nunmehr einem Monat fand, wie bereits angedeutet, unser jährliches Hauptevent – das JEV-Osterseminar – in Grou, Westfriesland statt. Es war ein voller Erfolg und den Organisatoren vor Ort – der FYK – ist für die sehr gute Durchführung der Veranstaltung ein besonderes Lob zu zollen.

Die JEV hat während des Osterseminars beschlossen, stärker auf die inhaltliche Minderheitenarbeit zu fokussieren und unser inhaltliches Profil zu schärfen. Sprich mehr zu tun, als nur Resolutionen zu verabschieden. Wir möchten uns erheblich deutlicher als bisher zu minderheitenpolitischen und minderheitenrechtlichen Fragen positionieren. Diese Initiative ist von mehreren aktiven Mitgliedsorganisationen in unserem Netz-

werk ausgegangen.

Und wir haben auch erste Schritte eingeleitet. So haben wir in der Auseinandersetzung der Kärntner Slowenen mit der Kärtener Landesregierung deutlich Stellung bezogen und verfolgen die Sache weiter. Ein weiteres Thema, das wir in der nächsten Zeit schwerpunktartig verfolgen wollen, ist der sog. EU-Konvent – in dem die zukünftige politische Entwicklung Europas diskutiert wird. Eine europäische Verfassung scheint auch nicht mehr reine Utopie. Daher ist es unglaublich wichtig, dass wir uns als Minderheitenvertreter dort zu Wort melden – und unsere berechtigten Anliegen auf verbrieftre rechtliche Absicherung artikulieren. Parallel zum „erwachsenen“ Konvent gibt es auch einen EU-Jugendkonvent. Wir werden versuchen über dieses Gremium unsere Anliegen vorzutragen.

Die Entwicklung eines stärkeren inhaltlichen Profils muss natürlich einer langfristig angelegten Strategie folgen. Daher werden wir die nächsten JEV-Veranstaltungen, das im Herbstseminar in Moskau und das nächste Osterseminar in Klagenfurt dazu nutzen diese Richtung weiterzugehen.

Ein wichtiger Gesprächspartner bei der Verfolgung dieses Ziels ist für uns die FUEV und die dort vertretenen Minderheiten-verbände. Ich habe als Vertreter der JEV im letzten Jahr dem FUEV-Präsidium angehört und bin der Auffassung, das die enge Zusammenarbeit unserer beiden Vereine fruchtbar ist. Gleichzeitig bin ich der Mei-

nung, dass die Zusammenarbeit noch weiter ausgebaut werden kann.

Ich möchte auch die Gelegenheit heute nutzen, um eine Kritik anzusprechen, die bei uns in der JEV oft zu hören ist, wenn von der FUEV die Rede ist. Wir hören immer wieder – besonders von unseren osteuropäischen Mitgliedsorganisationen – dass es fast unmöglich ist, für einen jungen Erwachsenen in die Arbeit der FUEV rein zu schnuppern. Vielerorts entsteht der Eindruck, dass nur altgediente Minderheiten-Vertreter an die FUEV-Arbeit gelassen werden. Ich kann nur den Aufruf an die hier anwesenden Delegierten richten, sich in den eigenen Jugendorganisationen umzuschauen und den eigenen Nachwuchs an die FUEV-Arbeit ranzuführen. Es gibt viele aktive junge Erwachsene, die gerne mitarbeiten wollen und für die Zukunft der FUEV vor allem auch gebraucht werden.

Nach dieser Aufforderung an die FUEV-Mitgliedsorganisationen möchte ich noch einen besonderen Dank an das Generalsekretariat der FUEV – namentlich an Frank Nickelsen und Gary Funck los werden, die uns als JEV jederzeit immer hilfreich zur Seite stehen.

Neben der bereits erwähnten inhaltlichen Ausrichtung der JEV sehen wir uns vor allem als aktives, dynamisches Netzwerk bestehend aus mittlerweile 23 Mitgliedsorganisationen. In unseren Leitsätzen heißt es:

Austausch und Aktivitäten auf internationaler Ebenen sind unsere Stärken. Unser Engagement ist geprägt von Freiwilligkeit, Verantwortungsbewusstsein, Respekt und Offenheit. Wir treffen unsere Entscheidungen demokratisch. Durch die internationalen Kontakte und die Kenntnis der Vielfalt und Probleme von Kulturen, Minderheiten und Mehrheiten erweitern wir unseren Horizont.

Wir wollen mit- und voneinander lernen, damit ein lebendiges und von Toleranz geprägtes Netzwerk entsteht.

Wir sichern einen guten Informationsfluss, um Entscheidungen besser treffen zu können.

Wir sind bereit, Verantwortung zu übernehmen

Wir als neues Präsidium werden versuchen diese

selbstgesetzten Anforderungen weiter zu verfolgen. Eine wichtige Säule dabei, sind unsere gemeinsamen Veranstaltungen. Als Nächstes freuen wir uns im September in Bautzen bei dem sorbischen Jugendverein PAWK e.V. zu Gast zu sein. Dort wird nämlich, im Rahmen des 1000jährigen Jubiläums der Stadt Bautzen, die Veranstaltung „Voices of Europe“ stattfinden. Zu dieser kulturellen JEV-Veranstaltung erwarten wir Teilnehmer aus ganz Europa, die Spaß am gemeinsamen Singen haben.

Im Oktober steht dann unser jährliches Herbstseminar auf dem Programm. Das diesmal beim Jugendring der Russlanddeutschen in Moskau stattfindet. Die Organisation eines JEV-Seminars in Moskau ist eine besondere Herausforderung, da im Vorfeld viele Dinge – besonders in der Reisevorbereitung bedacht werden müssen. Das Herbstseminar ist das Arbeitsseminar der JEV – wo die Weiterentwicklung unserer Organisation im Mittelpunkt steht. Am Anschluss dieser hoffentlich ergiebigen Arbeitstage, haben die Teilnehmer die Möglichkeit unter fachkundiger Führung für ein paar Tage das „wahre Russland“ kennzulernen.

Wir sind in der JEV besonders froh darüber, dass während unseren Veranstaltungen neben zahlreichen persönlichen Freundschaften auch enge Kontakte zwischen den Mitgliedsorganisationen geknüpft werden. Diese Kontakte führen nicht selten zu verschiedenen dezentralen Veranstaltungen von einzelnen JEV-Mitgliedsorganisationen. Diese Arbeit werden wir weiter fördern.

Meiner Auffassung nach befinden wir uns als JEV auf einem guten Wege – wenn gleich noch vieles getan werden muss, um unsere ambitionären Ziele und Vorstellungen gänzlich in die Tat umzusetzen.

Ich wünsche uns allen eine produktive und angenehme Tagung. Sollten sie Fragen oder Anmerkungen haben, scheuen sie sich nicht uns während des Kongresses anzusprechen.

Ich bedanke mich für ihre Aufmerksamkeit.

Per Le Moine:

Chargé de mission par le Présidium pour l'année 2001 – 2002

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Mesdames et Messieurs, Chers collègues et amis, après mon départ de votre Présidium l'an dernier, vous avez bien voulu me confier provisoirement

la charge de continuer à vous représenter auprès des Organisations internationales et spécialement auprès du Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg.

Je vous remercie pour votre longue confiance et viens donc vous informer au sujet de cette Mission que j'ai continué à assumer en équipe avec notre Président Romedi ARQUINT, et aussi avec la participation de notre Vice-Président Joska Komlossy.

Donc je suis heureux de vous annoncer qu'au cours de l'année écoulée, le poids de l'Union dans les Instances internationales a encore augmenté, et cela nous met certainement en tête des plus anciennes associations travaillant pour les communautés minoritaires d'Europe.

D'une part l'UFCE a été élue à Strasbourg comme membre de la Commission de liaison Parlementaires – ONG.



Per Le Moine

D'autre part, notre Union a également été élue au Conseil d'Administration du CAE de Bruxelles (le Conseil des Associations d'Europe).

Il est certain que le fait de parvenir à ces deux postes électifs devrait nous permettre d'obtenir plus rapidement le titre d'Expert non-gouvernemental pour tous les sujets traitant des minorités d'Europe et de leurs problèmes, que vous savez trop nombreux, hélas.

Je n'allongerai pas ce rapport en vous donnant ici la liste des réunions internationales auxquelles j'ai participé en votre nom depuis notre dernier Congrès, car vous trouverez ce renseignement dans la liste publiée par le Secrétariat général dans son propre rapport pour rendre compte des activités de votre Présidium.

Sachez toutefois que j'assiste, entre autres, régulièrement comme une horloge, à toutes les Sessions de l'Assemblée parlementaire à Strasbourg et que je participe aussi aux réunions de Regroupement intéressant les Droits de l'Homme et l'Education. La dernière Session se tenait il y a tout juste deux semaines, la dernière semaine d'avril.

Au cours de cette Session, nous avons confirmé notre demande afin de devenir les mandataires de nos membres pour être habilité à déposer pour eux des recours devant le COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX. Cela me semble être une nouvelle avancée importante sur le plan international et naturellement, nous serons à la disposition de nos membres pour déposer de tels recours s'ils le jugent nécessaire, à l'encontre de Gouvernements majoritaires qui ne respecteraient pas les Droits Sociaux de leurs Minorités.

A la fin de ce bilan, je tiens à vous dire que nous conservons les excellentes relations, parfois même amicales, créées depuis maintenant quinze ans, avec la Présidence et le Secrétariat général du Conseil de l'Europe, et aussi avec les instances dirigeantes du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux d'Europe.

Nos suggestions, tant auprès des Parlementaires que des Hauts fonctionnaires, sont le plus souvent les bienvenues et sont accueillies par eux avec intérêt : plusieurs fois déjà elles ont eu pour suite immédiate de nouveaux textes qui régiront l'Europe de demain, celle que nous souhaitons, l'Europe des Régions et des Communautés historique et traditionnelles.

C'est pour cette Europe que nous travaillons tous depuis 53 ans, une Europe respectueuse qui assurera une paix durable entre les peuples.

Enfin, il me faut terminer en vous rappelant que j'aurai 75 ans dans moins de trois mois, que je suis à votre service depuis plus d'un demi siècle et que ma santé est très loin d'être bonne ; donc, il nous faut des remplaçants, il nous faut des jeunes pour continuer ce travail, disons même cette lutte, et je lance en conséquence un vibrant appel pour que la relève soit assurée dès que possible.

Notre Président et le Présidium ne peuvent tout faire, ils ne peuvent être, comme cela se dit en breton "en même temps au four et au moulin" ; une nouvelle génération doit arriver pour nous aider et nous remplacer.

Le poids de l'Union et l'efficacité de son action passent aussi par notre influence dans les Organisations internationales : cela doit rester l'un de nos buts essentiels.

Trugarez ha kenavo d'an holl (merci et au revoir à tous).

RESOLUTION 2002/01 English

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia Serbia on 9 May 2002 passes the following major resolution.

1. Introduction

1.1 The burdening legacy of the nation-state ideology is still present and not overcome at the beginning of the third millennium. If a new European home is to be built, it will be necessary to rethink intellectually and politically. Instead of speaking of a national majority and national minorities, a mutual strategy must be put in place—obliging both minorities and majorities equally—which is oriented to preserving and promoting lingual and cultural diversity as one of the most important spiritual elements of Europe.

1.2 The preservation of national minorities, ethnic groups and their threatened languages is based on the fundamental right of free and unobstructed development of a personal and collective cultural identity to which all citizens of Europe are equally entitled. That this has to be particularly laid down in legislation is regrettable, but is a fact which is derived from the ideology of the nation-state.

1.3 To preserve diversity, the members of national minorities are obliged to not only equally recognise fundamental rights for national minorities. This is a matter of course and must not be granted in the sense of good will. A positive idea of diversity requires acknowledgement from the majority and positive evaluation of the members of other nationalities living in their territory. Mechanisms for this are: the integration of all nationalities in the public eye (the media, education programmes, politics), acquiring natural bilingual ability with a sufficient knowledge of the language of each neighbour.

1.4 Preserving diversity requires members of national minorities, ethnic groups and those who speak their languages to make a particular effort to preserve their intellectual-cultural heritage. The danger of adapting to the majority language is just as existent as those who give their own identity an exclusive aura.

1.5 Orientation to the overriding goals of the achievements of the democratic constitutional state, the general human rights and general economic and social welfare unites the whole population of a state irrespective of their nationality.

1.6 A clear constitutional basis, federal structures and subsidiarity: FUEN is convinced that these three factors can best accommodate the just demand for as much self-administration as possible in lingual and cultural political issues in the political institutional sector.

The aim should be to help this strategy to break through on a national and European level.

2. General comments on the international institutions

2.1 With all international institutions we note, in particular as regards efforts to preserve lingual and cultural diversity, a deficit of active inclusion in partnership of the national and international representatives of the national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages. This often makes one of the priority goals of the institutions, to build up civil society in Europe, into purely empty rhetoric. For this reason, we appeal to the institutions to pay more attention in their activities to the aspect of involving those directly affected.

2.2 Each of the international institutions pursues its own individual political and social targets. Frequently, the activities are not coordinated, and tasks are often taken over by an institution which are absent from the direct responsibility of another. This could lead to the work of international institutions losing efficiency and credibility, or even becoming contra-productive. In view of guaranteeing the rights and promotion measures for the benefit of national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages, it is of special importance to examine the responsibilities and arrange joint coordination.

3. Council of Europe

The national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages today are in need of special internationally negotiated mechanisms to guarantee their individual and collective identities.

The Council of Europe is called upon

- to exert pressure on those states that have still not ratified the existing instruments to do so
- to oversee that the existing instruments do not take on an alibi function, but are implemented as they are meant
- in particular that the members and representatives of the national communities are actively included in all steps in the negotiations with the states
- to make the evaluation reports by expert bodies accessible in full and without abridgement to the public at large
- to publicly remind states who do not fulfil their obligations of their duty
- to admit European organisations of those directly affected, like FUEN as an important member of civil society, to their expert bodies
- to take precautions to secure the fundamental rights to individual and collective identity of all national communities by legal protection.

4. European Union

The extension of the European Union has spotlighted the question about the fundaments of the Union. The European Convention led by former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is to make proposals for a comprehensive reform of the European Union.

FUEN is convinced that an essential part of these principles are those concerned with preserving and promoting the lingual and cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence of peoples.

The EU is called upon,

- to assert the principles inside the current EU which are laid down in the instruments mentioned and to demand they are observed by the states wishing to be admitted. The objective is to ensure equal treatment of all EU states on the basis of the minority standard achieved
- not to have double standards for the states wishing to be admitted and to ensure they observe various standards
- not to allow a dual class system when applying the principles to national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages
- to establish a point within the EU for issues relating to national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages. The tasks of this point are primarily to coordinate EU policy in issues relating to national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages, to arrange cooperation with national and international NGOs in and outside the EU, to financially support projects promoting the cultural and political individuality of national minorities, ethnic groups and their languages,
- to financially support FUEN, the roof organisation of over 75 national minorities and ethnic groups covering the whole of Europe while maintaining the democratic and constitutional principles and providing a contribution to the peaceful coexistence of all nationalities within a state territory and in Europe

The commission convened by the EU is called upon

- to work out general principles for the equal treatment of all lingual and cultural communities within a state territory. These should serve to preserve and promote threatened minority languages, the free and unobstructed development of individual and collective rights to cultural self-administration, to positively sensitise the majority population for the lingual and cultural diversity both within their territory and Europe.

The standards set out in the international agreements must in no case be applied laxly; they are to be laid down as a fundament of the Union and clearly defined.

5. Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE has an important preventive and consolidating role to play. With its on-site missions, it performs indispensable mediating and peace-promoting tasks.

It has to be especially emphasised that it achieves this primarily by actively participating all socially relevant powers in civil society. This partner-like cooperation has to be strengthened. The OSCE is to be extended by the community of states and supported with respect to personnel and funding, and in its expertise to allow it to efficiently continue its efforts.

RESOLUTION 2002/02 English

ENGLISH

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html)

FRANÇAIS

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html)

DEUTSCH

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html)

РУССКИЙ

[**http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf**](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf)

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following major resolution:

As the native Cornish people fulfil the necessary criteria for classification as a national minority, the FUEN resolves to support the Cornish Stannery Parliament in the name of all Cornish inhabitants.

It calls upon the government of the United Kingdom

to recognise the Cornish inhabitants as a national minority in line with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

RESOLUTION 2002/03 English

ENGLISH

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html)

FRANÇAIS

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html)

DEUTSCH

[**http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html**](http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html)

РУССКИЙ

[**http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf**](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf)

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

Ingushetia is the smallest and youngest republic in the Russian Federation. Despite the complex economic and political situation President Aushev has succeeded in 9 years of government work to consolidate the young republic. As a sign of détente, the claim to the capital Wladikavkaz, now part of North Ossetia-Alania, was retracted and the new capital Magas was proclaimed and built up.

The expulsion of around 60,000 Ingushetians from their traditional home Prigorodny Rayon in 1992 and the Chechyan war with its far more than 100,000 refugees are a heavy burden on the young republic. The relationship to North Ossetia-Alania is tense as neither the hostile violent acts on expulsion, nor searches for those involved in acts of terror, nor a search for the Ingushetians missing have been pursued. In particular, the Ingushetians have been denied a return to and a life in safety in Prigorodnyi Rayon until this very day.

The law of the Russian Federation of 26 April 1991 "On the rehabilitation of repressed peoples" has so far not been observed in the search for a solution for those Ingushetians deported and persecuted in 1944 and 1992.

The FUEN delegates call upon Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, and the government and parliament of North Ossetia-Alania to do all in their might

- to clarify the crimes committed and the whereabouts and fate of those missing
- to allow the expelled Ingushetians, some of them still interred in refugee camps, to return to Prigorodnyi Rayon in North Ossetia-Alania

- to guarantee them the general human rights, including the right to work, to freedom of movement and choice of residence, the right to personal sanctity and safety
- and to create conditions for a free and unobstructed pursuance of lingual, cultural and religious rights.

FUEN expects the president and the government of North Ossetia and the Russian Federation, the international Institutions, in particular the Council of Europe and the OSCE, and the international UN refugee organisation UNHCR to support initiatives to normalise the situation in Ingushetia and in Prigorodny Rayon.

RESOLUTION 2002/04 English

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

After studying the report by the FUEN delegation who visited the Republic of Ingushetia in January/February 2002 and was able to orient itself on the situation of the refugees from Chechyna on the territory of Ingushetia,

the Assembly of Delegates states

it expressly recognises the humanitarian involvement on the part of the Republic of Ingushetia for the thousands of Chechyan refugees, their anxiety and indignation in connection with the unsolved problems of the Chechyan people, the continuing state of war, the military and arbitrary violence against the civil population and the inadequate efforts of international organisations to provide care for the Chechyan refugees in camps on the territory of the Republic of Ingushetia

The Assembly of Delegates appeals

to the leaders of the Russian Federation with the urgent call to finally support ways of politically solving the conflict and creating human conditions for the refugees from Chechnya

to the Council of Europe and the European Union with a call to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to end the war.

RESOLUTION 2002/05 English

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

Since 11 September 2001, the situation of the Muslim population over the whole of the territory of the Russian Federation has worsened dramatically. Unpunished discrimination has been reported from the capital and from other regions.

Although there are many complaints from people affected and serious warnings have been issued by the international human rights organisations about serious violation of human rights in Krasnodarskij district and, although reports on a systematic discrimination against the Turkish Meskhets living in this district have been published in recent months, the discrimination and acts of violence continue; the media and authorities support these activities and openly call for the Turkish Meskhets to be deported from the Krasnodarskij district.

The ethnic group of the Turkish Meskhets in Krasnodarskij district (approx. 5,000 people among 500,000

migrants, who came to the region after 1989) is exposed to this hostile animosity without protection.

The FUEN Assembly of Delegates calls upon

the president and government of the Russian Federation

with the appeal to put an end to discrimination against the Turkish Meskhets,

to speak in favour of the Turkish Meskhets, living in the Ferganskaya valley (Usbekistan) after the tragic events (pogroms) of 1989, obtaining full citizenship.

the government and parliament of the Republic of Georgia

with the appeal to fulfil the obligations taken over in 1999 and pass and implement the law governing the rehabilitation and repatriation of the Turks from Meshetia.

RESOLUTION 2002/06 English

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

According to the framework law governing minority protection in Italy, protective measures should be initiated where the minority has resided historically and where a recognised minority language is spoken.

With this law, the province Belluno is trying use its power to extend Ladinian territory to over 35 communities for political reasons. The three historically established Ladinian communities of Ampezzo, Colle S. Lucia and Fodom (Buchenstein), which have always belonged to the Dolomite Ladins of the Sella region and to the cultural society of the Generela Di Ladins Dla Dolomites, envisage the future use of this law governing the minority's education, culture and the media to be a great threat which will dilute their original culture, as Ladinian is of only marginal significance in the communities added.

For this reason, the three communities in conjunction with the cultural societies in the province, the region and the state have protested against this procedure and demanded a specific status of identity and their own regulations in the Ladinian legal issue.

As so far no comments have been issued by the bodies mentioned,

the FUEN Assembly of delegates appeals

to European and international bodies who are charged with monitoring and establishing minority rights to support efforts to preserve the identity of the historic Ladins in the province Belluno.

RESOLUTION 2002/07 English

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

to the foundation Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft [Remembering, Responsibility and Future] in Berlin and the International Organization for Migration in Geneva

to compensate former NS forced labourers belonging to the Roma and Sinti

The Federal Union of European Nationalities, with over 100 representative minority organisations in all parts of Europe, appeals with special emphasis to the foundation Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft to ensure that the surviving Roma and Sinti are actually paid the envisaged compensation of 7,669 EUR (15,000 DM) in full. In contrast to other groups who were persecuted, the absolute majority of the Sinti and Roma affected have not even received a first instalment. All applicants are in advanced years and many entitled to the payment who placed their applications over a year ago have meanwhile passed away.

Most of the other people persecuted received at least a first instalment of 5,113 EUR (10,000 DM) via the Jewish Claims Conference and partner organisations of the foundation in Poland and the Czech Republic. To guarantee equal treatment, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the partner organisation for the Foundation of Sinti and Roma in Germany and other countries must give immediate instructions for payment to be made. In addition, the foundation of the IOM must provide the necessary funds so that the Sinti and Roma can obtain the total amount of compensation just like other partner organisations can guarantee. Organisational deficits at the IOM and the foundation leading to a disadvantage for the victims, must no longer be accepted. Otherwise this would be a cynical time calculation. FUEN directs an urgent recommendation to the foundation and the IOM to take more advantage of the work offered by the minority organisations (e.g. Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, which submitted applications for more than 1,500 German Sinti and Roma).

RESOLUTION 2002/08 English

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Subotica/Yugoslavia on 9 May 2002 passes the following resolution:

it expresses its concern at the continuing violation of the national rights of the Carpathian Rusins who live in their historic home in Rusinia, since 1946 Trans-Carpathian territory of the Ukraine.

The Assembly of Delegates demands yet again:

*recognition of the national minority of the 'Trans-Carpathian Rusins', an end to obligatory assimilation and the granting equal rights as the other national minorities of the Ukraine have

* contact with the Rusin organisations and members of the Rusin families in other countries be facilitated according to the recommendations made by the General Convention of the European Council on the protection of national minorities

* the results of the census in the Ukraine be publicised, including that of the Trans-Carpathian Rusins, irrespective of the violation of the rights to freedom of national self-determination.

RESOLUTION 2002/01 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution principale ci-après :

1. Introduction

1.1. Le lourd héritage de l'idéologie de l'État national est sensible et demeure non surmonté même au début du troisième millénaire. Pour édifier une nouveau maison européenne, il est nécessaire de changer sa façon de penser sur le plan intellectuel et politique. Le discours de la majorité nationale et des minorités nationales doit être remplacé par une stratégie commune - engageant de la même façon aussi bien les minorités que les majorités – laquelle s'oriente sur le maintien et le soutien de la diversité linguistique et culturelle comme étant l'un des éléments spirituel d'Europe les plus importants.

1.2. Le maintien des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues menacées repose sur le droit fondamental du libre déploiement de l'identité culturelle personnelle et collective, revenant pareillement à tout citoyen en Europe. Le fait que cela doit être ancré dans des dispositions légales spécifiques, est regrettable, mais cela est un fait qui découle de l'idéologie de l'unité d'état national.

1.3. Le maintien de la diversité exige des membres des majorités nationales non pas seulement le devoir de reconnaître les mêmes droits fondamentaux aux minorité nationales. Cela est une évidence qui ne doit ne pas leur être attribuée comme une complaisance particulière. Une idée remplie positivement de la diversité exige de la majorité à la fois la prise de connaissance et l'appréciation positive des ressortissants d'autres nationalités vivant sur le territoire national. Les instruments qui doivent être utilisés à cette fin sont : l'intégration de toutes les nationalités dans la vie publique (média, programme de formation, politique), l'acquisition d'un bilinguisme naturel avec connaissance suffisante de la langue des voisins respectifs.

1.4. Le maintien de la diversité exige des membres des minorités régionales, communautés ethniques et les locuteurs de leurs langues qu'il s'efforcent notamment de maintenir leur patrimoine culturel et spirituel. Le risque de s'assimiler à la langue majoritaire est tout aussi présent que celui de donner à sa propre identité une apparence exclusive.

1.5. L'orientation aux objectifs supérieurs des acquis de l'état de droit démocratique, aux droits généraux de l'homme et à la prévoyance générale économique et sociale réunit toute la population d'un état quelle que soit l'appartenance nationale.

1.6. Une base constitutionnelle claire, des structures fédéralistes et la subsidiarité : L'UFCE est convaincue qu'en matière d'institution politique, ces trois éléments peuvent satisfaire au mieux les désirs légitimes d'administration autonome extrême dans le domaine politico-linguistique et politico-culturel.

Il s'agit d'aider cette stratégie à percer tant à l'échelle nationale qu'européenne.

2. Remarques générales concernant les institutions internationales

2.1. Dans toutes les institutions internationales, nous constatons notamment en ce qui concerne les efforts de maintien de la diversité linguistique et culturelle un déficit au niveau de l'intégration active et partenariale des représentations nationales et internationales des représentantes et représentants des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues. Par conséquent, l'un des objectifs prioritaires, d'encourager l'édification de la société civile en Europe, devient purement déclamatoire. Nous faisons donc appel aux institutions à respecter davantage l'aspect de l'intégration des groupes directement concernés dans leurs activités.

2.2 Chacune des institutions internationales poursuit des objectifs politiques et sociaux autonomes. Souvent, les activités ne sont pas coordonnées. Souvent, une institution se charge de missions qui fait défaut dans la compétence directe d'une autre. Les activités des institutions internationales peuvent donc perdre en efficacité et crédibilité, et devenir contre-productives. En ce qui concerne la garantie des droits et des mesures de soutien en faveur des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues, il est particulièrement important de contrôler les domaines de compétence et de conclure des accords mutuels.

3. Conseil de l'Europe

Les minorités nationales, les communautés ethniques et leurs langues ont besoin aujourd’hui encore d’instruments négociés à l’échelle internationale qui leur garantissent les droits fondamentaux relatifs à l’identité individuelle et collective.

Nous demandons au Conseil de l’Europe

- de faire pression sur les états de ratifier les instruments existants qu’ils n’ont toujours pas ratifiés,
- de veiller à ce que les instruments existants ne dégénèrent en alibi, mais qu’ils soient mis en pratique à la lettre,
- de faire en sorte que les ressortissants et représentants des communautés nationales participent activement aux pourparlers avec les états dans toutes les démarches,
- de donner à un large public accès intégral aux rapports d’évaluation des comités d’experts,
- de rappeler aux états qui ne respectent pas les engagements pris, leur tâches en public,
- d’intégrer dans les comités d’experts de ces deux instruments les organisations européennes des communautés concernées comme l’UFCE, en tant que membre important de la société civile,
- de prendre des dispositions pour assurer les droits fondamentaux de toutes les communautés nationales et la sauvegarde collective de l’identité par le biais d’instances judiciaires.

4. Union européenne

L’extension de l’Union européenne a mis au premier plan le problème des fondations de l’Union. La convention européenne présidée par l’ancien chef d’État français Valéry Giscard d’Estaing doit faire des propositions concernant une réforme étendue de l’Union Européenne. L’UFCE est convaincue que ces principes englobent notamment ceux du maintien et du soutien de la diversité linguistique et culturelle ainsi que d’une coexistence pacifique des peuples

Nous demandons de l’Union Européenne

- d’imposer à l’intérieur des frontières de l’Union européenne d’aujourd’hui les principes qui sont fixés dans les instruments mentionnés du Conseil de l’Europe, et dont elle exige du reste le respect par les états souhaitant y adhérer. On doit aspirer et arriver à ce que tous les pays de l’Union européenne soient traités de la même façon sur la base des standards atteints relatifs aux minorités,

- de ne pas avoir deux poids et deux mesures en ce qui concerne les états qui souhaitent adhérer à l’Union européenne et garantir à chaque fois les respect des différents standards,

- de ne pas autoriser un système à deux classes dans l’application de ces principes à l’égard des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues,

- de créer un centre de rassemblement pour les problèmes des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues. Les fonctions de ce centre seraient notamment de coordonner la politique européenne en matière des minorités nationales, communautés ethniques et de leurs langues, de coopérer avec les NGO nationales et internationales à l’intérieur et l’extérieur des frontières de l’Union européenne, de soutenir financièrement les projets qui encouragent sur le plan culturel et politique l’autonomie des minorités nationales, des communautés ethniques et de leurs langues

- et d’apporter un soutien financier à l’UFCE en qualité d’organisation pan-européenne rassemblant plus de 75 minorités nationales, communautés ethniques dans ses efforts, sans porter atteinte aux principes d’état de droit démocratiques, visant à contribuer à la coexistence pacifique de toutes les nationalités sur le territoire national concerné et en Europe.

Nous demandons à la convention convoquée par l’Union européenne

- d’étudier des principes généraux pour le traitement égal de toutes les communautés linguistiques et culturelles sur le territoire national.

Ceux-ci doivent servir à maintenir et à soutenir les langues minoritaires menacées, à garantir le libre déploiement des droits individuels et collectifs sur la base de l'administration autonome culturelle, à sensibiliser positivement la population majoritaire à la diversité linguistique et culturelle aussi bien sur son territoire national qu'en Europe.

Il est important de ne pas rester en dessous des standards obtenus dans les accords internationaux ; ils doivent être définis comme fondation de l'Union et clairement esquissés.

5. Organisation pour la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe (OSCE)

Une fonction préventive importante et consolidante revient à l'OSCE. Par ses missions sur le site, elle a une tâche indispensable dans la médiation et le soutien de la paix.

Il est important de souligner qu'elle doit notamment son succès à la participation active de toutes les forces de la société civile décisives sur le plan social. Il s'agit de renforcer cette coopération partenariale.

L'OSCE doit être étendue par la communauté des états, renforcée sur le plan du personnel, financier et de ses compétences de façon à ce qu'elle puisse poursuivre ses efforts avec efficacité.

RESOLUTION 2002/02 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

Vu que les autochtones corniques remplissent les critères nécessaires pour être classés comme minorité nationale, l'UFCE décide de soutenir le Carnish Stannery Parliament au nom de tous les compatriotes corniques.

Elle demande au gouvernement du Royaume Uni

de reconnaître aux habitants corniques la qualification de minorité nationale en vertu de l'accord-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales.

RESOLUTION 2002/03 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

L'Ingouchie est la plus petite et la plus jeune république de la Fédération russe. Malgré la situation difficile sur le plan économique et politique, le président Aushev a réussi au cours des 9 années au gouvernement de consolider cette jeune république. Comme preuve de détente, on a cessé de revendiquer le droit à la capitale Vladikavkaz, qui fait partie dans l'intervalle à l'Ossétie du Nord-Alania, au profit de la nouvelle capitale Magas qui a été proclamée.

L'expulsion de près de 60 000 Ingouches du district de Prigorodny où ils habitaient par tradition encore en 1992 et la guerre de Tchétchénie avec ses 100 000 réfugiés sont une charge pour la jeune république. La relation avec l'Ossétie du Nord-Alania est tendue, car la recherche des participants aux actes de terreur ni des personnes ingouches disparues n'a pas avancée. De plus, les Ingouches ne sont toujours pas autorisés à revenir et à vivre en sécurité dans le district de Prigorodnyi.

La loi de la Fédération russe du 26 avril 1991 concernant « la réhabilitation des peuples réprimés » n'a pas été

respectée lors de la recherche d'une solution valable pour les Ingouches déportés et persécutés en 1944 et 1992.

Les délégués de l'UFCE demandent au président de la Fédération russe Putin ainsi qu'au gouvernement et parlement de l'Ossétie du Nord-Alania d'entreprendre tous les moyens disponibles

- pour tirer au clair les crimes commis et le sort des personnes disparues,
- pour permettre aux Ingouches réfugiés et vivant encore aujourd'hui dans les camps de réfugiés de revenir dans le district de Prigorodny dans l'Ossétie du Nord-Alania,
- pour leur garantir les droits de l'homme fondamentaux, y compris le droit au travail, à la libre circulation et au libre choix du domicile, le droit à l'intégrité et la sécurité personnelle,
- et pour créer les conditions en vue du libre exercice des droits linguistiques, culturels et religieux.

L'UFCE attend des présidents et du gouvernement de l'Ossétie du Nord et de la Fédération russe, des institutions internationales, notamment du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'OSCE ainsi que du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les peuples réfugiés (UNHCR) qu'ils interviennent en faveur d'une normalisation de la situation en Ingouchie et dans le district de Prigorodny.

RESOLUTION 2002/04 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

Après avoir examiné le rapport de la délégation de l'UFCE qui s'est rendue en République d'Ingouchie en janvier-février 2002 et qui a pu se rendre compte de la situation des réfugiés de Tchétchénie sur le territoire ingouche,

l'Assemblée des délégués exprime
son extrême reconnaissance à l'égard de l'engagement humanitaire de la République d'Ingouchie pour les milliers de réfugiés tchétchènes,
son inquiétude et son indignation en rapport avec les problèmes irrésolus du peuple tchétchène, l'état de guerre permanent, la violence militaire et arbitraire exercée contre la population civile ainsi que les efforts insuffisants des organisations internationales pour ravitailler les réfugiés tchétchènes dans les camps situés sur le territoire de la République d'Ingouchie,

l'Assemblée des délégués s'adresse
aux leaders de la fédération russe en les appelant d'urgence à finir par intervenir en faveur d'une solution politique du conflit et à créer des conditions humaines pour les réfugiés de Tchétchénie,
au Conseil de l'Europe et à l'Union Européenne en les appelant à faire pression sur la fédération russe pour mettre fin à la guerre.

RESOLUTION 2002/05 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

Depuis le 11 septembre 2001, la situation du peuple de croyance musulmane s'est nettement aggravée sur l'ensemble du territoire de la Fédération russe. Des discriminations impunies en provenance de la capitale et d'autres régions ont été signalées.

Bien que de nombreuses plaintes ont été portées par les personnes concernées et que les premiers avertissements ont été formulés de la part des organisations internationales des droits de l'homme concernant les violations grossières des droits de l'homme commises dans le district de Krasnodar et bien que des articles sur la discrimination systématique des Turcs Meskhètes habitant ce district aient été publiés au cours des derniers mois, la discrimination et les actes de violence continuent. Les médias et les administrations soutiennent ces actions et appellent ouvertement à la déportation des Turcs Meskhètes du district de Krasnodar.

a communauté des Turcs Meskhètes du district de Krasnodar (comptant près de 5000 personnes parmi les 500 000 émigrés qui sont arrivés dans cette région après 1989) est entièrement à la merci de ces hostilités.

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'UFCE s'adresse

au président et au gouvernement de la fédération russe

en leur demandant d'intervenir de façon à mettre fin aux discriminations des Turcs Meskhètes,

d'intervenir de façon à ce que la pleine citoyenneté soit accordée aux Turcs Meskhètes qui à la suite des événements tragiques (pogromes) habitent la vallée de Ferganskaja (Ouzbékistan) depuis 1989.

au gouvernement et au parlement de la République de Géorgie

pour leur demander de satisfaire aux engagements pris en 1999 et de promulguer et de mettre en pratique la loi sur la réhabilitation et le rapatriement des Turcs de Meskhétie.

RESOLUTION 2002/06 Français

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L'Assemblée des délégués de l'Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

En vertu de la loi-cadre pour la protection des minorités en Italie, des mesures de protection doivent être prises là où la minorité est historiquement établie et parle une langue minoritaire reconnue.

'est maintenant que la province de Belluno a incité, par le biais de cette loi d'une manière scandaleusement arbitraire et au travers d'arrière-plans politiques, à étendre le territoire ladin sur plus de 35 communes. Les trois communes ladines historiques d'Ampezzo, Colle S. Lucia et Buchenstein, qui ont toujours appartenu aux Ladins des Dolomites de la région de Sella et à l'union culturelle Union Generela Di Ladins Dla Dolomites, perçoivent, dans l'application future de la loi en matière d'enseignement, culture et médias de la minorité, un grand risque de délayage de leur culture, puisque le ladin n'a qu'une signification marginale dans les communes qui seront ajoutées.

C'est la raison pour laquelle les trois communes ont protesté auprès de la province, la région et l'état de concert avec les associations culturelles contre cette méthode en exigeant un statut d'identité spécifique et des règlements spéciaux en matière de droit ladin.

Etant donné qu'aucune des instances mentionnées n'a pris position à ce sujet,

l'Assemblée des délégués de l'U.F.C.E. appelle

les instances européennes et internationales,

lesquelles sont habilitées à surveiller et protéger les droits des minorités, à intervenir en faveur des efforts de protection de l'identité des Ladins de la province de Belluno.

RESOLUTION 2002/07 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L’Assemblée des délégués de l’Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

à la Fondation « Souvenir, Responsabilité et Avenir » de Berlin et à l’Organisation internationale pour les migrations à Genève

en vue de l’indemnisation des Rom et Sinti obligés à travailler de force pendant le national-socialisme

L’Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à laquelle appartiennent plus de 100 organisations de minorités de toute l’Europe, appelle avec insistance la Fondation « Souvenir, Responsabilité et Avenir » à faire en sorte que la somme d’indemnisation prévue de 7.669 euros soit entièrement versée aux Rom et Sinti survivants. Contrairement aux autres groupes persécutés, la principale majorité des Sinti et Rom concernés n’ont même pas reçu d’acompte. Toutes les personnes qui ont déposé la demande sont extrêmement âgées et de nombreuses personnes qui ont pu posé leur demande il y a plus d’un an sont décédés dans l’intervalle.

La plupart des autres persécutés ont reçu au moins un acompte de 5.113 euros par l’intermédiaire de la Claims Conference juive et les organisations partenaires de la Fondation en Pologne et Tchéquie. Pour garantir le même traitement, l’IOM (organisation internationale pour les migrations) doit, en qualité d’organisation partenaire permanent de la Fondation pour les Sinti et Rom en Allemagne et dans d’autres pays, occasionner les versements immédiats en question. De plus, la Fondation doit donner à l’IOM les moyens nécessaires de façon à ce que la somme d’indemnisation intégrale puisse être accordée aux Sinti et Rom comme pour les autres organisations partenaires. Les déficits de l’IOM et de la Fondation sur le plan de l’organisation qui désavantagent les victimes ne doivent plus être acceptés. Ce serait vouloir cyniquement jouer sur le temps. L’UFCE adresse à la Fondation et à l’IOM l’urgente recommandation de recourir davantage à la coopération offerte par les organisations de minorités (comme le Conseil central des Sinti et Rom allemands qui a déposé la demande pour plus de 1500 Sinti et Rom allemands).

RESOLUTION 2002/08 Français

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

L’Assemblée des délégués de l’Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques en Europe à Subotica / Serbie du 9 mai 2002 adopte la résolution suivante :

Le 47e Congrès de l’UFCE exprime son inquiétude au sujet de la violation permanente des droits nationaux des Carpato-Ruthènes habitant leur pays natal Rusinija qui est depuis 1946 la région transcarpatique de l’Ukraine.

L’Assemblée des délégués exige pour la nième fois :

de reconnaître la minorité nationale des « Ruthènes de la Transcarpatie », de mettre fin à l’assimilation forcée et de les mettre au même rang que les autres minorités nationales de l’Ukraine en ce qui concerne leurs droits ;

de faciliter les contacts avec les organisations ruthènes et les membres de la famille des Ruthènes dans d’autres pays en vertu des Recommandations de la Convention générale du Conseil de l’Europe concernant la protection des minorités nationales ;

de publier les résultats du recensement de l’Ukraine, entre autres des « Ruthènes de la Transcarpatie », en dépit de la violation des droits à la liberté d’autodétermination nationale.

RESOLUTION 2002/01 Deutsch

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Hauptresolution

1. Einleitung

1.1. Das belastende Erbe der Ideologie der Nationalstaatlichkeit ist auch zu Beginn des 3. Jahrtausends spürbar und unbewältigt. Für den Aufbau eines neuen europäischen Hauses ist ein geistiges und politisches Umdenken notwendig. Die Rede von nationaler Mehrheit und nationalen Minderheiten muss abgelöst werden durch eine - Minderheiten wie Mehrheiten gleichermaßen verpflichtende - gemeinsame Strategie, die sich an der Erhaltung und Förderung der sprachlichen und kulturellen Vielfalt als eines der wichtigsten geistigen Elemente Europas orientiert.

1.2. Die Erhaltung der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer gefährdeten Sprachen gründet auf dem allen Bürgern in Europa gleichermaßen zukommenden Grundrecht der freien und ungehinderten Entfaltung der persönlichen und kollektiven kulturellen Identität. Dass dies in besonderen Rechtsbestimmungen verankert werden muss, kann man bedauern, ist jedoch eine Tatsache, die sich aus der Ideologie der nationalstaatlichen Einheit ergibt.

1.3. Die Erhaltung der Vielfalt erfordert von den Angehörigen nationaler Mehrheiten nicht nur die Pflicht, den nationalen Minderheiten in gleichwertiger Weise die Grundrechte zuzuerkennen. Dies ist eine Selbstverständlichkeit, die ihnen nicht als besonderes Entgegenkommen zugerechnet werden darf. Eine positiv gefüllte Idee der Vielfalt erfordert von der Mehrheit Kenntnis und positive Bewertung der in ihrem Staatsgebiet lebenden Angehörigen anderer Nationalitäten. Instrumente dazu sind: Integration aller Nationalitäten in die Öffentlichkeit (Medien, Bildungsprogramm, Politik), Erwerb einer natürlichen Zweisprachigkeit mit ausreichender Kenntnis der Sprache der jeweiligen Nachbarn.

1.4. Die Erhaltung der Vielfalt erfordert von den Angehörigen nationaler Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und den Sprechern ihrer Sprachen, dass sie die besondere Mühe auf sich nehmen, ihr geistig - kulturelles Erbe zu erhalten. Die Gefahr, sich der Mehrheitssprache anzupassen, ist ebenso vorhanden wie diejenige, der eigenen Identität einen exklusiven Anstrich zu geben.

1.5. Die Orientierung an den übergeordneten Zielen der Errungenschaften des demokratischen Rechtsstaates, der allgemeinen Menschenrechte sowie der allgemeinen wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Wohlfahrt verbindet die gesamte Bevölkerung eines Staates ungeachtet der nationalen Zugehörigkeit.

1.6. Eine klare Verfassungsgrundlage, föderalistische Strukturen und Subsidiarität: Die FUEV ist überzeugt, dass im politisch institutionellen Bereich diese Trias den berechtigten Anliegen nach grösstmöglicher Selbstverwaltung in sprach- und kulturpolitischen Belangen am besten entgegen kommen kann.

Diese Strategie gilt es auf nationaler wie auf europäischer Ebene zum Durchbruch zu verhelfen.

2. Allgemeines zu den internationalen Institutionen

2.1. Bei allen internationalen Institutionen stellen wir speziell in Bezug auf die Bemühungen zur Erhaltung der sprachlichen und kulturellen Vielfalt ein Defizit an aktivem und partnerschaftlichem Einbezug der nationalen und internationalen Vertreterinnen und Vertreter der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer Sprachen fest. Damit wird eines der prioritären Ziele der Institutionen, den Aufbau der Zivilgesellschaft in Europa zu fördern, oft zur reinen Deklamation. Wir appellieren deshalb an die Institutionen, bei ihrer Tätigkeit dem Aspekt des Einbezugs der direkt Betroffenen mehr Beachtung zu schenken.

2.2. Jede der internationalen Institutionen verfolgt eigenständige politische und gesellschaftliche Ziele. Oft fehlt eine Koordination der Aktivitäten, oft werden von einer Institution Aufgaben übernommen, die in dem direkten Zuständigkeitsbereich einer anderen fehlen. Dadurch kann die Arbeit der internationalen Institutionen an Effizienz und Glaubwürdigkeit verlieren, ja kontraproduktiv werden. Im Hinblick auf die Gewährleistung der Rechte und Förderungsmassnahmen zugunsten der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer Spra-

chen ist eine Überprüfung der Zuständigkeitsbereiche und eine gegenseitige Absprache von besonderer Bedeutung.

3. Europarat

Die nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihre Sprachen benötigen heute noch besondere international ausgehandelte Instrumente, die ihnen die Grundrechte der individuellen und kollektiven Identität gewährleisten.

Der Europarat ist aufgefordert.

- Druck auszuüben, damit die Staaten, die die bestehenden Instrumente immer noch nicht ratifiziert haben, diese ratifizieren,
- darüber zu wachen, dass die bestehenden Instrumente nicht zur Alibi-Funktion entarten, sondern ihrem Geist entsprechend umgesetzt werden,
- insbesondere darauf hinzuwirken, dass die Angehörigen und Repräsentanten der nationalen Gemeinschaften bei allen Schritten aktiv in die Verhandlungen mit den Staaten einbezogen werden,
- die Evaluationsberichte der Expertengremien vollständig und ohne Abstriche einer breiten Öffentlichkeit zugänglich zu machen,
- Staaten, die den eingegangenen Verpflichtungen nicht nachkommen, öffentlich an ihre Pflichten zu erinnern,
- europäische Organisationen der direkt Betroffenen wie die FUEV als wichtiges Mitglied der Zivilgesellschaft in die Expertengremien der beiden Instrumente aufzunehmen,
- Vorkehrungen zu treffen, um die Grundrechte aller nationalen Gemeinschaften auf die individuelle und kollektive Identitätswahrung durch gerichtlichen Rechtsschutz zu sichern.

4. Europäische Union EU

Die Ausweitung der Europäischen Union hat die Frage nach den Fundamenten der Union in den Vordergrund gestellt. Der Europäische Konvent unter der Leitung des früheren französischen Staatspräsidenten Valéry Giscard d'Estaing soll Vorschläge für eine umfassende Reform der Europäischen Union machen.

Die FUEV ist überzeugt, dass wesentlich zu diesen Grundsätzen auch die der Erhaltung und der Förderung der sprachlichen und kulturellen Vielfalt und eines friedlichen Zusammenlebens der Völker gehören.

Die EU wird aufgefordert.

- innerhalb der jetzigen EU die Grundsätze durchzusetzen, die in den erwähnten Instrumenten des Europarates festgelegt sind, und deren Einhaltung sie im übrigen von den beitrittswilligen Staaten einfordert. Es soll eine Gleichbehandlung aller EU-Staaten auf der Grundlage der erreichten Minderheitsstandards angestrebt und erreicht werden,
- bei den beitrittswilligen Staaten nicht zweierlei Mass anzuwenden und jeweils die Einhaltung verschiedener Standards sicher zu stellen,
- kein Zweiklassensystem bei der Anwendung der Grundsätze gegenüber nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihren Sprachen zuzulassen,
- innerhalb der EU eine Anlaufstelle für die Fragen der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer Sprachen einzurichten. Aufgaben dieser Stelle sind vor allem die Koordination der EU-Politik in Fragen der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer Sprachen, die Zusammenarbeit mit nationalen und internationalen NGOs innerhalb und ausserhalb des EU-Raumes, die finanzielle Unterstützung von Projekten, die kulturell und politisch die Eigenständigkeit der nationalen Minderheiten, Volksgruppen und ihrer Sprachen fördern,

die FUEV als die Gesamteuropa umfassenden Dachorganisation von über 75 nationalen Minderheiten und Volksgruppen bei ihren Bemühungen, unter Wahrung der demokratischen rechtsstaatlichen Prinzipien, einen Beitrag zum friedlichen Zusammenleben aller Nationalitäten im jeweiligen Staatsgebiet sowie in Europa zu leisten, finanziell zu unterstützen.

Der von der EU einberufende Konvent wird aufgefordert,

allgemeine Grundsätze zur gleichwertigen Behandlung aller Sprach- und Kulturgemeinschaften in einem Staatsgebiet auszuarbeiten.

Diese sollen der Erhaltung und Förderung bedrohter Minderheitensprachen, der freien und ungehinderten Entfaltung der individuellen und kollektiven Rechte auf der Grundlage der kulturellen Selbstverwaltung, der positiven Sensibilisierung der Mehrheitsbevölkerung für die sprachliche und kulturelle Vielfalt sowohl im eigenen Staatsgebiet als auch in Europa dienen.

Die in den internationalen Vereinbarungen erreichten Standards dürfen dabei keinesfalls unterschritten werden; sie sind als ein Fundament der Union festzuschreiben und klar zu umreissen.

5. Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa (OSZE)

Der OSZE kommt eine wichtige vorbeugende und konsolidierende Aufgabe zu. Durch ihre Missionen an vor Ort leistet sie eine unverzichtbare Vermittlungs- und friedensfördernde Aufgabe.

Es ist in besonderer Weise herauszustreichen, dass ihr dies vor allem durch den aktiven Einbezug aller gesellschaftlich relevanten Kräfte der Zivilgesellschaft gelingt. Diese partnerschaftliche Zusammenarbeit gilt es zu stärken.

Die OSZE ist von der Staatengemeinschaft personell und finanziell auszubauen und in ihren Kompetenzen zu stärken, damit sie effizient ihre Bemühungen fortsetzen kann.

RESOLUTION 2002/02 Deutsch

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

Da die kornischen Einheimischen die notwendigen Kriterien für die Einstufung als nationale Minderheit erfüllen, beschließt die FUEV, das Cornish Stannery Parliament im Namen aller kornischen Landsleute zu unterstützen.

Sie fordert die Regierung des Vereinigten Königreiches auf,

den kornischen Bewohnern die Qualifikationen als nationale Minderheit gemäß dem Rahmenübereinkommen zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten zuzuerkennen.

RESOLUTION 2002/03 Deutsch

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

Inguschetien ist die kleinste und jüngste Republik der russischen Föderation. Trotz der schwierigen wirtschaftlichen und politischen Lage ist es Präsident Auschew in den 9 Jahren der Regierungstätigkeit gelungen, die junge Republik zu konsolidieren. So wurde als Zeichen der Entspannung der Anspruch auf die mittlerweile zu

Nordossetien-Alania gehörende Hauptstadt Wladikawkas fallengelassen und die neue Hauptstadt Magas aufgebaut und ausgerufen.

Die Vertreibung von ungefähr 60 000 Inguschen aus dem von ihnen traditionell bewohnten Prigorodny Rayon im Jahre 1992 sowie der Tschetschenien-Krieg mit seinen weit mehr als 100. 000 Flüchtlingen belasten die junge Republik sehr. Das Verhältnis zu Nord-Ossetien-Alania ist gespannt, da hier weder die kriegerischen Gewaltakte anlässlich der Vertreibung, noch die Ermittlung der an Terroraktionen Beteiligten noch die Suche nach den inguschetischen Vermissten vorangetrieben wurden. Insbesondere ist den Inguschen eine Rückkehr und ein Leben in Sicherheit in dem Prigorodnyi Rayon bis heute verwehrt.

Das Gesetz der russischen Föderation vom 26. April 1991 "Über die Rehabilitation der unterdrückten Völker", ist bei der Suche nach einer Lösung für die 1944 und 1992 deportierten und verfolgten Inguschen bisher nicht beachtet worden.

Die FUEV-Delegierten fordern den Präsidenten der Russischen Föderation sowie Regierung und Parlament Nord-Ossetiens-Alania auf, alles in ihrer Macht Stehende zu unternehmen,

- um die geschehenen Verbrechen und den Verbleib und das Schicksal der Vermissten aufzuklären,
- um den vertriebenen und heute noch z.T. in Flüchtlingslagern lebenden Inguschen eine Rückkehr in das Prigorodnyi-Rayon in Nord-Ossetien-Alania zu ermöglichen,
- um ihnen die allgemeinen Menschenrechte zu gewährleisten, einschließlich der Rechte auf Arbeit, auf freie Bewegung und Auswahl des Wohnsitzes, des Rechtes auf persönliche Unantastbarkeit und Sicherheit,
- sowie die Voraussetzungen zu schaffen für eine freie und ungehinderte Ausübung der sprachlichen, kulturellen und religiösen Rechte.

Die FUEV erwartet von den Präsidenten und der Regierung Nordossetiens und der russischen Föderation, von den internationalen Institutionen, insbes. vom Europarat und der OSZE sowie dem Internationalen UNO Flüchtlingswerk UNHCR, dass sie sich für eine Normalisierung der Situation in Inguschetien und in dem Prigorodny-Rayon einsetzen.

RESOLUTION 2002/04 Deutsch

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet die nachfolgende Resolution:

Nach dem Studium des Berichts der FUEV-Delegation, die im Januar-Februar 2002 die Republik Inguschetien besucht hatte und sich über die Lage der Flüchtlinge aus Tschetschenien auf dem Territorium Inguschetiens orientieren konnte,

aussert die Delegiertenversammlung

ihre ausdrückliche Anerkennung gegenüber dem humanitären Engagement der Republik Inguschetien für die Tausenden von tschetschenischen Flüchtlingen,
ihre Sorge und Empörung im Zusammenhang mit den ungelösten Problemen des tschetschenischen Volkes, dem andauernden Kriegszustand, der militärischen und willkürlichen Gewalt gegen die Zivilbevölkerung sowie den ungenügenden Bemühungen der internationalen Organisationen zur Versorgung der tschetschenischen Flüchtlinge in den Lagern auf dem Territorium der Republik Inguschetien,

wendet sich die Delegiertenversammlung

an die Führung der russischen Föderation mit dem dringenden Appell, sich endlich für eine politische Lösung des Konfliktes einzusetzen sowie menschliche Bedingungen für die Flüchtlinge aus Tschetschenien zu schaffen,

an den Europarat und an die Europäische Union mit dem Aufruf, Druck auf die russische Föderation auszuüben, um den Krieg zu beenden.

RESOLUTION 2002/05 Deutsch

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

Seit dem 11. September 2001 hat sich die Lage der Bevölkerung muslimischen Glaubens im ganzen Gebiet der Russischen Föderation deutlich verschlechtert. Ungeahndete Diskriminierungen sind aus der Hauptstadt wie auch aus anderen Gebieten zu vermelden.

Obwohl viele Klagen der Betroffenen und ernste Mahnungen von Seiten der internationalen Menschenrechtsorganisationen über grobe Verletzungen der Menschenrechte im Krasnodarskij Kreis zu verzeichnen sind und obwohl Berichte über eine systematische Diskriminierung der in diesem Kreis wohnenden Turk-Meschen in den letzten Monaten veröffentlicht worden sind, dauern die Diskriminierung und Gewaltakte an; Medien und Behörden unterstützen diese Aktionen und rufen offen zur Deportation der Turkmeschen aus dem Krasnodarskij Kreis auf.

Die Volksgruppe der Turk-Meschen im Krasnodarskij Kreis (ca 5000 Menschen unter 500.000 Migranten, die nach 1989 in die Region angekommen sind) ist diesen Anfeindungen schutzlos ausgeliefert.

Die Delegiertenversammlung der FUEV wendet sich

an den Präsidenten und an die Regierung der Russischen Föderation

mit dem Aufruf, sich für ein Ende der Diskriminierungen der Turkmeschen einzusetzen,

sich dafür einzusetzen, daß den Turkmeschen die volle Staatsbürgerschaft gewährt werde, die nach den tragischen Ereignissen (Pogromen) im Ferganskaja Tal (Uzbekistan) von 1989 wohnen.

an die Regierung und an das Parlament der Republik Georgien

mit dem Aufruf, die Verpflichtungen zu erfüllen, die 1999 übernommen wurden, und das Gesetz über die Rehabilitation und Repatriation der Turk-Meschen zu erlassen und umzusetzen.

RESOLUTION 2002/06 Deutsch

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS
DEUTSCH
РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

Nach dem Rahmengesetz für Minderheitenschutz in Italien sollten Schutzmaßnahmen dort eingesetzt werden, wo die Minderheit historisch ansässig ist und eine anerkannte Minderheitensprache spricht.

Nun versucht die Provinz Belluno anhand dieses Gesetzes mit aller Macht und durch politische Hintergründe bewegen, das ladinische Gebiet auf über 35 Gemeinden auszuweiten.

Die drei historisch verankerten ladinischen Gemeinden von Ampezzo, Colle S. Lucia und Buchenstein, die von jeher zu den Dolomitenladinern des Sellagebietes und zum Kulturverein der Union Generela Di Ladins Dla Dolomites gehört haben, sehen in der künftigen Anwendung des Gesetzes, das über Schule, Kultur und Medien der Minderheit bestimmt, eine große Gefahr der Verwässerung ihrer angestammten Kultur, weil in den dazukommenden Gemeinden Ladinisch nur eine marginale Bedeutung hat.

Aus diesem Grund haben die drei Gemeinden zusammen mit den Kulturvereinen bei der Provinz, der Region

und dem Staat gegen diese Vorgangsweise protestiert und ein spezifischen Identitätsstatus und eigene Bestimmungen in der ladinischen Rechtsfrage verlangt.

Da bislang von keiner der genannten Instanzen Stellung genommen wurde,

appelliert die Delegiertenversammlung der FUEV

an europäische und internationale Instanzen,

die zur Überwachung und Förderung der Minderheitenrechte befugt sind, sich für die Bestrebung zur Wahrung der Identität der historischen Ladiner der Provinz Belluno einzusetzen.

RESOLUTION 2002/07 Deutsch

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

an die Stiftung "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft" in Berlin
und die Internationale Organisation für Migration in Genf

zur Entschädigung für ehemalige NS-Zwangsarbeiter der Roma und Sinti

Die Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen, der mehr als 100 repräsentative Minderheiten-Organisationen aus allen Teilen Europas angehören, appelliert an die Stiftung "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft", mit allem Nachdruck sicherzustellen, dass jetzt auch an die überlebenden Roma und Sinti der vorgesehene Entschädigungsbetrag von 7.669 EUR (15.000 DM) vollständig ausbezahlt wird. Im Gegensatz zu anderen Verfolgtengruppen hat die ganz überwiegende Mehrzahl der betroffenen Sinti und Roma nicht einmal eine erste Rate erhalten. Alle Antragsteller sind hochbetagt und viele Berechtigte, die ihre Anträge schon vor über einem Jahr stellten, sind inzwischen gestorben.

Die meisten anderen Verfolgten erhielten über die Jüdische Claims Conference und Partnerorganisationen der Stiftung in Polen und Tschechien wenigstens eine erste Rate von 5.113 EUR (10.000 DM). Um die Gleichbehandlung zu gewährleisten, muss auch die Internationale Organisation für Migration (IOM) als zuständige Partnerorganisation der Stiftung für Sinti und Roma in Deutschland und anderen Ländern zu entsprechenden sofortigen Auszahlungen veranlasst werden. Außerdem muss die Stiftung der IOM die erforderlichen Mittel zur Verfügung stellen, damit den Sinti und Roma der vollständige Entschädigungsbetrag ebenso wie bei anderen Partnerorganisationen gewährt werden kann. Organisatorische Defizite der IOM und der Stiftung, die zu einer Benachteiligung der Opfer führen, dürfen nicht länger hingenommen werden. Das wäre sonst eine zynische Kalkulation mit der Zeit. Die FUEV richtet an die Stiftung und die IOM die dringende Empfehlung, die angebotene Mitarbeit der Minderheitenorganisationen (wie z.B. des Zentralrats Deutscher Sinti und Roma, der für mehr als 1500 deutsche Sinti und Roma deren Anträge vorlegte) verstärkt zu nutzen.

RESOLUTION 2002/08 Deutsch

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pages/france/f_5c_2002.html

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5c_2002.html

РУССКИЙ

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020509_Resolution.pdf

Die Delegiertenversammlung der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen in Subotica / Jugoslawien am 09. Mai 2002 verabschiedet nachfolgende Resolution:

Sie bringt ihre Besorgnis über die anhaltende Verletzung der nationalen Rechte der Karpato-Rusinen zum Ausdruck, die in ihrer historischen Heimat in Rusinija, seit 1946 Transkarpatisches Gebiet der Ukraine, leben.

Die Delegiertenversammlung fordert zum wiederholten Male:

Σ die nationale Minderheit der „transkarpatischen Rusinen“ anzuerkennen, die zwangsweise Assimilierung zu beenden und sie in ihren Rechten mit den anderen nationalen Minderheiten der Ukraine gleichzustellen;
 Σ die Kontakte mit den rusinischen Organisationen und Mitgliedern der Familie der Rusinen in anderen Ländern gemäß den Empfehlungen der Allgemeinen Konvention des Europarates über den Schutz nationaler Minderheiten zu erleichtern;

die Ergebnisse der Volkszählung der Ukraine bekannt zu geben, unter anderem auch der „transkarpatischen Rusinen“, ungeachtet der erfolgten Verletzung der Rechte auf Freiheit der nationalen Selbstbestimmung.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-01

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую основную резолюцию:

1. Преамбула

1.1 И в начале 3-го тысячелетия по-прежнему ощутимо и непреодолено обременяющее наследие национал-государственной идеологии. Для создания нового европейского дома необходимо изменение духовных и политических взглядов. Речь о национальном большинстве и национальных меньшинствах должна уступить место общей – в равной мере общеобязательной как для меньшинств, так и для большинства – стратегией, ориентированной на сохранение и поддержку языкового и культурного многообразия как одного из важнейших духовных элементов Европы.

1.2 Сохранение малых языков и национальных меньшинств, которым угрожает опасность вымирания, базируется на основополагающем праве собственно всех граждан европейских стран – праве на свободное и беспрепятственное раскрытие индивидуальной и коллективной культурной идентичности. То, что этот принцип потребовал закрепления в определенных правовых документах, заслуживает сожаления, но остается фактом, вытекающим из идеологии национал-государственного единства.

1.3 Сохранение многообразия требует от представителей национального большинства не только обязательного признания основополагающих прав в равной мере и за национальными меньшинствами. Это самоочевидно и не может считаться проявлением особой благожелательности и готовности к компромиссам. От большинства положительно наполненная идея многообразия требует знания и положительного отношения к представителям иных национальностей, проживающих на территории соответствующей страны. Инструментами при этом служат: интеграция всех национальностей в общественной жизни (средства массовой информации, учебно-образовательная программа, политика), приобретение естественного двуязычия при достаточном владении языком соответствующих соседей.

1.4 Сохранение многообразия требует от представителей национальных меньшинств, этнических групп и малых языков особых усилий, направленных на сохранение своего духовного культурного наследия. Опасность языковой ассимиляции и принятия языка большинства явна не менее, чем и опасность придания эксклюзивного оттенка собственной идентичности.

1.5 Ориентация на цели более высокого порядка – достижения демократического правового государства, общие права человека и общее экономическое и

социальное благополучие – объединяет все население страны независимо от национальной принадлежности.

1.6 Ясные конституционные основы, федералистские структуры и субсидиарность: ФСЕНМ убежден в том, что в области политических учреждений эта триада самым оптимальным образом отвечает правомочным

стремлениям к максимальному возможному самоуправлению в области языковых и культурно-политических потребностей.

Для решительного утверждения этой стратегии необходима помощь и поддержка как на национальном, так и на общеевропейском уровне.

2. Общие замечания о международных организациях

2.1 Особенности в отношении усилий, предпринимаемых в интересах сохранения языкового и культурного многообразия, необходимо констатировать, что для всех международных организаций характерно недостаточно активное и партнерское взаимодействие с национальными и международными представителями национальных меньшинств, этнических групп и языков. Тем самым чистой риторикой становится одна из приоритетных целей этих организаций – содействие формированию гражданского общества в Европе. В этой связи мы призываем данные организации уделять большее внимание аспекту вовлечения в свою деятельность тех, чьи интересы эта деятельность непосредственно затрагивает.

2.2 Каждая международная организация преследует собственные политические и общественные цели. При этом часто не хватает скоординированности различных направлений деятельности, зачастую та или иная организация берется за решение задач, входящих в основную сферу компетенции другой организации. От этого страдает эффективность работы и доверие к международным организациям, работа даже становится контрапродуктивной. В отношении соблюдения прав и обеспечения поддержки национальных меньшинств, этнических групп и их языков особое значение приобретает проверка сфер компетенций и взаимная согласованность.

3. Совет Европы

Сегодня национальные меньши
нства, этнические группы и их языки нуждаются в еще более продуманных и выверенных международных инструментах, обеспечивающих их основополагающие права на индивидуальную и коллективную идентичность.

Призываем Совет Европы
оказать давление на те страны, которые до сих пор не ратифицировали имеющиеся инструменты,
обеспечить надзор за тем, чтобы имеющиеся инструменты не вырождались для выполнения лишь функции алиби, но использовались и претворялись в соответствующем духе,
в особой степени приложить усилия, направленные на привлечение представителей национальных общин к активной работе при переговорах с государствами, на всех этапах этих переговоров,
обеспечить доступ широкой общественности к отчетам и оценкам экспертных органов и комиссий, полностью, без исключений,
открыто напомнить странам, не выполняющим принятые ими обязательства, о

необходимости их выполнения, включить европейские организации тех, чьи интересы принимаемые решения затрагивают, например, ФСЕНМ, в качестве важнейшего члена гражданского общества в экспертные органы и комиссии по обоим инструментам, принять адекватные меры для обеспечения основополагающих прав всех национальных общин на сохранение индивидуальной и коллективной идентичности с возможностью обращения в соответствующие судебные органы для решения спорных вопросов.

4. Европейский Союз ЕС

Расширение Европейского Союза выдвинуло на передний план вопрос об основополагающих принципах Союза. Европейский конвент под руководством бывшего главы французского правительства Валери Жискара д'Эстена должен разработать предложения о развернутой реформе Европейского Союза.

ФСЕНМ убежден в том, что к этим принципам относится также принцип сохранения и поддержки языкового и культурного многообразия наряду с принципом мирных добрососедских отношений различных народов.

Призываем ЕС

добиваться реализации принципов, в рамках сегодняшнего ЕС, закрепленных в указанных инструментах Совета Европы, принципов, соблюдение которых Союз требует от стран-кандидатов на вступление в ЕС. Необходимо стремиться к равноправию всех государств-членов ЕС на основе достигнутого стандарта меньшинств и обеспечить реализацию такого равноправия

не подходить с различными мерками к государствам-кандидатам на вступление в ЕС, требуя обеспечения различных стандартов

не допускать двухклассовой системы, применяя принципы в отношении малых языков и национальных меньшинств

создать в рамках ЕС центральный пункт обращений по вопросам малых языков и национальных общин. Задачами этого центрального пункта должны быть прежде всего координация политики ЕС по вопросам малых языков и национальных общин, взаимодействие с национальными и международными НПО в странах ЕС и за пределами ЕС, финансовая поддержка проектов, способствующих культурной и политической самостоятельности национальных меньшинств, этнических групп и малых языков

оказывать финансовую поддержку ФСЕНМ как сводной общеевропейской организации, деятельность которой охватывает более 75 национальных меньшинств и этнических групп и, при соблюдении демократических принципов правовой государственности, является вкладом в дело укрепления мирных, добрососедских отношений между представителями различных национальностей как на территории соответствующих стран, так и в Европе.

Призываем созданный ЕС Конвент

разработать общие принципы равноправного отношения ко всем национальностям, проживающим на территории государства.

Эти принципы должны служить сохранению и поддержке малых языков, которым угрожает опасность вымирания, свободной и беспрепятственной реализации индивидуальных и коллективных прав на самоуправление в области культуры, настрою большинства населения на положительное восприятие языкового и культурного многообразия Европы.

При этом категорически исключается отступление – в сторону ухудшения – от стандартов, закрепленных в международных соглашениях, эти принципы надлежит зафиксировать в качестве фундамента Союза и придать им ясные, четкие очертания.

5. Организация по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе (ОБСЕ)

ОБСЕ решает важные превентивные и консолидирующие задачи. Миссии ОБСЕ на местах осуществляют посреднические и миротворческие функции, без которых невозможно обойтись.

Необходимо особо подчеркнуть, что это удается прежде всего благодаря активному вовлечению всех общественно значимых сил гражданского общества. Это партнерство необходимо укреплять.

Содружеству государств надлежит расширять ОБСЕ, укреплять его как в кадровом и финансовом отношении, так и в отношении соответствующих компетенций в интересах дальнейшей эффективной работы ОБСЕ.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-02

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

В связи с тем, что корнуэльцы – коренное население Корнуолла – соответствуют критериям, необходимым для классификации их в качестве национального меньшинства, ФСЕНМ принимает решение о поддержке Корнского парламента (Cornish Stannery Parliament) от лица всех коренных жителей Корнуолла.

Союз призывает Правительство Великобритании

признать коренное население Корнуолла национальным меньшинством в соответствии с Рамочной конвенцией о защите национальных меньшинств.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-03

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

Ингушетия – самая маленькая и молодая республика Российской Федерации. Несмотря на тяжелое экономическое и политическое положение Президенту Аушеву удалось за 9 лет правительенной деятельности консолидировать молодую республику. Одним из свидетельств разрядки напряженности стал отказ от притязаний на столицу Владикавказ, отошедший к Северной Осетии-Алании, и создание и провозглашение новой столицы – города Магас.

Изгнание почти 60.000 ингушей из Пригородного района, места их традиционного проживания, в 1992 году, а также война в Чечне, вызвавшая появление 100.000 беженцев, стали тяжелым бременем для молодой республики. Отношения с Северной Осетией – Аланией страдают напряженностью из-за отсутствия продвижения в таких вопросах, как расследование насильственных действий в связи с изгнанием, привлечение к ответственности участников террористических актов, поиск пропавших без вести ингушей. Особое значение имеет то, что до сегодняшнего дня ингуши лишены возможности возвращения и безопасного

проживания в Пригородном районе.

До сих пор не учитываются требования Закона Российской Федерации от 26 апреля 1991 года "О реабилитации репрессированных народов" в отношении поиска депортированных в 1944 и 1992 годах и репрессированных ингушей.

Делегаты ФСЕНМ призывают Президента Российской Федерации Путина, а также Правительство и Парламент Северной Осетии – Алании предпринять все от них зависящее для того, чтобы

- расследовать совершенные преступления, установить местонахождение и узнать о судьбе пропавших без вести,
- обеспечить возможность возвращения в Пригородный район Северной Осетии – Алании изгнанных ингушей, часть которых до сегодняшнего дня находится в лагерях для беженцев,
- обеспечить для них общие права человека, включая право на труд, на свободное передвижение и выбор места жительства, права на неприкосновенность личности и на личную безопасность,
- а также создать предпосылки для свободного и беспрепятственного пользования языковыми, культурными и религиозными правами.

ФСЕНМ ожидает, что Президенты и Правительства Северной Осетии и Российской Федерации, международные организации, в особенности Совет Европы и ОБСЕ, а также Управление Верховного Комиссара по делам беженцев ООН (UNHCR) выступят за нормализацию ситуации в Ингушетии и в Пригородном районе.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-04

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

Изучив отчет делегации ФСЕНМ, посетившую Республику Ингушетия в январе-феврале 2002 года и получившую представление о ситуации беженцев из Чечни на территории Ингушетии,

Собрание делегатов

выражает особую признательность Республике Ингушетия за гуманитарную деятельность и активную помошь тысячам чеченских беженцев, тревогу и возмущение в связи с нерешенными проблемами чеченского народа, непрекращающимся состоянием войны, военным насилием и произволом в отношении гражданского населения, а также недостаточными усилиями международных организаций в деле помощи чеченским беженцам на территории Республики Ингушетия,

Собрание делегатов обращается

к руководству Российской Федерации с настоятельным призывом принять

решительные меры к политическому решению конфликта и создать человеческие условия для беженцев из Чечни, к Совету Европы и к Европейскому Союзу с призывом оказать давление на Российскую Федерацию для прекращения войны.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-05

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

После 11 сентября 2001 года произошло отчетливое ухудшение положения мусульманского населения на всей территории Российской Федерации. Из столицы, других городов и регионов поступают сведения о случаях безнаказанной дискриминации.

Несмотря на многочисленные жалобы пострадавших и серьезные упреки со стороны международных правозащитных организаций в связи с грубыми нарушениями прав человека в Краснодарском крае, несмотря на то, что за последние месяцы опубликованы сообщения о систематической дискриминации проживающих в Краснодарском крае турок-месхетинцев, дискриминация и насилие не прекращаются; средства массовой информации и административные органы поддерживают эти действия и открыто призывают к депортации турок-месхетинцев из Краснодарского Края.

Представители турок-месхетинцев в Краснодарском крае (примерно 5000 человек среди 500.000 мигрантов, прибывших в регион с 1989 года) беззащитно терпят враждебные притеснения.

Собрание делегатов ФСЕНМ обращается

к Президенту и Правительству Российской Федерации

с призывом принять меры для прекращения дискриминации турок-месхетинцев,

принять меры для того, чтобы предоставить полные права гражданства туркам-месхетинцам, проживающим после трагических событий (погромов) 1989 года в Ферганской долине (Узбекистан);

к Правительству и Парламенту Республики Грузия

с призывом выполнить принятые в 1999 году обязательства, принять и реализовать закон о реабилитации и репатриации турок из Месхетии.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-06

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

По Рамочному закону о правах национальных меньшинств в Италии защитные меры должны приниматься в местах исторического проживания меньшинств и

местах распространения признанных языков меньшинств.

На основе этого закона, власти провинции Беллуно, руководствуясь подспудными политическими мотивами, принимают все усилия для того, чтобы расширить ладинский регион и распространить его на 35 общин.

Три исторически сложившиеся ладинские общины – Ампеццо, Колле-Санта-Лючия и Бухенштайн, с незапамятных времен относящиеся к доломитским ладинам района Селла и входящие в культурное объединение «Union Generela Di Ladins Dla Dolomites», – предвидят серьезную опасность размывания своей традиционной культуры в процессе последующего применения указанного закона, регулирующего права и обязанности школ, культур и средств массовой информации меньшинств.

В связи с этим три общины вместе со своими культурными объединениями направили в административные органы провинции, региона и страны протест против такого подхода и потребовали принятия соответствующего статуса и собственных положений в правовом вопросе о ладинах.

Поскольку ни одна из названных инстанций до сих пор не прореагировала на это обращение,

Собрание делегатов ФСЕНМ призывает

европейские и международные инстанции, призванные контролировать и поддерживать права меньшинств, принять меры, отвечающие стремлению к сохранению самобытности исторических ладинов провинции Беллуно.

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-07

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

В фонд "Память, ответственность и будущее" в Берлине и в Международную организацию по миграции в Женеве

По вопросу выплаты компенсаций рома и синти (цыганам) – бывшим принудительным рабочим национал-социалистского режима

Федералистский союз европейских национальных меньшинств, в который входят более 100 организаций, представляющих национальных меньшинства всех регионов Европы, обращается к фонду "Память, ответственность и будущее" с призывом со всей решимостью обеспечить полную выплату предусмотренных компенсаций в размере 7.669 евро (15.000 DM) и ныне живущим рома и синти. В отличие от других групп, подвергнувшихся преследованиям нацистским режимом, преобладающее большинство пострадавших синти и рома не получили даже первой доли компенсаций. Все синти и рома, подавшие соответствующие заявления еще более года тому назад, имеют преклонный возраст, многие за это время умерли.

Большинство других групп пострадавших получили по меньшей мере первую

долю компенсаций в размере 5.113 евро (10.000 DM) через «Jewish Claims Conference» и партнерские организации фонда в Польше и Чехии. Для обеспечения равенства необходимо потребовать немедленных выплат и от Международной организации по миграции (IOM) – соответствующей партнерской организации Фонда синти и рома в Германии и других странах. Кроме того, Фонд IOM должен предоставить соответствующие средства для того, чтобы синти и рома могли получить соответствующие суммы компенсаций в полном размере, аналогично другим партнерским организациям. Недопустимо продолжать мириться с организационной слабостью IOM и Фонда, ведущей к ущемлению жертв. В противном случае это превратится в циничную игру с расчетом на время. ФСЕНМ обращается к Фонду и IOM с настоятельной рекомендацией более активно прибегать к предложенной помощи организаций меньшинств (например, Центрального совета немецких синти и рома, представившей заявления более чем от 1500 немецких синти и рома).

РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ 2002-08

Собрание делегатов Федералистского союза европейских национальных меньшинств в Суботице / Югославия 9 мая 2002 года принимает следующую резолюцию:

Собрание делегатов выражает свою озабоченность в связи с продолжающимися нарушениями национальных прав карпато-русинов, проживающих на своей исторической родине в Русинии, с 1946 года входящей в Закарпатскую область Украины.

Собрание делегатов в очередной раз призывает:

- признать национальное меньшинство закарпатских русинов, прекратить их принудительную ассимиляцию и уравнять их в правах с другими национальными меньшинствами Украины;
- облегчить контакты с русинскими организациями и членами семьи русинов в других странах в соответствии с рекомендациями Рамочной конвенции Совета Европы о защите национальных меньшинств;
- опубликовать результаты переписи населения на Украине, в т.ч. касающиеся численности закарпатских русинов, невзирая на имевшее место нарушение права на свободу национального самоопределения.

Dr. Reginald Vospernik:

Lagebericht: Rat der Kärntner Slowenen / Österreich

anlässlich des 47. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses am 11. Mai 2002 in Subotica

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

<http://www.narod.at>

Zwei wichtige Ereignisse haben in Kärnten in Bezug auf die Kärntner Slowenen das vergangene Jahr geprägt.

1. Es gab im Dezember 2001 ein auf einer Beschwerde des Kärntner Rechtsanwaltes Mag. Rudi Vouk fußendes Erkenntnis des österreichischen Verfassungsgeschäftshofes, wonach die Bestimmung des Volksgruppengesetzes von 1976, die vorsieht, dass erst ab einem slowenischen Bevölkerungsanteil von 25 % topographische Aufschriften zweisprachiger Natur angebracht werden müssen, verfassungswidrig ist. Dem Erkenntnis ist zu entnehmen, dass ein zehnprozentiger Anteil slowenischer Bevölkerung genügt, um dem Staat die Verpflichtung zur Anbringung zweisprachiger Ortsschilder aufzuerlegen. Dieses Erkenntnis hat bei den Landtagsparteien Kärntens heftigen Widerstand hervorgerufen. Vor allem Landeshauptmann Haider hat erklärt, diesem Erkenntnis - wenn überhaupt - nur sehr restriktiv Rechnung tragen zu wollen. Die Diskussion war mit heftigen und unfairen Angriffen auf den Präsidenten des Gerichtshofes verbunden. Eine von

Bundeskanzler Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel einberufene Konsenskonferenz in Wien soll nun Lösungen in dieser Ortstafelfrage erarbeiten.

2. Die Volkszählung aus dem Jahre 2001 hat gegenüber der Volkszählung von 1991 einen dramatischen Rückgang der slowenischsprachigen Kärntner Wohnbevölkerung um 10 % ergeben, was - unter anderem - auf einen Assimulationsdruck hinweist, der auch durch die Nichterfüllung staatsvertraglicher Bestimmungen zustande kommt.

Die Kärntner Parteien weigern sich beharrlich, eine in Österreich, ja sogar in Europa - wenn man die Türkei ausnimmt - einzigartige Zehnprozent-sperrklausel für den Einzug in den Kärntner Landtag zu ändern. Den Kärntner Slowenen ist so eine politische Vertretung im Kärntner Landesparlament unmöglich. Dazu kommt noch, dass die extrem minderheitenfeindliche Wahlkreiseinteilung das Siedlungsgebiet der Slowenen mehrfach zerschneidet und das Grundmandat in einem der Wahlkreise gewonnen werden müsste.



Einige FUEV-Mitgliedsorganisationen wiesen im Rahmen der Lageberichte auf ihre spezifische Situation hin.

Es gibt aber nicht nur Negatives zu berichten.

Ebenfalls auf der Grundlage eines Verfassungsgerichtshoferkenntnisses muss nun auch die vierte Grundschulstufe - bisher waren es nur die ersten drei - zweisprachigen deutsch-slowenischen Unterricht bieten.

Ein neues ORF-Rundfunkgesetz hält erstmals die Verpflichtung des staatlichen Rundfunks ORF fest, die in den gesetzlich vorgesehenen beim Bundeskanzleramt in Wien eingerichteten Volksgruppenbeiräten genannten Volksgruppen - Tschechen und Slowaken in Wien, Kroaten,

Ungarn und Roma im Burgenland und Slowenen in Kärnten - medial in ihrer Sprache zu versorgen. Die Kosten des slowenischen Privatradio-betreibers "Radio dva" hat der ORF für dieses Jahr übernommen, mit Ablauf dieses Kalenderjahres wird diese Kooperation aus budgetären Gründen, wie der ORF sagt, eingestellt. Auch im Bereich der Förderung der privaten slowenischen Musikschule und der zweisprachigen privaten Kindergärten wurden entsprechende Lösungen in Gesprächen zwischen den Vertretungsorganisationen der Kärntner Slowenen und dem Land Kärnten gefunden.

Dr. Valentin Grandits:

*Lagebericht: Kroaten im Burgenland / Österreich
anlässlich des 47. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses am 11. Mai 2002 in Subotica*

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

<http://www.hkd.at>

"Die regionale Minderheitenvielfalt und die grenzüberschreitende kulturelle Zusammenarbeit "

Gestatten Sie, dass ich Ihnen unsere Vereinigung kurz vorstelle:

Wir sind mit unseren mehr als 3700 Mitgliedern der zahlenmäßig stärkste und repräsentativste Verein der burgenländischen Kroaten. Seit der Gründung unseres Vereines im Jahre 1929 bemühen wir uns um die kulturellen Belange unserer Volksgruppe, wobei wir unsere Hauptaufgabe darin sehen, ihren weiteren Bestand zu sichern. Neben drei hauptberuflich Beschäftigten bemüht sich eine beachtliche Zahl von ehrenamtlichen tätigen Funktionären, dieses Ziel - nämlich dem Bestand und die Entwicklung unserer Volksgruppe zu sichern - zu erreichen.

Nun zur Lage unserer Volksgruppe:

Aufmerksame Beobachter des Lebens in unseren ehemals rein oder überwiegend kroatischen Dörfern werden feststellen, dass das Kroatische stark schwindet. Die Umgangssprache der Jugendlichen und Kinder untereinander ist häufig deutsch und dies, obwohl sich die ältere Generation noch weitestgehend der kroatischen Muttersprache bedient. Diesem Rückgang an Volksgruppenangehörigen dokumentieren sehr deutlich zwei Zahlen:

Während sich bei der ersten Volkszählung nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg 42 000 Burgenländer zu unserer Volksgruppe bekannten, gaben bei der Volkszählung 1991 nur noch 19.460 Kroatisch als ihre Umgangssprache an. Die Zahlen der Volkszählung 2001 liegen noch nicht vor, auch sie werden uns verdeutlichen, dass die Assimilation in erschreckendem Maße fortschreitet. Grün-

de für diese Entwicklung sind vielfältig. Einer davon ist sicherlich die verfehlte Volksgruppenpolitik der vergangenen 3 - 4 Dezennien. Man konnte oder wollte lange Zeit die Vorteile der Mehrsprachigkeit nicht zur Kenntnis nehmen und verdrängte als Folge dieser Ignoranz unsere Muttersprache total aus dem öffentlichen Leben. Im jüngster Vergangenheit erkannten jedoch Politiker und vor allem junge Intellektuelle diesen Irrweg - leider mit einer veritablen Verspätung, die einen nicht wieder gutzumachenden Verlust an volksgruppenspezifischer Substanz mit sich gebracht hat.

Ein weiterer Grund für die fortschreitende Assimilation liegt zweifellos in den gemischtsprachigen Ehen. Kinder aus diesen Ehen sind in der Regel für die Volksgruppe verloren. Der Grund dafür ist in der alle Bereiche beherrschenden Dominanz der Sprache des Mehrheitsvolkes zu suchen. Schließlich trägt die wirtschaftliche Schwäche der ehemals starken kroatischen Gemeinden zum Rückgang der Volksgruppenangehörigen bei. Der Mangel an Arbeitsplätzen zwang schon in der Zwischenkriegszeit viele - vor allem junge - burgenländische Kroaten, ihre Heimat zu verlassen und sich in industriellen Ballungszentren, wie Wien oder Graz, niederzulassen. Diese Abwanderung hält leider auch heute noch an. Um den Weiterbestand der Volksgruppe zu gewährleisten, hat daher die Schaffung von Arbeitsplätzen vor allem im mittleren und südlichen Burgenland oberste Priorität.

Was kann getan werden bzw. was wurde getan, um dieser besorgniserregenden Assimilation Einhalt zu gebieten? Hier sei nochmals erwähnt, dass in der letzten Zeit ein Umdenken der Ver-

antwortlichen in der Politik feststellbar ist, welches sodann auch zu konkreten Maßnahmen in der Gesetzgebung und in der Verwaltung geführt hat. So sind etwa im Bundesbudget regelmäßig Mittel für die Volksgruppenförderung vorgesehen, in den letzten Jahren für die kroatische Volksgruppe in der Größenordnung von ca. 1,1 Millionen Euro. Es wurden desweiteren vor knapp 2 Jahren zweisprachige topographische Bezeichnungen bei den betreffenden kroatischen bzw. gemischtsprachigen Gemeinden aufgestellt - im übrigen ein Akt, auf den wir 45 Jahre, d.h. seit Unterzeichnung des Staatsvertrages von Wien, warten mussten.

Positiv sei auch vermerkt, dass ebenfalls vor ca. 2 Jahren die sogenannte Staatszielbestimmung beschlossen und in die Österreichische Bundesverfassung aufgenommen wurde. In ihr verpflichtet sich die Republik, Sprache und Kultur, Bestand und Erhaltung der Volksgruppen zu achten,

zu sichern und zu fördern. Schließlich sei noch das Erkenntnis des Verfassungsgerichtshofes vom 13.12.2001 erwähnt, in welchem festgestellt wird, dass der im Volkgruppengesetz 1976 normierte 25 %ige Bevölkerungsanteil für die Gewährung von Volksgruppenrechten nicht verfassungskonform ist. Auf Grund dieses Erkenntnisses sind der Minderheit auch dann ihre Rechte zu gewähren, wenn ihr Anteil in einem Verwaltungsbezirk mindestens 10 % beträgt.

Aus diesen wenigen Beispielen ist zu erkennen, dass die öffentliche Hand den Wert der Mehrsprachigkeit - wenn auch mit gehöriger Verspätung - erkannt hat. Es liegt jetzt vor allem bei den Angehörigen der Volksgruppe, daraus die Konsequenzen zu ziehen, und zwar in der Weise, dass sie sich in jeder Situation zu ihrer Muttersprache bekennen, sie verwenden und an ihre Nachkommen auch weitergeben. Mein Optimismus hält sich diesbezüglich in Grenzen.

Martin Dzingel:

*Lagebericht: Landesversammlung der Deutschen / Tschechien
anlässlich des 47. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses am 11. Mai 2002 in Subotica*

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.landesversammlung.cz>

Die deutsche Minderheit sind Bürger der tschechischen Republik die nach dem Krieg im Lande aus verschiedenen Gründen verblieben sind: Antifaschisten, Sozialdemokraten, Fachleute die man für die Industrie und Landwirtschaft brauchte und Mischehen. Manche von denen nahmen die tschechische Staatsangehörigkeit gleich nach dem Krieg zurück, dem Rest wurde die Staatsangehörigkeit automatisch 1953 zurückerstattet. Noch der letzten Volkszählung leben in Lande cca 48 000 Deutsche. Der größte Teil lebt in den Industriegebieten der Tschechischen Republik: Bergbau, Glasindustrie, Textilindustrie und ein kleinerer Teil in den Landwirtschaftlichen Gebieten.

Die Deutschen haben die Möglichkeit sich bei zwei Verbänden zu organisieren, bei dem Kulturverband, der ab 1969 in der Tschechischen Republik tätig ist, oder bei der Landesversammlung der Deutschen in Böhmen, Mähren und Schlesien, die nach der Wende, im Jahre 1991 gegründet wurde. Der Kulturverband zählt z. Z. cca. 3,5 Tausend Mitglieder, die Landesversammlung cca 7,5 Tausend Mitglieder.

Die Landesversammlung der Deutschen in Böhmen, Mähren und Schlesien (LV), ist eine Dachorganisation für 23 Verbände und 30 Ortsgruppen. Vertreter der Verbände treffen sich zweimal im Jahr bei der Frühjahrs und Herbstta-

gung . Zu diesen Verbänden muß man noch Kinder und Jugendliche zuzählen, deren Zahl jedes Jahr steigt.

Die LV stellte sich diese Ziele: Erhaltung der Sprache, des Kulturerbes der Deutschen, weitere Ausbildung der Minderheit, Informationsübergabe, Schulungen und Seminare, Minderheitenrechte in die Praxis umzusetzen, Jugend und Seniorenarbeit und Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Veranstaltungen. Ein weiteres Ziel ist die Gleichberechtigung der Deutschen mit der tschechischen Bevölkerung. Bei diesen Zielen bewahrt die LV die Verfassung der Tschechischen Republik und orientiert sich an den internationalen Menschenrechten und Bürgerrechten. Die einzelnen Verbände sind beim Innenministerium eingeschrieben, haben eigene Gesetze nach denen sie in den einzelnen Regionen arbeiten. Prioritäten der Verbände sind: Pflege der Regionalkultur, Sprache, weitere Ausbildung der Mitglieder, Kinder und Seniorenarbeit, Ausstellungen, Gesangschöre, Volkstanzgruppen usw.

Die LV ist Herausgeber der Landes-Zeitung. Zeitung für Deutsche Minderheit in Tschechien.

Heutige Probleme der deutschen Minderheit:
 1. Durch die Zersplitterung können wir nicht deutschsprachige Schulen öffnen, da die Zahl der

Deutschen in den Regionen zu klein ist.
 2. Durch die lange Zeit des Kommunistischen Regime entstand eine starke Assimilation, so daß uns zur Zeit zwei jüngere deutsche Generationen fehlen
 3. Es fehlt uns auch eine jüngere Generation der Intelligenz, da meisten die Deutschen nicht Mitglieder der Partei waren, konnten die Kinder nicht studieren
 4. Die Verbände haben kleine Mitgliedschaft

aus dem Grunde, dass noch viele Menschen aus den älteren Generationen die Angst sich offen zu der deutschen Nationalität zu melden haben.

Heute hat die deutsche Minderheit zwei Vertreter bei dem Rat der Nationalitäten der tscheschischen Regierung, einen Vertreter beim Kultusministerium und einen Vertreter beim Schulministerium.

Dr. Mihai Christov:

*Lagebericht: Zentrum für Arumunische Sprache und Kultur/ Bulgarien
 anlässlich des 47. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses am 11. Mai 2002 in Subotica*

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

**Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident,
 Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,**

In der Tatsache, dass unser Zentrum an diesem Tag Mitglied der FUEV wird, sehe ich ein besonderes Zeichen, denn an diesem Tag vor 99 Jahren wurde für das erste Mal in der neuen Geschichte unser Volk offiziell als christliche Minderheit im Rahmen des Osmanischen Reiches mit einem Erddie des Sultans anerkannt. Auf Vorschlag der Arumunen in Makedonien gilt dieser Tag als unser "Nationalfeiertag".

Das Zentrum für arumunische Sprache und Kultur in Bulgarien, gegründet im Jahre 1999, hat als Hauptziel die Erhaltung und Pflege der Sprache und Kultur unserer Vorfahren. Damit glauben wir unseren Beitrag zur Erfüllung der Empfehlung 1333/ des Europarates

zu leisten. In der kurzen Zeit unseres Bestehens haben wir Sprachkurse für Jugendliche in Gebieten mit arumunischer Bevölkerung organisiert, jede zwei Monate erscheint ein Bulletin in arumunischer und bulgarischer Sprache. Hier finden Platz Materialien über unsere Geschichte, Sprache, Kultur. Auch Bücher erschienen mit der Unterstützung unseres Zentrums - zwei Bände der "Arumunische Geschichte", eine Anthologie mit arumunischen Gedichten, ein Band mit 101 arumunischen Liedern und viele mehr. Wir haben gute Beziehungen mit anderen Verbänden der Arumunen in der ganzen Welt. Unser Zentrum wurde zum Gründungsmitglied einer Organisation, die acht Minderheiten in Bulgarien unter einem Hut bringt - eine bescheidene bulgarische der FUEV, und jetzt, als Mitglied der FUEV hoffen wir.....

Jean Kergren:

*Comité d' Action Régionale de Bretagne / France
 47 e Congres UFCE tenu a Subotica/Szabadka du 8 au 12 mai 2002.*

FRANÇAIS

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Communication presentee par J. Kergren au micro et traduite, live, en allemand, anglais, hongrois, russe et serbo-croate, le samedi matin

Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles; Messieurs et Cher Congressistes,

Le President Romedi Arquint m'a demandé de vous rendre compte d'une attaque contre notre organisation, la FUEN, ainsi que contre certains de ses membres.

Voice les faits:

Il est paru, en France, il y a un an ou deux, un livre intitulé „Minorites et régionalismes“ et écrit par un Français nommé P. Hillard. Cet ouvrage a été, curieusement, l'objet d'une seconde édition en décembre dernier, réédition qui ne comportait pas de rectifications mais seulement l'addition d'une nouvelle annexe portant le numéro 34, et qui n'était que le fac-simile de la liste des „Participants en Invités“

au congres FUEN d'Haderslev (1999), sans que l'autorisation de reproduire cette liste, avec ses noms et ses adresses personnelles ait ete demandee a la FUEN, etant entendu que cette autorisation aurait ete refusee bien sur !

En quoi consiste ce livre sous un titre seduisant pour nous ?

Il s'agit d'une attaque contre la FUEN, s'appuyant sur des archives inconnues et sur l'ouvrage de Jorn Kühl, intitule „1949-1999, An Outline History“ et que la FUEN a, effectivement, commandé: c'est notre „petit livre jaune“.

Comment se fait cette attaque? En recherchant l'influence allemande dans ces problemes de minorites, une influence supposee qui voudrait etablir un „Quatrieme Reich“ - rien de moins que cela! - et qui, pour ce faire, se servirai de la FUEN, instrument de destruction des Etats-Nations existans, Etats-Nations que l'auteur de cette these fantaisiste, M. Hillard, adore visiblement, surtout quand il s'agit dy pays qui a invente l'Etat-Nation, c'est a dire le sien, c'est a dire la France. Et ainsi, ces Etats-Nations seraient remplaces par une Europe des Regions, sous domination allemande, bien sur!

Cette influence allemande pretendue est recherchée d'abord dans les emigrations germaniques des siecles passes, en Europe de l'Est, dans les Balkans et dans la Russie tsariste.

Ce sujet est tres bien traite et semble avoir ete ecrit par un specialiste parfaitement au courant, sans doute germanique, car on trouve meme dans cette partie de l'ouvrage la defense de Sudetes „chez qui les autorites tcheques nommaient des instituteurs ne connaissant pas l'allemand“. Ce reproche est tres curieux sous la plume d'un Francais imperialiste, alors que son pays a fait la meme chose chez ses minorites!

Cette etude aboutit a la conclusion que les traites de paix de 1919-1921 ayant multiplie les minorites allemandes, l'Allemagne s'est servie, faites bien attention a ce qui va suivre, de la demande des associations juives americaines, vers 1918, de proteger l'identite des minorites israelites d'Europe de l'Est et des Balkans, pour obtenir, dans les futurs traites de paix, la meme protection pour ses minorites a elle, sous le couvert de les proteger toutes.

Evidemment, les divers „Congres des Peuples“ qui se sont tenus entre les deux Guerres Mondiales sont un argument de plus qu'ajoute a sa these M. Hillard, ainsi que le fait que la revue „Europa Ethnica“, que publie, a Wien, la maison d'éditions Braumuller ait vu, lors de sa reparation apres la fin de la Seconde Guerre, la numerotation de ses fascicules continuer celle de l'avant-guerre...

Une autre preuve, toujours aussi farfelue, de ce complot contre les Etats-Nations est le fait que E.M.I. publie sa documentation sur les minorites uniquement en anglais: cela prouverait l'entente des U.S.A. et des pangermanistes pour remplacer ces Etats-Nations par des regions ethniques...

Le attaques contre la FUEN (laquelle serait financee par le Ministere des Affaires Interieures allemand, sous le couvert d'une fondation humanitaire!) sont tres detaillees et montrent que l'auteur a eu acces a d'excellentes sources de renseignement. La FUEN n'étant pas une officine de delation, je ne vous ferai donc pas part de certaines suppositions.

Enfin, ces attaques ont ete reprises par une radio parisienne en Modulation de Frequence, Radio Courtoisie, qu'une autre radio de la MF, la tres celebre et tres connue „France Culture“ traitait recentement de fasciste, en raison de son soutien a certaines theses et a M. Le Pen.

C'est ainsi que le 7 janvier dernier, sur cette radio parisienne d'une portee de 30 km environ, avec quelques stations de repetition en Normandie et dans l'ouest de Paris (Chartres et Le Mans), ont ete condensees, en une heure et demie, les attaques de M. Hillard contre la FUEN, lors d'une interview a l'occasion de cette reedition, curieuse comme deja dit, car, se vendent pas, sauf a quelques minoritaires comme nous, et a condition qu'ils soient francophones.

Cette reedition se justifiant par l'adjonction de la liste des participants inscrits au congres d'Haderslev, l'auteur a souligne ce fait en donnant les noms et les adresses detaillees des ressortissants francais qui assistaient a ce congres, en ajoutant qu'il „faudrait arreter ces traitres“, et vous etes pries de voir le double sens, en francais, du mot „arreter“, que pourrait plaider l'avocat de la partie adverse, soit „cesser de continuer“, soit „mettre en prison“.

Pierre Lemoine, Marcel Texier et moi-meme, etant donc cites parmi ces „traitres“, avons consulte des avocats, amis ou specialistes, qui n'ont retenu que la possibilite de plaider la violation du domicile prive, encore que l'on pourrait nous considerer, aux yeux de ces avocats, comme des hommes politiques devant ou pouvant prendre certains risques.

Nous avons communique, alors, un dossier complet aux personnes citees ainsi qu'aux associations denoncees, donc outre la FUEN, l'E.M.I. et nos confreres de l'AIDLICM, l'Association Internationale des Langues et Cultures Menacees, bien quelle soit a vocation mondiale et donc moins impliquee dans les problemes etatiques europeens.

Et, depuis, nous attendons d'avoir recu toutes les reponses pour prendre une decision

collective, etant bien entendu que les personnes et les associations dont l'adresse a ete donnee, doivent aussi prendre des mesures legales pour proteger leur domicile de toute intrusion; il faut aussi retenir que, pour ce genre d'infraction, on peut, en France, agir en Justice pendant trente ans.

En conclusion, d'abord deux questions sans reponse:

- Qui a si bien renseigne M. Hillard ?

- Qui a finance ce livre et sa reedition rapide ?
Ensuite, deux conseils:

- Mefions-nous des faux journalistes.
- Redigeons bien nos communiqus, nos articles afin de ne pas donner de mauvais arguments a nos adversaires

Car, comme le dit, je crois, un proverbe tchetchene, „ L'eau dort quelquefois, ton ennemi jamais“.

Dr. Nigel Hicks:

Status report by the delegation of the An Seneth Stenak Kernowek (The Cornish Stannary Parliament) at the 47th FUEN Congress, Subotica, 11 July, 2002.

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.cornish-stannery-parliament.abelgratis.com>

Good morning Mr Chairman and distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I would first like to thank the FUEN for accepting the Cornish Stannary Parliament into the organisation as associate members. I would also like to give my special thanks to Mr Frank Nickelsen for his support and assistance which has helped make that possible.

As an indigenous Celtic, Cornishman, it has been refreshing for me to hear the views of colleagues who have made some progress during the past year, in achieving some of their minority rights. Their ambitions in some cases would appear to have been assisted by their own open-minded and forward-looking government departments. Unfortunately,, such progressiveness has not been our experience and we regret that the self-appointed "Mother of Democracy" has, so far, been reluctant to hold the indigenous Cornish people with the regard which they undoubtedly deserve.

Having ratified the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the British government has refused to include the Cornish and their language within the protection offered by such internationally accepted obligations.

The fact that the United Kingdom has no written constitution to guarantee the rights of

its citizens, together with the arbitrary omission of Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights from its own Human Rights Act 1998, has made it virtually impossible to challenge official decisions in British courts. Such difficulty has been compounded by a recent academic revelation that the omission of Article 13 is due, in no small way, to what appears to be substantial political influence upon the British judicial system.



Yesterday, one of the government representatives referred to European Directive 2000/43/EC which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of ethnic and racial origin. You may, or may not, be surprised to learn that, as one who comes from Britain, I became aware of this directive and its important implications for minorities, only last week.

Bearing in mind that the conditions of this directive must be fully complied with by 19 July, 2003, the Cornish Stannary Parliament has already asked some British government departments what they propose to do, to conform, in so far as Cornish people are concerned. As you are aware, the directive has great potential for national and ethnic minorities facing assimilation since it is possible for individuals to apply to the European courts for redress.



The Cornish flag



The Cornish delegation: Dr. Nigel Hicks (left) and Rodney Nute

I would like to bring this statement to a close before I send you all to sleep. Before I do,

there is one thing I need to tell you about, so that you do not leave here thinking that Cornwall is all gloom and doom!

Although there is no official government recognition and support of the Cornish, Celtic language, I am pleased to report that one Cornish secondary school has found sufficient funds from within its own budget to provide tuition in the Cornish language for four hours per week to Cornish teenagers and we hope that the British government will be shamed into activity by this encouraging initiative.

I shall finish by repeating the words of an old Cornish saying in the Cornish language, which nobody here will understand, and which I shall translate. It goes thus, "Yehes ha sowena whath dheugh why a'gas henath!" (Health and prosperity always to you and your descendants!)

Rita Patkas:

*Status report by the delegation of the UNIUNEA CULTURALA A ROMANILOR DIN UNGARIA
(Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary) at the 47th FUEN Congress, Subotica, 11 July, 2002.*

ENGLISH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf
<http://www.romanul.hu>

The majority of Romanians in Hungary lives in the counties neighbouring to Romania, which makes the relation easier with Romanian language and culture. This majority lives in Bekes and Hajdu-Bihar counties, in Budapest and in its neighbourhood. The national identity and the religion were the most important distinctive features from other national minorities in Hungary. While the Romanians in Hungary are the most western community of Romanian nationality, and they had never lived in the Romanian state, a part of them had not taken part in the process of becoming a nation.

The orthodox religion and the cultural tradition were the most evidently distinctive features from the Hungarian nationality. A part of the Romanian national minority of this place has kept certain signs of identity marks so far.

The skill of self-dealing appears really late which is in connection with the political events after the World War I, with the social position of national Romanians, with their specific historical circumstances and of course with their national consciousness.

Its earlier traditional self-dealing form had cultural characteristics. On the 21st March, 1948 the Romanian Cultural Union was founded. After the revolution in 1956 in Hungary, from 1957 its new name has become Democratic Union of Romanians in Hungary

and from 5th, June, 1995 it is Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary. The CURH manages only cultural tasks. From 1999 its new president is a medical doctor, Ioan Ciotea, specialist in traumatology and orthopedics. In 2001, the main tasks of the CURH were also the strengthening, the transmission and development of Romanian culture in Hungary and the Romanian language, too. CURH publishes a paper with 16 pages. Its name is Foaia romaneasca which is accessible on the Internet. Address: www.foaia.hu

In 2002, plenty of cultural programs are realized by the Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary:

1. Workshop discussions between colleagues of Romanian schools and institutes about national Romanians' identity consciousness problems
2. Mihai Eminescu Anniversary, Romanian national poet – celebration in Giula and Micherechi with the participation of National Theatre Oradea, Romania
3. Anniversary of Iosif Vulcan in Leta Mare, Giula, Seghedin, Batania, Micherechi, Bedeu
4. Acting of Masca Theatre Bucuresti in Giula

5. Acting of National Theatre Arad in Chitighaz

6. Meeting of amateur drama groups from Romanian schools in Hungary (Micherechi, Chitighaz, Giula)

7. The 50th centenary of Foaia romaneasca's founding – the Romanian paper of Romanians in Hungary

8. Photo exposition of Gheorghe Dulau, a pensioner Romanian teacher, who has taken photos about his village's cultural programs

9. International Choirs' Festival in Giula with the participation of 4 Romanian choirs from Hungary and 3 from Romania

10. Historical scientific lectures about the origin of Romanian people

11. Contest of Romanian families from Giula and Micherechi

12. Publishing House of Romanian Cultural Union in Hungary and the Romanian Cultural Foundation from Bucuresti have published the book 'Teodor Misaros', a Romanian orthodox vicar (died in 1983), who wrote the history of orthodox Romanian communities in Hungary

13. The first CD was published which presents the cultural values of Romanians in Hungary

14. The book, 'The history of Romanian baptists in Micherechi' was published

15. Exposition of Constantin Brancusi, world-famous sculptor whose activity was presented in headquarters of Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary, Giula

The Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary is ordinary member of FUEN from 1994. CURH was the first and unique Romanian organization of this international organization.

Prof. Dr. Swetlana Tscherwonnaia:

*Lagebericht: Krimtataren in der Ukraine
anlässlich des 47. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses am 11. Mai 2002 in Subotica*

DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, liebe Freunde!

Die 10 mir gegebenen Minuten möchte ich dazu widmen, um die offizielle und herzliche Einladung von der Medschlis des krimtatarischen Volkes zu erklären. In dieser Einladung, die mit dem Präsidenten der Medschlis des krimtatarischen Volkes, mit dem Nationalhelden der Turkvölker Mustafa Bej Dschemil-Oglu untergeschrieben ist und die der Mitglied unserer Delegation, der bekannte Schriftsteller, Herr Ernst Koudoussow aus der Krim nach unserem Kongreß mitgebracht hat, geht es um unseren Wunsch, um unsere Bitte, um die logisch, emotional und historisch begründete Notwendigkeit, Zweckmäßigkeit, den 49. Nationalitätenkongreß der FUEV – 2004 in unserer Heimat, in der Krimhalbinsel durchzuführen.

Am 18. Mai 2004 hat das krimtatarische Volk (und ich hoffe, nicht nur es, sondern die ganze progressive europäische Gesellschaft, die ganze denkende Menschheit) ein trauriges und tragisches "Jubileum". Vor 60 Jahren wurde das krimtatarische Volk, pauschaller Beschuldigung nach, aus der Krimhalbinsel deportiert und zur vollen Vernichtung verurteilt. Dieses tragische Datum soll zum Anlaß werden, das Schicksal, die gegenwärtige Lage und Aussichten weiterer Ent-

wicklung aller unterdrückten, kolonisierten, deportierten, vertriebenen Völker und Volksgruppen tief und aufmerksam, in Details zu betrachten.

Wenn ich um die unterdrückten und offen nicht einmal, sondern zwei-dreimal in der Nachkriegszeit deportierten Völker spreche, nehme ich in Berücksichtigung an, die Bergvölker, die Turkvölker vom Nordkaukasus und vom Transkaukasien, in der ersten Linie die Türken aus Mes'chetia, die bis heute keine Möglichkeit haben heimzukehren, wie auch die Georgier aus Abchasien, die bis heute dachlos und landlos zurückbleiben. Ich erinnere auch an die Völker, die nicht im ganzen, sondern teilweise, – aber in ihren besten Teilen, – aus ihrer Vaterländern deportiert worden waren, so, wie Griechen aus der Schwarzmeersregion, die Gagausen aus Moldowa, die Ukrainer und Polen aus den Westregionen der Ukraine, die Letten, Litauer, Esten, Preussen aus der annexierten Baltia, die deutschen aus Ostpreußen und aus Sudeten. Vor allen diesen Völkern und Volksgruppen sind wir – Vertreter der großen, der herrschenden Nationen (in diesem Moment spreche ich als Bürgerin der Russischen Föderation, als Einwohnerin von Moskau, als Vertreterin der "Zentralle"), – schuld. Wir alle – die Russen (unsere Vorfahren), die



Prof. Dr. Swetlana Tschewonnaja wurde von Mustafa Dzemilev mandatiert.

diese verbrecherischen Deportationen der 1940r Jahre verwirklichten, und die Europäer (unsere Vorfahren), die diese verbrecherischen Deportationen ruhig und gleichgültig beobachteten. Und wir sollen heute diese, in 1940r Jahren schutzlosen, den bitteren Kelch bis zur Neige leernden Völker um Entschuldigung, um Vergeben, um Versöhnung bitten.

Der Kongreß in der Krim soll zur Tribüne für die Äußerung unserer historischen Reue werden, für die Suchen nach neuen Wegen zur konstruktiven Mitarbeit in den demokratischen Bedingungen der von der kommunistischen Diktatur befreiten, unabhängigen Staaten von Osteuropa.

Die Krimtaten waren die ersten unter den Völkern der ehemaligen Sowjetunion, die ihren Weg in die Föderalistische Union der Europäischen Volksgruppen gefunden hatten. Auf dem Nationalitätenkongreß - 1992 in Cottbus wurde die junge, in 1991 entstandene Medschlis des krimtatarischen Volkes in die FUEV angenommen. Es war der Anfang der fruchtbaren und wichtigen Mitarbeit der organisierten Nationalbewegungen und Nationalvereinigungen der Völker der ehemaligen UdSSR unter dem hellen Dach der FUEV, weil dem krimtatarischen Beispiel nach sehr bald die Völker von Nordkaukasus, Karpaten-Gebiet, Volga-Gebiet, Ostsee-Gebiet und anderer Regionen folgten. Wenn der Nationalitätenkongreß der FUEV zum ersten Mal auf dem Territorium der ehemaligen Sowjetunion stattfindet, soll zum Ort für diesen ersten Kongreß die Krimhalbinsel werden, woraus wahrscheinlich andere Völker von Ukrainer, Rußland, Moldowa, Lettland, Litauen, Estland ihren guten Start haben werden.

Sehr geehrten Delegierten,
Sie nach der Krim einzuladen, möchte das krimtatarische Volk seine politische, wirtschaftliche, kulturelle und geistige Erfahrung, in der ersten Linie Erfahrung im Nationalbefreiungskampf, in der Heimkehr und Integrierung, zum gemeinsamen Eigentum, zur gemeinsamen Erfahrung anderer, sich manchmal in der schwierigeren Lage befindenen Völker machen.

Die Krimtataren möchten in den schönen Tagen des blütenden Monats Mai 2004 Ihnen nicht nur zeigen, sondern, man darf sagen, schenken – alle Schätze der ältesten in Europa ilamischen Kultur, den splendidien Chanpalast in Bachtschisaraj, die graziösen Moscheen, die im Spiegel des Schwarzmeers und seiner südlichen Küste, in der Tiefe der Turkrenaissance ihr Bild finden; die Schönheit und Zartheit unserer Berge und Steppen, Wälder und Garten, Weintraubenplantagen und Seeufer, das ganze Land, das so reich mit den Spuren der urältesten menschlichen Zivilisation und mit Kennzeichen des modernen Fortschrittes ist. Aber wir versprechen Ihnen keine leichte touristische Reise. Wir laden Sie zum ernsten Gespräch und zur scharfen Diskussion über die Gegenwart und Zukunft der europäischer Völker ein.

Wir haben das Wort "die nationale Minderheit" nicht gern. Und den Titel der FUEV übersetzen wir ins Russisch, ins Tatarisch und ins Ukrainisch nicht so, wie hier in der russischen Version geschrieben ist: "men'schininstva" (Minderheiten), sondern so, wie es auch Deutsch, Französisch und Englisch klingt: "Nationalities", "Ethniques Communautés", "Völker". Das krimtatarische Volk hält sich keinerweise für eine nationale Minderheit in der Krim. Obwohl rein arithmetisch – jetzt, nach allen Deportationen, Exilen und Genozideaktionen, – bleiben wir tatsächlich in der Minderheit und machen nur 10 % der Krimbevölkerung (250 tausend unter 2,5 Mio Krimwohnern) aus, aber unserem nationalen Bewußtsein nach, den kulturellen und historischen Traditionen nach, unserer nationalen Würde nach, sind wir hier die moralische Mehrheit, das Stammvolk der Krim, die Nachfolger ihrer geistigen Erbe, ihrer Staatlichkeit, die schon vom Mittelalter die unikalen Traditionen der Toleranz und der Demokratie hatte.

Die Nationalbewegung des krimtatarischen Volkes, mit dem Kurultaj und mit der Medschlis des krimtatarischen Volkes an der Spitze, hat die reiche organisatorische und politische Erfahrung. Nicht hier und nicht heute, sondern am 49. Kongreß der FUEV in der Krim wollen wir diese Erfahrung in allen ihren Hinsichten darstellen und analysieren. Aber ein Kennzeichen des prinzipiellen Programms der krimtatarischen Bewegung, ein Grundsatz unserer Ideologie, unserer Taktik und unserer Strategie soll schon jetzt betont worden sein, vielleicht im Kontrast mit den Meinungen und Zugängen unserer Nachbarn aus der Organisation "Societz of the Carpatho-Rusyns (Ruthenen)". Alles, was uns schon gelungen ist,

zu erreichen, alle Erfolge der Krimtaten, alle Wunder unserer Heimkehr, unseres Sieges im Kampf gegen das totalitäre Regime, gegen das alte und das neue "Imperium des Böses" erreichten und errungen wir nicht im Widerspruch mit dem Ukrainischen Staat, nicht gegen diesen Staat, nicht gegen das ukrainische Volk, sondern mit ihm zusammen, in der engen Union mit der radikalen demokratischen Bewegung des ukrainischen Volks "Ruch", in der Mitarbeit und Koope-



FUEV-Präsident Romedi Arquint und Mustafa Dschemilew anlässlich einer sog. Fact-Finding Mission bei den Krimtataren 1996.

ration mit den progressiven politischen Kräften der Ukraine, im Paradigma der Bruderschaft, der Versöhnung, des Kamfes für ihre und unsere Freiheit.

Der positive Beispiel der Volksgruppen und Organisationen von Polen, solcher, wie "Versöhnung und Zukunft" aus Katowice oder "Union der polnischen Tataren" aus Danzig/Gdan'sk, begeisterte uns in dieser würdigen Loyalität zu dem neuen unabhängigen Ukrainischen Staat, zu der Mehrheit der Bevölkerung von der Ukraine, mit der zusammen wir unsere Zukunft bauen. Und diese Loyalität wird auch zur Gewährleistung Ihrer Sicherheit in der Krim und der erfolgreichen Arbeit des 49. Kongresses in Simferopol, Bachtschisarai und Jalta.

Herzlich willkommen!

Press Release 2001-20-23:

47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 09 - 11 May 2002 in Subotica / Yugoslavia

ENGLISH
DEUTSCH

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5a_2002.html
http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5a_2002.html

PRESS RELEASE 2002-23

Regional diversity of minorities and cultural cross-border cooperation

47th FUEN Congress on Nationalities from 08-12 May 2002 in Subotica/Yugoslavia

The Federal Union of European Nationalities held its 47th Congress on Nationalities and its obligatory Assembly of Delegates in Subotica/Vojvodina from 9–11 May 2002. It took place for the first time in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The congress was devoted to the subject "The regional diversity of minorities and cultural cross-border cooperation" and was attended by more than 250 participants from 22 different states. The majority of these were representatives of minorities from over 70 member associations, although state representatives, scientists and a number of members of the media were present (see photo below)

The event was opened by FUEN President Romedi ARQUINT. Other welcoming speeches were made by Jovo KOMSIC (government of the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia), Ulrich BOHNER (Council of Europe), Dr Korhecz TAMAS (Autonomous Province of Vojvodina), István ISPÁNOVICS (Subotica municipality) and Bela TONKOVIC (Chairman of the host organisation Demokratski Savez Hrvata u Vojvodini).

"In Europe, we are currently re-interpreting the traditional definition of the border as a dividing element, as a contact axis, as a bridge that facilitates contact with each other and thus promotes cooperation between states. Lingual and cultural contacts across borders should consequently be fostered and not obstructed," is what FUEN President Romedi ARQUINT (Switzerland) pointed out in his opening speech. The text of Arquint's speech can be found at: http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

The personal advisor of the OSCE High Commissioner for national minorities, Dr Walter KEMP, presented the instruments and strategies of the OSCE, while Ulrich BOHNER from the Congress of Local and regional Authorities CLRAE of the Council of Europe presented a number of instruments and highlighted the situation of the Balkan.

PRESS RELEASE 2002-22

FUEN now numbers 75 members!

47th FUEN Congress on Nationalities from 08-12 May 2002 in Subotica/Yugoslavia

During the regular FUEN Assembly of Delegates a minority organisation from Great Britain was admitted as a member for the first time in more than 20 years. This is the Cornish Stannary Parliament located in Redruth/Cornwall.

Cornish delegates: Dr. Hicks and Rodney Nute
All new members or new classifications:

Ordinary members

1. Horvátországi Magyarok Demokratikus Közössége - Democratic Union of Hungarians (HR),
2. Unia ti cultura-a Armanjlor dit Machidunii - Arumunians (MK),
3. National Council of the Balkar People (RUS),

4. Celostatna slovenska samosprava
Slovakians (H),

5. die Ingushetian Union "Dajmochk"
(RUS) ,

6. Association of Greek Societies (GE),

7. Association of Greek Societies (RUS)

Associate members

1. The Cornish Stannary Parliament (GB),
2. Deutscher Volksverband (YU),
3. Zentrum für aromunische Sprache und Kultur (BG)
4. Macedonian minority in Greece (GR)
5. Nogai Volk Birlik (RUS),
6. Public Movement Multinational Georgia" (GE),

7. Assoziation der Deutschen in Usbekistan (UZ).

All members of the FUEN:

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_3_2002.html

The Assembly of Delegates also attended to regular business like the annual report for 2001 and the proposed budget for 2002.

The main resolution reflects a general and quite unsatisfactory status for minority policy in Europe. "Europe continues to adhere to the paradigm of the national-state ideology and only

hesitantly moves towards a political concept to preserve the diversity of languages and ethnic characteristics and implement this," Rhaeto-Roman Arquint commented. In addition, the Assembly of Delegates passed various appeals: from the Cornish in Great Britain, the Ingushetians in Russia, the Turkish Meskhets in Russia and Georgia, the Dolomite Ladins in Italy, the Gypsies in Germany and the Carpathian-Rusyn people in the Ukraine.

All resolutions passed are available as soon as possible:

http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5c_2002.html

PRESS RELEASE 2002-21

Regional Diversity of Minorities in the Vojvodina and the Legal Aspects of Minority Protection in Yugoslavia, Croatia, Hungary and Romania

47th FUEN Congress on Nationalities from 08-12 May 2002 in Subotica/Yugoslavia

All minorities from the Vojvodina region had the opportunity to comment on their current situation as regards the regional diversity of minorities there. (see programme of Press Release Nr. 2002-10)

During a round table discussion chaired by Dr Florian BIEBER from the European Centre for

Minority Issues cross-border cooperation was elucidated using the examples of Yugoslavia (Rasim LJAJIC), Hungary (Martin ISPANOVIC), Romania (Ovidiu GANT) and Croatia. The President of the FUEN Committee, the minority delegate of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein Ms Renate SCHNACK, also took part in this discussion and took the opportunity to present the FUEN Committee which was formed in 2000.

The status reports provided by member organisations again offered the opportunity to develop several ideas for projects which could be further discussed on the conclusion of the congress during a **cultural programme** (see photos below) organised by the minorities in the Vojvodina.





PRESS RELEASE 2002-20

FUEN-Advisory Board meeting in Subotica 47th FUEN Congress on Nationalities from 08-12 May 2002 in Subotica/Yugoslavia

The FUEN-Advisory Board formed in June 2000 in Komarno/Komaron (SK) also convened. The chairwoman of this FUEN-Advisory Board, commissioner for minority issues of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, Ms Renate SCHNACK, was able to welcome numerous representatives from parliaments and governments from countries in which FUEN member organisations live (see photo below).

For Ms SCHNACK the Congress offered a good



Renate Schnack (left) with the Assistant to the President of Georgia on Inter Ethnic Relations, Prof Alexi Gerasimov



Following persons participated in the FUEN-Advisory Board meeting on 11 May 2002: From left to right: Gabriela Sobocan (referent/Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia), Bela Tonkovic (FUEN-Vice-president and Deputy Mayor od Subotica), Romedi Arquint (FUEN-President), Dr Detlev Rein (Head of Section/German Federal Ministry of the Interior) Ispánovics, István (Municipality of Subotica, Mayor), Ovidiu Gant (Government of Romania), Renate Schnack (chairwoman of the FUEN-Advisory Board and Commissioner of the Minister-President of the Land Schleswig-Holstein), Renate Wagner (Land Brandenburg), MP Maria Pozsonec (Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia), Hans Heinrich Hansen (FUEN-Vice-president), Ulrich Bohner (Council of Europe/Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Congress of Local and regional Authorities), Joseph v. Komlóssy (FUEN-Vice-president), Prof Alexi Gerasimov (Assistant to the President of Georgia on Inter Ethnic Relations), Niels Henriksen (Grænseforeningen/Denmark), Dr Heiko Kosek (Land Sachsen), Richard Donitza (Sejmik Opole / Poland), Jan Diedrichsen (President of the Youth of European Nationalities).
Do not appear on this photo: Mag. Peter Karpf (Carinthia/Austria) and Frank Nickelsen (FUEN-Executive Secretary)

opportunity to demonstrate cooperation between State institutions and an NGO like the FUEN, in order to demonstrate the benefit for the national minorities in Europe and to interest and inform the general public beyond the usual public.

The committee is an informal body for information and exchange that aims to accompany and support the work carried out by FUEN. By creating the committee, both FUEN as an NGO and the state representatives emphasise the will to maintain constructive cooperation, without

which minority issues cannot be successfully approached or solved. The next meeting is due to convene at the XII Ethnic Group Congress in Carinthia in September this year.

Participants and guests:

47th Congress of Nationalities in Subotica, 08-12 May 2002

http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20020927DOKU_SUBOTICA.pdf

A	Grandits, Valentin	D	Schneider, Horst
A	Horvath, Stanko DDr	D	Schultz, Heinrich
A	Karall, Kristijan	D	Siering, Benjamin
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