

RESOLUTION 2023-06

Joint resolution submitted by the following member organisations of FUE: Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF), Domowina - Zwjask Łužiskich Serbow, Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Friesenrat Sektion Nord, EBLUL Deutschland, Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), Narodni svet koroških Slovencev (NSKS), Skupnost koroških Slovencev in Slovenk (SKS), Svet Slovenskih Organizacij (SSO)

The Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUE) adopted the following resolution at their Assembly of Delegates in Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh, Hungary on 9 September 2023:

Resolution on the importance of the rule of law for minority rights in the European Union

Introduction:

The European Union, founded on the values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, is committed to promoting and upholding the rule of law within its Member States. Respect for human rights and the protection of minorities are fundamental principles that should be sacrosanct in the EU. This resolution emphasizes the importance of the rule of law in ensuring human rights and the protection of minorities in the EU.

Only in a functioning democracy built on the rule of law is minority protection possible that is not dependent on state arbitrariness and randomness.

We call on the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament to ensure the full implementation of the rule of law in all EU member states.

We call on the FUE Presidium and member organisations to advocate for the implementation of the rule of law in all EU member states at both the national and European levels.

Affirming the importance of the rule of law:

- Fundamental rights and freedoms, based on the values of equality, non-discrimination, inclusion, human dignity, freedom and democracy, and protected by the rule of law, are the foundation of a democratic society and are central to the protection of human rights and the protection of minorities.
- EU member states must ensure that the principles of the rule of law are firmly anchored in their national legal systems and upheld by independent judicial bodies.
- The Copenhagen criteria should become legal standards for all EU member states and for the admission of new members to the EU. These criterias shall include among other things, the guarantee of freedom

of expression, freedom of the press, independence of the judiciary, protection of minorities and the fight against corruption.

Human Rights:

- Respect for human rights is a fundamental principle of the EU and must be fully respected and protected by all Member States.
- The EU and its member states must ensure that human rights violations are consistently investigated and punished in EU member states, as well as outside the EU, by establishing effective mechanisms, including robust monitoring, reporting, and cooperation with relevant human rights organizations.
- The EU must take action to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights by engaging in global partnerships, joint initiatives with national and international human rights organizations, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

Protection of minorities:

- The protection of minorities is an integral part of respect for human rights and must be guaranteed in EU member states.
- The EU and EU member states must ensure that minorities are protected from discrimination and persecution and can fully exercise their rights.
- The EU and EU member states must take appropriate measures to promote the integration of minorities and respect their cultural diversity.
- The EU and EU Member States must combat discrimination and racism in all their negative manifestations and take preventive action.

Monitoring mechanisms and sanctions:

- The EU must establish effective mechanisms for monitoring compliance with the rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities in its member states.
- In cases of serious and persistent violations of the rule of law, human rights or the protection of minorities, appropriate sanctions must be considered to ensure effective deterrence.

Cooperation with international organisations:

- The EU must intensify its cooperation with international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations, to share best practices in the field of rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities.