

FUEM CONGRESS MAIN RESOLUTION 2023

On the need of more meaningful consultations with national minorities

In the times of the ongoing Russian war of aggression in Ukraine and a challenged rules-based international order, FUEM calls policymakers of the global, European, and national levels to have more meaningful engagement with autochthonous national minorities. Such consultations are essential for having more cohesive multi-ethnic and multilingual societies in the EU and beyond.

Therefore, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEM) adopted the following resolution at its Assembly of Delegates on 9 September 2023 in Pécs • Fünfkirchen • Pečuh

1. FUEM urges policymakers to re-assess the existing consultative channels through which they engage into a dialogue with autochthonous national minorities. The existing consultative arrangements have to be reinforced for a more meaningful minority-majority exchange.
2. To establish a permanent consultative body under the auspices of the European Parliament. Such mechanism should consist of representatives of the organizations of autochthonous national minorities from all over the EU. The necessary conditions and resources should be created for this consultative body to function effectively.
3. The European Commission should re-assess its decision on the rejection of the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI). The MSPI needs to be respected, as it reflects the goals of more than one million citizens from the EU that call for more developed minority protection standards.
4. The EU member-states should proceed with the national-level endorsement of the Minority SafePack. FUEM calls for the cooperation in this regard between the national governments and parliaments and hopes for spill-over endorsement.
5. FUEM offers its full support and expertise to the European and international organisations. We are ready to contribute to the development and implementation of meaningful minority rights protection policies.

The 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Council of Europe's minority rights instruments

6. 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of two key international documents in the area of the minority rights protection – the Framework Convention on National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Council of Europe. Both documents remain central legally binding instrument for protecting minority rights, including linguistic rights, and for ensuring minorities' effective participation in public life and the protection and promotion of historical regional and minority languages in multiethnic societies across Europe.

7. FUEN considers worrying that the Council of Europe recommendations are not always followed-up by legal and policy adjustments by the national governments and urges the Council of Europe to revise and modernize the two legal instruments and ensure their enforcement.

On the institutional relations between the EU and the Council of Europe

8. On 18th April 2023 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the institutional relations between the EU and the Council of Europe ([2022/2137\(INI\)](#)). FUEN acknowledges the importance of this resolution and fully allies with its content.
9. FUEN strongly welcomes the strengthening of the political dialogue and the institutional cooperation in the fields of the protection of minority rights and the linguistic diversity in Europe between the two institutions.
10. FUEN calls for the EU's accession to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (ECtHR). This would allow individuals, including millions of the European citizens who belong to national and linguistic minorities, to bring cases against the EU directly before the ECtHR.

The 30th Anniversary of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

11. 2023 also marks the 30th anniversary since the establishment of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The FUEN values the efforts of HCNM in preventing conflicts of multi-ethnic societies and assisting governments of the OSCE participating States in promoting inclusive integration policies with respect for diversity.
12. FUEN urges the HCNM to pay more attention to cooperation with minority organisations, deepen its partnership with FUEN and provide more resources for supporting minority empowerment. Supporting minority CSOs is especially important in those parts of the OSCE region where minorities are perceived as a security threat.