

## **FUEN MINORITY MANIFESTO**

### **Resolution on the occasion of the FUEN Congress 2014 in Flensburg**

*The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) adopted the following resolution in Hotel des Nordens in Flensburg, Germany, on 10 May 2014*

***in due consideration*** of the political demands formulated in the “Programmatic Declaration” from 2013

***in due consideration*** of the legislative proposals included in the European Citizens’ Initiative “Minority SafePack Initiative” from 2013

***in due consideration*** of the basic principles and fundamental rights defined in the Charter for the autochthonous national minorities in Europe from 2006

***in due consideration*** of the documents adopted by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament regarding the situation and rights of autochthonous national minorities in Europe

The Federal Union of European Nationalities and the representatives of minorities / ethnic groups and nationalities consider the rejection by the European Commission of all the proposals and questions regarding the protection of national minorities unacceptable.

The Treaty of the European Union acknowledges that the *EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities*. Unfortunately the Treaty does only offer a partial and weak framework for the protection of these values.

We consider

- (1) that the minorities are not a threat for the cohesion of Europe or for the states. Instead, in all their diversity they are enriching both society and the state and therefore have to be protected and supported.
- (2) that the European Union has to change course and recognise the minorities / ethnic groups and nationalities and the linguistic and cultural diversity related to these groups as added value and act for the protection of this value.
- (3) that minority communities and groups from the EU need legal guarantees that their existing minority rights are protected by a legislative framework and monitoring mechanism on the EU level and that an extension of these rights is possible by sharing European best practices and solutions.

We call

- (4) for an open and direct dialogue between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European civil society of the minorities organised in FUEN during the new parliamentary period from 2014 that would lead to the creation of a roadmap for the implementation of the present Minority Manifesto.
- (5) on the Member States, the Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European political parties and all other EU institutions and entities to become the partners of the FUEN

for the protection and promotion of the identity, language, culture, rights and own character of the European minorities.

(6) on the EU to use its well established system of sharing best practices between Member States in different policy areas, also in field of minority protection. Such an approach would be much welcomed in the minority protection, where legislative acts and effective solutions considered as such by the minority organisations should be promoted also in other Member States and European regions.

We reiterate

(7) the demands and proposals from the Programmatic Declaration and the Minority SafePack Initiative in the following policy areas: Language, culture and education, Political participation, Regional policy, Media and digital content, Anti-discrimination, EU-enlargement and neighbourhood policy, Citizenship and Roma

We urge

(8) the EU to expressly include in its treaties the protection of the minorities / ethnic groups and nationalities, and thus create an unambiguous competence for the EU. Furthermore a set of legal acts shall be enacted aiming at the creation of a comprehensive and legally binding protection system and legislative framework for national minorities, regional linguistic groups and constitutional regions, which is to be accompanied by a functioning monitoring mechanism.

(9) the EU to reconsider the implementation of the Copenhagen political criteria for all members of the European Union, and not to limit its effects only for the accession period, dissolving the double standard in the field of respect for and protection of minorities, thus establishing an effective mechanism to monitor and ensure fundamental and acquired rights of minorities

(10) the new European Commission President to include in the portfolio of a future Commissioner the protection of national minorities and language groups.