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now ACTUEL

Federal Union of European Nationalities
Union Fédéraliste des Communautés Ethniques Européennes
Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen
Федералистский Союз Европейских Национальных Меньшинств

Composition:
Frank Nickelsen
Printer:
Sydslesvigsk Forening

Internal News:

EU-CATALOGUE OF BASIC RIGHTS:

Regulations for the protection and promotion of the national minorities and endangered lingual and cultural communities must be incorporated in the EU-Catalogue of Basic Rights! This unanimous decision was reached by the FUEN-Presidium at their last Presidium Session between 07 and 09 July 2000 in Munich.

Bearing in mind that most of the wars of the last few decades within and outside Europe were caused by ethnic tensions the necessity of regulating the internal coexistence of the multi ethnic population and national minorities is vital. The recognition of the duty of the individual states to retain languages that are still spoken in their territories in addition to the national language or languages is one of the foundations of Europe which has, and in the future, will continue to excel by its variety of languages and cultures. The FUEN-Presidium would like to inform the EU-Convention of this desire and, together with other NGO`s, who are of the same opinion, will try to stress the urgency of this demand.

FUEN-ACITIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2000:

The FUEN is focussing its activities for the current year on the Baltic region,

Georgia and South-East-Europe. The aim in these regions is to support the building up of organisational structures of the national minorities by visits to them and contacts with them, and also by means of talks with the state institutions concerned. In cooperation with the international organisation, too, efforts must be made toward legal and practical measures of supporting the internal protection of minority rights.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE LANGUAGES 2001:

For the European year of the languages 2001 the FUEN plans various projects regarding the subject of language and identity.

FUEN-ADVISORY BOARD:

The FUEN-Presidium is happy to announce that the FUEN-Advisory Board that was formed during the 45th FUEN-Congress in Komarno / Slovakia is now taking up its activities. The Advisory Board consists of representatives of political state institutions in whose areas minorities live, and it will be coordinated by the President of the State Parliament of Branden-



Constitutional meeting of the FUEN-Advisory Board in Komarno

burg, Dr. Herbert Knoblich. The Advisory Board will follow the work of the FUEN and give advice where needed. At

the same time it will promote the exchange of experiences among the political decision-makers.

News from the FUEN-member organisations

New General Secretary of SSF

The umbrella association of the Danish minority in Germany, Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF), will have a new General Secretary from 2001. Successor to the current secretary Gerd Wiencke, who will be retiring at the end of the year, is Jens A. Christiansen, who was born in Flensburg in 1956 and currently lives in Copenhagen.

New homepage for the Frisians

The Foriining for nationale Friiske (Frisians in Germany) now presents itself on its own page on the Internet: www.friiske.de

New umbrella organisation of Germans in the Ukraine

On 30.07. this year, the Association of Germans in the Ukraine was founded as a new umbrella organisation of the German minority in the Ukraine. The first president of the association comprising 67 organisations is Alexander Getz (contact: getz@impuls.zhitomir.ua)

FUEN-Congress of Nationalities 2001 in West Frisia (NL) see page 2

FUEN-Congress of Nationalities 2001 in West Frisia



The board of the »Ried fan de fryske beweging« From left: Jaap Osinga, Gerben Portinga, Reinder Bil, Arjen Versloot and Wiebe Lageveen)

The 46th FUEN-Congress of Nationalities will be taking place in West Frisia / NL from 23 to 27 May 2001 Preliminary talks for the preparation of the next FUEN-Congress were held with the board of the FUEN-memberorganisation »Ried fan de fryske beweging« (see photo) on 15 Septem-

ber 2000 in Leeuwarden. In the presence of the FUEN Executive Secretary, Frank Nickelsen, it was unanimously decided to accept the West Frisians offer of hosting the 46th FUEN-Congress of Nationalities. The West Frisians of the Netherlands are among the

FUEN-President in Estonia

Visit of the FUEN-President to Estonia During his two day visit FUEN President Romedi Arquint from Switzerland was able to inform himself about the present situation of the national minorities in Tallinn and Narva. The smaller minorities - about 5% of the total population - have agreed to a coordination of their work together and are striving towards a constructive contribution for the development of a multicultural Estonia. To a certain extend they receive support from the state inspite of financing problems and a shortage of space. They regard the exclusion of the Estonian Union of National

Minorities (which represents over two dozen national minorities) from the Round Table as extremely regrettable. There is above all, in Estonia the still unsolved problem of the Russian minority, which represents 30% of the total population. A policy of integrating the Russians, too, is hardly noticable and ostraciazation and discrimination of the Russians prevails. Experiences of the past, and the fear of the loss of their identity remain in the minds of the Estonians.

Further information available at FUEN-Secretariat

Croatian Club of Academics in Austria: EU fact-finding mission is a chance for minorities

"An EU fact-finding mission which is also to investigate the actual situation of minorities and minority protection in Austria could mean a chance for Austria to voluntarily make up for its deficits and gaps in minority rights,' Manfred Csenar, the representative of the Croatian Club of Academics commented in the ethnic group committee at the Office of the Federal German Chancellor in view of the first visit by the 'EU sages' to Austria. According to Czenar, there are still deficits in comparison to European standards, primarily in media presence, official declarations, forms and in cultural activities.

founder members of the FUEN. As early as 1950 - one year after the founding of the FUEN - there was a FUEN-Congress in Leeuwarden. Furter details available

as soon as possible: Ried fan de fryske beweging www.fryskebeweging.nl or FUEN-Secretariat

The Democratic Union of Croats in the Vojvodina celebrates its 10th anniversary.

The Democratic Union of Croats in the Vojvodina »Demokratski savez Hrvata u Vojvodini« in brief DSHV celebrates its 10th anniversary. Immediately after the disintegration of the Federation of Communists in Yugoslavia the Croats in the Vojvodina founded the DSHV on 15th July 1990 in Subotica.

The DSHV is an organisation in which they discuss and formulate their cultural, economic and political interests and represent these in the public and political spheres. In the last ten years in spite of all the difficulties of the longlasting crisis in this region and the fighting in the former Yugoslavia the DSHV has proved to be a success. The DSHV has represented the interests of the Croats in the Vojvodina in Peace Conferences in The Hague, Brussels, Geneva and London.



Bela Tonkovic

It has good relations with the OSCE and the European Parliament. The DSHV is one of the founder members of the Croatian World Congress and has close contacts with all democratic organisations, human rights groups and national minorities in Yugoslavia and South/East Europe.

The DSHV has been an associate FUEN member since 1993 and an ordinary FUEN member since 1995. Furthermore its President, Mr. Bela Tonkovic (see picture), has been FUEN-Vicepresident since 1996.

25 Years OSCE

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation celebrates its 25. Anniversary. Further information about the OSCE. Just click into www.osce.org

tional minorities at the OSCE (HCNM) has been revised and is



Furthermore the homepage of the High Commissioner for na-

on the Net again: www.osce.org/hcnm

The Scanians in the Scania region

Country and history

Schonen/Scania/Skåneland is located on the southern part of the Scandinavian peninsula and currently has a population of approx. 1.5 million. It covers an area of approximately 21,000 km². Historic Scania is composed of four provinces: Skåne, Halland, Blekinge (in today's Sweden) and the island of Bornholm (today part of Denmark). Neither the Skåne region nor the Scanians themselves enjoy any particular status within the Swedish state. The Scanian language is not recognised by the state of Sweden and has no legal protection.

The history of the Scanians

can be dated back over two thousand years. In 380 AD they are recorded as the rulers of Rex Scaniae. After a longish period of independence, Scania belonged to Denmark for a long time. Under the peace treaty of Roskilde it was annexed by Sweden in 1658. The Peace of Roskilde included the rights of the Scanians to self-administration and legislation, although this privilege was abolished by Sweden in 1720 and the parliamentary function transferred to Stockholm.

The Scanian language

Around the year 1000, before today's Scandinavia was

formed, the Nordic region comprised many small peoples and nations. The various languages came from a common Nordic tribe. In the Danish-speaking area there were three regions each with their own language. Zealand, Jutland and Scania in the east. For a remarkable length of time in its history, Scania was the richest country in the Nordic region and attracted dealers from all over Europe. This was a result of the significant fishing industry around the city of Skanör in the southwest of Scania. The term Scandinavia is derived from the names 'Scania' and 'Skanör'. The oldest written records of the language date from the 10th and 11th centuries and already show distinct differences

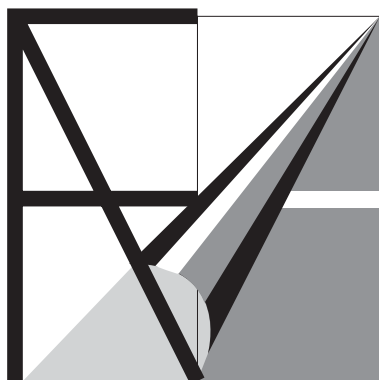


from neighbouring languages in vocabulary and grammar. Scania with its metropolis Lund was the cultural centre of Denmark for a long time, but with the annexing by Sweden, was subjected to a number of sanctions. The use of Scanian was prohibited and Scanian vicars, judges and civil servants were replaced by ones from Sweden. Swedish was introduced as the only language in all

official fields. Today, the Scanians have no uniform written language, it disintegrates into numerous local dialects. The language is not taken into consideration in the mass media. Radio and TV programmes are not broadcast in Scanian, articles in newspapers and magazines only appear in Swedish. Scanian is neither a method nor a subject of teaching in schools.

Skånsk Framtid

Founded in 1989, Stiftelsen Skånsk Framtid (SSF) (Foundation Scanian Future) works towards improving cultural, social and economic interests of the region Scania with the aim of creating an autonomous region with its own parliament within a unified Europe. Activities range from



various publications, lobbying work and presence on the Internet through to maintaining a regional Scanian institute (SRI). The SSF has been an associate member of FUEN since 1991 and a member of UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation) since

1993 (one member of the SSF Presiding Committee is also a member of the UNPO Presiding Committee).

Ethnic Groups in Europe

a manual by Christoph Pan/Beate Sibylle Pfeil, Vienna: Braumüller, 2000 (Ethnos; 56)

Christoph Pan (Head of the South Tirolean Institute for Ethnic Groups and President of FUEN from 1994 to 1996) and Beate Sibylle Pfeil (Member of staff at the South Tirolean Institute for Ethnic Groups) in this publication pursue the purpose of clarifying the empirical background and the quantitative dimensions of minority protection in Europe. The authors have impressively succeeded in this aim. In

actual fact, according to the criteria of Pan und Pfeil the European community consists of the nationality states of Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Switzerland as well as (except for Ireland) of multinational states, i.e. of states which are home not only to the ethnic majority, but also other autochthonous ethnic minorities. The quantitative dimensions of multinationality vary considerably and range from

just a few thousand to several million members of national minorities; however, as minority protection is an essential element of human rights and democracy, quantitative aspects cannot be a reason for appreciating or ignoring minority protection or promotion. Although it is quite clearly explained in the introduction to the book that the nation state has become theoretically

and practically outdated in Europe as the most common model, the solutions the authors suggest (reallocation of power, autonomy) are in fact on a national state level as national state competence should be allocated to the minority. Is it not more, in the age of European unity, the task to help a new political culture emerge which assesses its languages, cultures, religions, territories, traditions and ethnic identity

irrespectively of any power attributes and recognises that being ethnically different does not conceal any dangers or sources of conflict but only resources?

The book contains a quite comprehensive table section showing, among other things, the distribution of national minorities (the authors mostly speak of ethnic groups) in the 36 European states with more than 1 million inhabitants, the peoples of Europe according to their demographic size, the states of Europe according to population and the languages of Europe and language groups, and based on this, the lingual and state allocation of European peoples. In some cases, these overviews seem quite statistical: the many processes of a multilevel character and dynamism in the ethnic and lingual structures as well as mobility and immigration could presumably not be taken into account, neither have they been mentioned. One problem seems that the authors obviously define the peoples (however not consistently) solely according to their language. This automatically allocates all speakers of extra-territorial languages to the respective majority population. Consequently, the German-speaking minorities in Eastern Europe and German-speaking Belgians, Alsations, Swiss and Austrians are allocated to the German people, French-speaking Belgians and French or Italian-speaking Swiss are allocated to the Italian people, etc. But then why are the Serbian-speaking Montenegrins a people of their own? The term 'people' is not defined within political science or human rights contexts, but can be rather seen as an expression of the entirety of all members of an ethnic group with certain political leadership (a state) but not as a lingual community (otherwise, for example, a majority of the US American and Australian populations would be part of the English people).

It is similarly not explained why the Russins (Ruthenians, Lemks) are allocated to the Ukrainian people and not listed as an

individual people.

An overview of states contains statistics on the overall population with the national minorities and with the appropriate graphics and map outlines localising the minority regions. The authors have endeavoured to document current data. Particularly this section makes the book into a really informative work of reference. Unfortunately, details on the actual legal situation of minorities in their states are omitted. At least indications of existing constitutional laws, minority laws or regulations and signature or ratification of the European minority documents (the latter are stated on pp. 203/204) would have been an important and meaningful enhancement of the overview of states, and would also reveal the somewhat contradictory treatment of various minorities in one and the same country. In section 3 of the book the authors discuss the requirements and preconditions for minority protection in Europe, pay tribute to the initiatives prompted by FUEN in this respect and critically assess the status of development in Europe. To be emphasised here is the strict and unmistakable allocation of these problems to a human rights, democracy and rule of law aspect, which according to the authors, must not be reduced to formal emancipation and requires the positive protection of ethnic groups.

The appendix of this book in the Ethnos series of the Viennese publishers Braumüller contains the texts of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages, the framework agreement on the protection of national minorities, the FUEN draft for a supplementary protocol to the EHRC on the fundamental rights of members of European nationalities, recommendation 1201 of the Council of Europe for a supplementary protocol to the EHRC concerning national minorities and their members and the discussion draft compiled by FUEN for a special convention on autonomous rights of the ethnic groups in Europe.

Ludwig Elle
FUEN-Vicepresident



Help FUEN!

The financial situation of FUEN is rather modest. And in order to stand up for the protection of national minorities in future, it depends on financial aid (bank account, etc.).

FUEN e.V. is recognised by the inland revenue of Flensburg, tax No. 15290/F619, of 2.3.99, as a non-profit-making society and may issue the respective certificates for donations which can be submitted to the inland revenue.

When the donation has been received, you will immediately receive a certificate stating that we will only use the amount given to us for the purposes stated in our statutes.

FUEN's account is at the Union Bank Flensburg, sort code 215 201 00, No. 0012084.

AVAILABLE

STATUS REPORTS

Status reports from Slovakia	1996/97
Status reports from the Carpathian region	1996-03
Status reports about the Crimean Tartars	1996-10
Status reports from the former Yugoslavia	1998-03
Status reports from Georgia	1998-11
Status reports from the Aromanians	1999-03
Status reports from Montenegro & Kosovo	1999-07
Status reports from Azerbaijan & Georgia	1999-10

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With brief features on:

No. 53 Hungarians and Germans in Romania	1995-07
No. 54 Bretons in France	1995-09
No. 54 Slovenes in Italy	1995-09
No. 55 Sorbs in Germany	1996-02
No. 55 Carinthian Slovenes in Austria	1996-02
No. 56 Rhaeto-Romanics in Switzerland	1996-07
No. 57 Sinti and Roma in Germany	1996-10
No. 58 Crimean Tartars in the Ukraine	1996-12
No. 59 Carpathian Germans in Slovakia	1997-04
No. 60 Finns in Sweden	1997-07
No. 61 Aromanians in the Balkan States	1997-10
No. 62 Romanians in Croatia	1997-12
No. 64 Germans in the Czech Republic	1998-05
No. 64 Polish minority in the Czech Republic	1998-05
No. 65 Romanians in the Ukraine	1998-07
No. 66 Wallachs in Bulgaria	1998-12
No. 67 Germans in Denmark	1999-03
No. 68 50 years FUEN	1999-05
No. 70 Slovaks in the Czech Republic	1999-12
No. 72 Hungarians in the Slovakia	2000-06

DOCUMENTATIONS

42nd Congres of Nationalities Pörschach/A	1997
43rd Congres of Nationalities Prague/CZ	1998
44th Congres of Nationalities Haderslev/DK	1999
45th Congres of Nationalities Komarno/DK	2000

FUEN / OSCE-CONFERENCES

DK - København: Stability or Instability	1997-12
PL - Warszawa: The National Minorities in PL	1998-11
A - Vienna The National Minorities in A	1999-09

RESOLUTIONS

- of the FUEN Assembly of Delegates

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