



Minutes of the FUEN Assembly of Delegates

53rd FUEN Congress of Nationalities

24 May 2008 / Pécs-Hungary

TOPIC 0 Opening

Hans Heinrich Hansen, the FUEN-president, welcomes the delegates in Hotel Palatinus. Andrea Rassel was accepted as leader of the Assembly and determined the quorum of the Assembly of Delegates.

The following member organisations were present (see the list on page 6).

TOPIC 01 A Statement on principles by FUEN-president Hans Heinrich Hansen

Hans Heinrich Hansen reads out his statement on principles, based on the Strategic Programme of FUEN, the main areas of work and the direction of the biggest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous national minorities in Europe. Hansen presented the development of FUEN in the past year and highlighted the Brussels Project, the language network and the Dialogue Forum at the European Parliament.

After debate and discussion with the delegates of the member organisations who were present, the Strategic Programme of FUEN for 2008-2010 was adopted unanimously.

In the discussion and debate that followed with the delegates, the member organisations expressed their approval with the work that had been done.

The Strategic Programme 2008-2010 of FUEN was adopted unanimously.

TOPIC 02 Election of the FUEN-representatives in the European Dialogue Forum

With jurist Steen Schröder (SSF) in charge of the elections, the election and nomination procedure of the European Dialogue Forum at the European Parliament was presented.

Before the elections the following decision was taken:

After about two years of negotiations FUEN and YEN together agreed with the European Parliament to establish a contact body with the European Parliament – with as official name: **“European Dialogue Forum of Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages”** - abbreviated **European Dialogue Forum**. With the forum a formalisation in the cooperation with the European Parliament has been reached.

In the contact body current challenges, problems and long-term strategies for the autochthonous national minorities in Europe are discussed and the contact between politicians and the European

minorities is brought into an institutional framework. In the forum statements, recommendations and resolutions will be discussed and adopted, in order to raise awareness for the problems / challenges of the European minorities.

The European Dialogue Forum consists of representatives from the European minorities, who are represented in FUEN and YEN as well as members of the Intergroup in the European Parliament.

FUEN has a total of 8 delegates in the European Dialogue Forum. Seven delegates are elected by the Assembly of Delegates in Pécs for a period of two years. The president of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen, has a functional mandate in the European Dialogue Forum.

The condition for participation in the Dialogue Forum is that the nominee should be willing to work for the interests of the minorities and not only represent his own needs, but rather represent the general interests. FUEN expects from the nominee that he will attend all the meetings of the Dialogue Forum. Each year there will be two meetings in the European Parliament.

In principle the nominating member organisation will pay the costs of its representative. Only member organisations that paid their membership fee are eligible to nominate candidates.

For FUEN it is important to reach a good mixture between minorities with and minorities without kin-state, and a good regional representation within our delegation. Therefore FUEN proposes that the member organisations agree amongst each other on a regional candidate.

In total 9 candidates are nominated. In a secret ballot the following persons were elected as representatives of FUEN in the European Dialogue Forum, alongside president Hans Heinrich Hansen:

Nr.	Organisation	Name	Number of votes
1 elected	Domowina- Council of the Lusatian Sorbs	Ziesch, Bernhard	105
2 elected	Landessebstverwaltung der Ungarndeutschen / German Association	Brenner, Koloman Dr	91
3 elected	Danish minority SSF	Küssner, Dieter Paul	75
4 elected	Ried fan der Fryske Beweging / West Frisian Association	van der Bij, Jaap	70
5 elected	Youth of European Nationalities / Slovene	Studen-Kirchner, Aleksander	65
6 elected	Arman Community in Romania	Sdrula, Nicolae	58
7 elected	West Thrakian Association ABTTF	Habip Oglu, Halit	55
8	NSKS / Slovenes in Carinthia	Smolle, Karel	54
9	Central Council for German Sinti and Roma	Rose, Romani	41

TOPIC 03 Brussels-Project

Jan Diedrichsen presented the results of the Brussels Project in the year 2007/08. Additionally a newsletter was distributed. Jan Diedrichsen mentioned in particular the European Dialogue Forum and the language network.

Diedrichsen thanked especially FUEN-president Hans Heinrich Hansen and YEN-president Aleksander Studen-Kirchner for successfully establishing the European Dialogue Forum.

TOPIC 04 and 05 Financial report and report of the auditors, discharge

The annual accounts for 2007 have been sent to the delegates together with the letter convening the Assembly. The accounts were closed with a calculated balance of -82,99 EUR. In the financial year 2007 new financiers were found. FUEN thanks in this regard the Danish government and the Free State of Saxony. FUEN also received project funding from the Estonian government and the German Ministry of the Interior, which make it possible for FUEN to implement several projects, not in the last place the FUEN Congress.

The auditors Gert Wiencke and Lars Harms submitted the following report:

The annual accounts of FUEN over the year 2007 were assessed by my colleague Lars Harms and me as elected auditors by the Assembly of Delegates. My colleague belongs to the Frisian minority in Germany, whereas I belong to the Danish minority in Germany. The audit took place in the Secretariat of FUEN in Flensburg and took two days in the end of 2007 and in the beginning of 2008. It included checking several bills/receipts that were part of the bookkeeping. The details of the individual bills were compared with the bookings and at the same time we looked at efficient and economic budget management. As far as it was about bills that had to do with project funding, these had already been checked by the competent federal authorities in Germany as well. Our audit did not lead to any objections. The numbers given at the end of the year could be corroborated by us.

The bookkeeping and the annual accounts of FUEN are in line with the fundamentals of correct accounting. In this regard we would like to highlight the work of the Secretariat, which would not have been able to handle the work without a serious amount of idealism. With this in mind we can recommend to the delegates of FUEN that they will approve the annual accounts and give discharge to the management and presidium.

Applause

The presidium is given discharge unanimously.

TOP 05 Report by the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)

The report by YEN was presented by Benjamin Rozsenich, Andrea Kluknavska and Hester Knol, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation and a film. During the FUEN Congress the YEN participants made the Daily Diversity – a daily newsletter about the FUEN Congress.

TOPIC 06 Applications

After mentioning that presidium member Jurij Brankačk had to leave due to a case of death within his family, Hans Heinrich Hansen takes over the presentation of the applications for membership. The application for membership that was submitted by the Western Thrace Turks in Turkey is rejected based on the fact that already two organisations of the Western Thrace Turks are member in FUEN, with two abstentions.

TOPIC 07 Resolutions

The resolutions are presented by Jan Diedrichsen. Hans Heinrich Hansen points out beforehand that only resolutions are discussed that were submitted before the deadline.

The following resolutions and position papers were put to the vote

RESOLUTION 2008-01 (About the remit of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights with its seat in Vienna) adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-02 (For sustainable language policy taking into account regional and minority languages as well as the small and smallest languages of Europe)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-03 A (Text of the foundation document of the European Dialogue Forum)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-03 B

The president of FUEN is automatically member of the Dialogue Forum in virtue of his function
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-04 (Memorandum of the Sorbian people)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-05 (proposed by BdN and SSF about the media situation)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-06 (proposed by SSF about the concrete media situation)
adopted unanimously

On the basis of the resolution that has been submitted, the presidium talked with the Breton member organisation and agreed on this compromise-proposal. This resolution is also supported by the organisation that submitted it. We would therefore ask the delegates to vote on this proposal.

RESOLUTION 2008-07 (submitted by the Bretons)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-08 (submitted by the Western Thrace Turks in Greece)
adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION 2008-09 is a statement and no resolutions and is voted on as POSITION PAPER 2008-09 (submitted by the Sinti and Roma in Germany)
adopted unanimously

TOP 08 Miscellaneous

Words of thanks by Hans Heinrich Hansen and Otto Heinek:

Hans Heinrich HANSEN, FUEN:

Allow me some words at the end. Ladies and Gentlemen, dear delegates, with this election procedure we have come to a result which we can be very glad of. The two representatives who were not elected will automatically be stand-ins. I would like to congratulate those who have been elected, I look forward to cooperate with them and also hope that we will reach something with our work. I am really confident about it. We have come to the end of the Assembly of Delegates. I would like to say thanks to all of you for your positive contribution. I saw few sour faces. That is I think an indication for the ambience and atmosphere. At the end of a demanding Assembly of Delegates I should say thank you. I start with thanking the interpreters, thank you election leader Steen Schröder. I want to say a special word of thanks to the office and especially the young ladies who supported Frank. I thank in particular Judith and Susa. Susa and Judith were supported by GJU. Also thank you Frank de Boer for the translation. Otto, I will thank you this evening once again. I would like to thank all on behalf of the presidium and hope that we meet again next year at our jubilee congress in Brussels.

Otto HEINEK, Self-government of the Germans in Hungary:

I also would like to thank you very much for your active cooperation during the congress and Assembly of Delegates. And I also want to thank everyone with whom we were able to prepare this congress in Pécs / Fünfkirchen together. In the first place that was Frank Nickelsen. Dear Frank, in the last months since October we had a good cooperation. You have always been a very trustworthy and correct and reliable partners in the preparation. We want to thank you very much for this. I also would like to thank Mareike Watolla, who helped us very much during the congress, at the registration, with copying, with buying gifts. Without the helpers of my office and our manager, Olivia Schubert, and our regional office manager Zoltan Schmidt, without the active members of GJU, we would have problems. I thank them very much. Also the interpreters, who as I have heard did a very professional job and the team of the hotel should be given a special word of thanks. I have been very glad to prepare and organise this congress as a host. Thank you.

The documents of the FUEN Congress 2008 and the Assembly of Delegates 2008 can be read at www.fuen.org.

ASSEMBLY						
LAND	ORGANISATION	NAME				
			PRE	MOO	MOA	VOTES
A	Croatian Association HKD	Perusich, Jelka		1		6
A	FUEN Presidium / Croat	Gieler, Zlatka	1			1
A	NSKS Slovenes in Carinthia	Kulmesch, Janko		1		6
A	Youth of European Nationalities	Studen-Kirchner, Aleksander	1			1
CH	FUEN Presidium / Rhaetian in G	Rassel, Andrea	1			1
CZ	German Association	Kunc, Irene		1		6
CZ	German Association	Mlejnek, Peter		1		6
D	Central Council for German Sinti	Wenzel, Uwe Dr		1		6
D	Council of the Lusatian Sorbs	Nuck, Jan		1		6
D	Council of the Lusatian Sorbs	Ziesch, Bernhard		1		6
D	Danish minority SSF	Christiansen, Jens A.		1		6
D	Danish minority SSF	Küssner, Dieter Paul		1		6
D	Frisian Association Friisk Foriining	Hahn, Jörgen Jensen		1		3
D	Frisian Association NF Verein	Weisser, Marie Luise		1		3
D	FUEN Presidium / South Schles	Schultz, Heinrich	1			1
D	West Thracian Association	Habip Oglu, Halit		1		3
DK	FUEN Presidium / North Schles	Hansen, Hans Heinrich	1			1
DK	German minority BdN	Johannsen, Peter Iver		1		6
DK	German minority BdN	Meyer, Peter		1		6
EE	Association of the Germans	Weber, Erika			1	1
F	Breton minority	Texier, Marcel			1	1
GB	FUEN Presidium / Cornish Stann	Cutcliffe, John	1			1
GE	Yezidi-Kurds of Georgia	Ozmanov, Shalva			1	1
GR	West Thracian Association	Chairoula, Pervin		1		3
GR	West Thracian Association	Kavaz, Sinan		1		6
H	Croatian Association	Pilsits, Maria		1		6
H	Croatian Association	Völgyi, Géza		1		6
H	Cultural Union of the Romanian	Brad, Ana		1		6
H	German Association	Heinek, Otto		1		6
HR	Serb National Council	Milosevic, Aleksandar		1		6
KG	German Association	Dill Valerij		1		6
KG	German Association	Kulov, Felix		1		6
MD	German Association	Reaboi, Alexandr			1	1
NL	West Frisian Association	Riemersma, Willem		1		6
NL	West Frisian Association	Rinzema, Jaap		1		6
PL	German Association VDG in Poland	Donitz, Richard		1		3
PL	German Community in Katowice	Brehmer, Dietmar		1		3
PL	Kashubian-Pomeranian Association	Kreft, Malwina			1	1
RO	Aromanian in Romania	Sdrula, Nicolae		1		6
RO	Democratic Alliance of Hungarians	Kovacs, Peter		1		6
RS	Croatian Association DSHV	Budincevic, Ivan		1		6
RUS	Balkar People	Dzhappuev, Rasul		1		6
RUS	Dzchamaga	Korkmazov, Boris		1		6
RUS	German Association	Martens, Olga		1		6
RUS	German Youth Association	Gartman Olga		1		6
S	Stiftelsen Skåne Framtid	Hansson, Göran			1	1
SI	Gottscheer Association	Debenjak, Primoz		1		6
SK	German Association	Pöss, Ondrej Dr.		1		6
UA	Carpathian Association	Mateleshko, Stepan		1		6
UA	Carpathian Association	Turyanitsa, Ivan		1		6
NL	YEN	de Boer, Frank		1		6
NL	YEN	Knol, Hester		1		6
A	YEN	Rozsenich, Benjamin		1		6
SK	YEN	Kluknavska, Andrea		1		6
	SUMMEN		6	42	6	168
	ERLÄUTERUNG STIMMBERECHTIGUNG					
	PRE = Presidium = 1 votes		PRE	6		
	MOO = Ordinary member = 6 votes (verteilt auf Anzahl Delegierte)		MOO	42		
	MOA = Associate member = 1 votes		MOA	6		
	VOTES = total of all delegates		VOTES	168		