



2009-10

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), at its session in Brussels on 2 October 2009 takes notice of the following statement:

Submitted by Tsentru ti Limba shi Cultura Armaneasca Bulgaria - Centre for Aromanian Language and Culture in Bulgaria (CALCB)

The Aromanians (the Macedonaromanians), with their own name “Armân” or “Makedonarmân”, known also as Aromanian-Vlachs, Helino-Vlachs, Macedo-Vlachs, Cincars, one of the oldest European peoples with 2000 years history, represented by several associations from Albania, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania and Bulgaria, as well as by associations living in the diaspora, have established The Council of the Aromanians, which has been registered, as a legal entity within the Department of Justice in Tirana, Albania. The Council of the Aromanians (“Consillu Armânjlor”) has the duty to support the requests of the Aromanian Communities which are members of this Council. These communities intend through their activities to save and develop the language and the cultural values of the people they represent. One of the founding members of this Council is the Center for Aromanian Language and Culture in Bulgaria (CALCB), a non-governmental organization, which represents in our estimation about 8.000 Aromanians living in Bulgaria. CALCB is also member of The National Council of Co-Operation of Demographic and Ethnical Issues of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria.

For almost thirty years, an increasing number of international institutions, including European ones, have adopted various positive provisions concerning the lesser used languages and the rights of their speakers. Minorities and linguistic minorities nowadays engage the attention not only of the linguistic community itself but also the attention of the State to which this community belongs. We highly appreciate the efforts of the Bulgarian Government in the last few years concerning the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. Based on all information obtained from the CALCB, concerning the budget amount provided in the last years and relating it to the number of Aromanian people living in Bulgaria, we have concluded that, in order to improve the general frame at all levels (such as school, church, mass-media), and in order to preserve their own identity, much more financial aid would be necessary. We will therefore considerably appreciate the financial efforts of The National Council for Co-Operation of Ethnic and Demographic Issues in supporting the Aromanian minority by various projects concerning the Aromanian

culture, language and traditions, thus conferring them their own “Armân” identity and their linguistic conscience. During the last visits of the Council of Aromanians in Srasbourg (PACE) and Brussels (European Parliament), we have learned that European Community is going to support its newest members with considerable financial aid in special programmes for ethnic / minority communities. A wide range of projects have been financed, including community-based conversation and management of ressources workshops, studies and seminars. With regard to the development of such activities, the Council of Aromanians, represented through the CALCB in Bulgaria, will be glad to be involved and integrated into all levels of development cooperation.

The Aromanians in Bulgaria are under great assimilation and their financial situation about preservation of their culture is very very critical.