



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

51st FUEN-Congress on Nationalities from 24th - 28th May 2006  
51e Congrès des Nationalités du 24 - 08 mai 2006  
51. Nationalitätenkongreß vom 24. - 28. Mai 2006  
51-й Конгресс национальностей 24 - 28 мая 2006 г.



including the  
**Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe**  
here signed by FUEN President Romedi Arquint (left)  
and the President of the Youth of European Nationalities, Aleksander Studen-Kirchner

## DOCUMENTATION

[www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060731DOKU\\_Budysin.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060731DOKU_Budysin.pdf)

# BAUTZEN • BUDYŠÍN 2006

# CONTENTS

## Welcome and opening of the Congress:

Romedi ARQUINT,  
President of FUEN / CH [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525RA\\_Budysin.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525RA_Budysin.pdf) EN 04

## Welcoming words:

• Georg MILBRADT,  
Ministerpresident of Saxony [www.sachsen.de/de/bf/staatsregierung/  
ministerpraesident/index.html](http://www.sachsen.de/de/bf/staatsregierung/ministerpraesident/index.html)  
[www.georg-milbradt.de](http://www.georg-milbradt.de)

• Christoph BERGNER,  
Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Germany  
for National Minorities and Resettlers' Issues [www.aussiedlerbeauftragter.de](http://www.aussiedlerbeauftragter.de)

• Johanna WANKA,  
Minister for Science and Culture of Brandenburg [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525WANKA.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525WANKA.pdf) DE 06  
[www.brandenburg.de/cms/  
detail.php?id=49221&\\_siteid=16](http://www.brandenburg.de/cms/detail.php?id=49221&_siteid=16)

• Christian SCHRAMM,  
Mayor of the municipality Bautzen [www.bautzen.de](http://www.bautzen.de)

• Jan Nuck,  
Chairman of the Council of Lusatian Sorbs  
Domowina [www.domowina.sorben.com](http://www.domowina.sorben.com) DE 08  
[www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Nuck.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Nuck.pdf)

• Aleksander STUDEN-KIRCHNER,  
President of the Youth of European Nationalities [www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org) DE 09  
[www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060527Studen\\_Kirchner.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060527Studen_Kirchner.pdf)

• Françoise KEMPF,  
Council of Europe [www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_rights](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_rights) EN 10  
[www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525KEMPF.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525KEMPF.pdf)

• Erich ILTGEN,  
President of the Parliament of Saxony [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525ILTGEN.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525ILTGEN.pdf) DE 11

## Speeches on basic principles:

Csaba TABAJDI,  
Chairman of the Intergroup for National Minorities  
and Regional Languages at the European Parliament [www.europarl.europa.eu/members/  
expert/alphaOrder/view.do?id=23808](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/expert/alphaOrder/view.do?id=23808) EN 13  
[www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Tabajdi.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Tabajdi.pdf)

Wolfgang WÖLCK,  
Research Centre for Multilingualism,  
University Brussels [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525WOELCK.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525WOELCK.pdf) DE 16  
EN 17  
FR 18

## FUEN Assembly

[www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525FUEN\\_Assembly.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525FUEN_Assembly.pdf)

**Charter** for the autochthonous, national  
minorities in Europe EN [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Charter\\_EN.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Charter_EN.pdf) 19

**Charta** der autochthonen, nationalen  
Minderheiten / Volksgruppen in Europa [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Charta\\_DE.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Charta_DE.pdf)

**Charta** des minorités nationales autochtones en  
Europe [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Charte\\_FR.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Charte_FR.pdf)

**ХАРТИЯ**  
**АВТОХТОННЫХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ МЕНЬШИНСТВ**  
**Европы** [www.fuen.org/pdfs/  
20060525Charter\\_RU.pdf](http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Charter_RU.pdf)

<b>Resolutions:</b>		
ENGLISH	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Resolutions_DE.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060525Resolutions_DE.pdf</a>	EN 28
DEUTSCH	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Resolutionen_DE.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060525Resolutionen_DE.pdf</a>	
FRANCAIS	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Resolutions_FR.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060525Resolutions_FR.pdf</a>	
РУССКИЙ	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060525Resolutions_RU.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060525Resolutions_RU.pdf</a>	
<b>School and Education as exemplified by various examples:</b>		
German Speaking Community in Belgium by Oliver PAASCH, Minister for Education and Science	<a href="http://www.dglive.be">www.dglive.be</a> <a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060526PAASCH.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060526PAASCH.pdf</a>	
The School system of the Lusatian Sorbs by Manuela SCHMOLE	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pp/20060526Bildungswesen_Sorben.ppt">www.fuen.org/pp/ 20060526Bildungswesen_Sorben.ppt</a>	
The School system in Hungary by Anna KERNER, Hungarian Ministry for Education	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060526KERNER.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060526KERNER.pdf</a>	
The School system of the Bretons in France by Claude NADEAU	<a href="http://www.claudenadeau.net">www.claudenadeau.net</a> <a href="http://www.diwanbreizh.org">www.diwanbreizh.org</a>	
The School system of the Slovenians in Austria by Dr Michael GUTOWNIG	<a href="http://www.nsk.at">www.nsk.at</a> <a href="http://www.fuen.org/pp/20060526Gutownig.ppt">www.fuen.org/pp/ 20060526Gutownig.ppt</a>	
Teaching Human Rights in Europe by Claudia MAHLER, University Potsdam	<a href="http://www.humanrightsresearch.de">www.humanrightsresearch.de</a> <a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060526MAHLER.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060526MAHLER.pdf</a>	
<b>Conclusion</b> from the view of the Lusatian Sorbs	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060529Bildungsleitlinien.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060529Bildungsleitlinien.pdf</a>	36
<b>The FUEN Advisory Board</b> and its Civil Society Dialogue by its chairman, Detlev REIN	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pp/20060401CSDialogue.ppt">www.fuen.org/pp/ 20060401CSDialogue.ppt</a> <a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060401CS_Dialogue.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060401CS_Dialogue.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.fuen.org/pdfs/20060527Rein_CivilSD.pdf">www.fuen.org/pdfs/ 20060527Rein_CivilSD.pdf</a>	
<b>The Youth of European Nationalities</b>	<a href="http://www.yeni.org">www.yeni.org</a>	
<b>Press releases:</b>		
ENGLISH 2006-12 > 2006-16	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5a_2002.html">www.fuen.org/pages/english/ e_5a_2002.html</a>	
DEUTSCH 2006-12 > 2006-16	<a href="http://www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/d_5a_2002.html">www.fuen.org/pages/deutsch/ d_5a_2002.html</a> <a href="http://www.fuen-press.info/pdfs/200605minority_press.info">www.fuen-press.info/pdfs/ 200605minority_press.info</a>	
<b>Photo impressions:</b>		37
<b>Participants:</b>		39

## **Romedi Arquint:**

*President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities*

*Opening speech of the 51st Congress of Nationalities in Bautzen / Budysin, 25th May 2006*

Stimadas damas, stimats signuors,  
 Ün cordial bivgnaint a tuots qua a Bautzen/  
 Budysin, Aint il center dal congres internaziunal  
 da quist an sta la relaziun tanter scoula e lingua.  
 Chenüna es la lezcha da la scoula publica per  
 mantgnair la lingua e pustüt las linguas  
 minoritarias?

La lingua es il possess dal'uman il plü intim,  
 pensain ad üna decleranza d'amur e lura es la  
 lingua eir l'expressiun collectiva dad üna  
 cumünanza linguistica e dad ün pövel, tar nus  
 rumantschs dechantada sco chara lingua da la  
 mamma. (I would like to extend a warm welcome  
 to you all here in Bautzen/Budysin. The focus of  
 this year's FUEN congress is on the relationship  
 between language and schooling. What  
 contribution does and must the school make to  
 preserving language, and in particular the  
 threatened languages of smaller peoples and  
 ethnic groups? Language is firstly a characteristic  
 that makes a person into a person, and which can  
 be referred to as his most intimate possession.  
 But it also expresses the collective identity of a  
 people externally).

As in other language communities, this value is  
 found in traditional songs, in Romansh it is the  
 Chara lingua da la mamma.

And so in line with the subject of our congress—  
 at the beginning of a congress focusing on the  
 wealth of languages in Europe—the native tongue  
 of a mountain people in the Alps far distant from  
 the Sorbs is heard. Rhaeto-Romansh, like Sorbian  
 or German, is one of the 6,000 to 7,000 languages  
 in the world; 95% of these languages are spoken  
 by less than 1 million people, approx. 50% of  
 them are spoken by just 10,000, and more than  
 80% are at home in just one region. And so we  
 Romansh and Sorbians, like many of us gathered  
 here today in Bautzen, share the consciousness  
 of belonging to one of the Species rarae, who in  
 fact face threatening frost and cold winds, but  
 who claim their place in the language landscape  
 of Europe and give this a fascinating and unique  
 colouring with their diversity.

It's quite a quandary with language: on the one  
 hand it is the most original characteristic of man,  
 it is an unmistakable feature he uses to under-  
 stand and comprehend himself and the world. On  
 the other hand, the community also belongs to a  
 language and, thanks to this, is able to create a  
 collective identity for itself, searching with  
 language for its elementary and artistic, literary  
 and traditional expressions.

However, this inner bond between language and  
 the individual and the people, the intimacy of  
 language, also makes it extremely vulnerable; it  
 is at the mercy of manipulation tendencies. And  
 particularly for this reason, language is repeatedly



From left to right: Minister President of Saxony, Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt, Dr. Christoph Bergner, Commissioner for National Minorities in Germany and FUEN-President Romedi Arquint.

abused, it has become a tool and thus one of the  
 instruments of power in state politics.

For a long time, until far into the 19 century, i.e.  
 the times before education and before nation-  
 states were established, languages in Europe were  
 of a relatively non-territorial character; a variety  
 of languages was the order of the day.

. . . when, for example, the noble ladies in the  
 Caucasus looked forward to the visit of French  
 author Alexander Dumas, who read his works to  
 them in French. Music enthusiasts had a command  
 of Italian, just as anyone interested in politics  
 was able to understand French. The dominance  
 of language was defined by classes and the  
 respective trendsetters in European hubs. But a  
 colourful mixture of languages was audible on  
 village marketplaces, which was also understood,  
 because it was worthwhile understanding if one  
 didn't want to be taken for a ride. A Swiss historian  
 researching documents mentions the 40 languages  
 spoken by the Swiss Confederation every day in  
 the ancien regime. This casual use of language  
 was probably no different anywhere else.

During the course of the 19th century, denomi-  
 national disputes were replaced by ones based on  
 the language and culture of the peoples. They  
 advanced to become an integrating element of  
 the 'National', which turned into the ideal for the  
 state community.

Instrumentalisation of the language into a state-  
 constituting feature had its consequences:

- The state defined itself through a common language and culture, created borders, which in most states remained 'illusionary', set up armies for defending the higher purpose considered quite natural: the nation-state was invented.

- Parallel to the advent of the nation-state, the diversity of languages declined drastically. The neighbour's language became 'foreign'. Language and culture evolved from a uniting and inclusive symbol to an excluding exclusive symbol of the nation-state. In his speeches to the German nation, Johann Gottlieb Fichte forbids his daughter to learn French; this would be pushing her into prostitution.

- Later, linguists announced monolingualism as the most important element for forming personality, and they discredited multilingualism with the so-called deficit hypotheses as an abnormal form of personality with arguments like 'Il est en revanche impossible de requérir du commun des mortels qu'il soit en mesure de pratiquer un bilinguisme généralisé' (Knuesel 1997). Translation: On the contrary it is not possible to expect everyone to be able to speak bilingually in general. The ability to speak 3 or 4 languages with moderate proficiency is regarded in Britain and in America as a property of head waiters and hotel concierges (A. Burgess). People like this are not towering intellectuals. They are often of very moderate intelligence. What makes them good at languages is the fact that social and economic circumstances force them to be good. Language as a tool and as an instrument for implementing political ideologies—this is like a title for a biography of languages in the 20th century, a biography that today is being continued.

- Let us remember the lingual order from the Kremlin in November 2005, in which the Chechnian fighters are only to be referred to as 'international terrorists'. Words like Emir, Amir, Imam and Sheikh may no longer be used; instead, the overall term 'leader of a group of bandits' is prescribed.

- Let us remember the lingual cleansing of Yugoslavian into pure Croatian and Serbian

- The role of language in creating new state loyalties in the Baltic region and other regions of Europe.

- However, we can also think about the current mainstream issues, codices of one's own culture, the significance of the citizenship issue—the film *Die Schweizermacher* ['Makers of Swiss'], which was considered ridiculous and unrealistic in the seventies, is today becoming more and more current. Absurd—is how it may

seem to an outsider—in times marked by globalisation, by multilingualism, which rain on us day for day through the media, which has become quite normal in business or in holiday time. In these issues concerning the public at large and politics, it is also a matter of language and the protective function the nation-state has to take on to defend itself. Heretically, one could wonder if the majority language of the nation-states (less is heard of the other languages on state territory) is one of the last bastions, which is to be more eagerly defended ideologically than its significance in reality is relative? It can repeatedly be seen that energies, in view of general loss of perspective, are moved to a secondary area of confrontation, where clear concepts of the enemy can at least be built up and where simple accusations can be raised.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has presumably become clear that there has been one loser in the social environment described: this comprised all languages and peoples existing within the borders of nation-states, but who did not fit in with the concept of the lingually homogeneous state. I am hardly aware of any other political atrocity than the ideological postulate of a lingually homogeneous national state and the reality of actually existing states which never fit in with this. And so the non-ennobling expressions 'minority language, minority peoples' were coined for the peoples and ethnic groups not belonging to the state; their place in the national state lands as 'people rubble', if not in the rubbish bin, at least in some drawer: a suspicion of disloyalty and separatism arises quickly when existence rights are demanded. Elsewhere, the state even negates their existence, there is open or latent assimilation through to reduction to folklore and exoticism: these are not only states' discriminating strategies, they deny in the most coarse way possible the fundamental rights to individual and collective identity, which they see as quite normal for themselves—as they are the majority.

Eastern Europe has experienced a similar development due to aggressive an assimilation policy. A quote from Abkhazian Fasil Iskander may suffice here: 'I was accustomed to our small Babylon since my childhood. Today, no Turkish, no Greek, no Armenian or Mingrelian is heard in our country any more, and my heart is sad, and my ear is deserted'.

I close with questions?

Could it be that we are returning to a de-ideologist assessment of language and languages not abused by politics and power-hungry leaders, to language and languages related to people? To a clearing-

up process that will give back the original significance of the language and the languages to the peoples and ethnic groups?

Could it be that we release the language and languages, their peoples and ethnic groups from their state-administrated confinement and allow them free and extensive room to develop? That the states, instead of dedicating themselves to one language and binding themselves to it ideologically, develop a new European image of themselves, open their eyes for the wealth of knowing and encountering languages, and promote this diversity on their own territory? The representatives of the autochthonous peoples and ethnic groups gathered here could stand as a

model for such an opening: because these are—as Karl-Markus Gauss say—'not stragglers in the European process of integration, they are in reality its avant-garde'.

This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the aim of our congress: to set a process of thought in motion and strengthen it, to allow the language the position it deserves: understanding language as a home for the individual and for the community. And to remind the state that this must be its original task: to grant the citizens living on its territory—irrespective of numbers—the fundamental right to their own language, and to do their utmost to implement this fundamental right!

## **Johanna Wanka:**

*Ministerin für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur des Landes Brandenburg*

*Grußwort zum 51sten FUEV-Nationalitätenkongreß in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

Anreden,  
Herr Ministerpräsident,  
Herr Dr. Bergner,  
Herr Oberbürgermeister,  
Herr Nuck,  
verehrte Damen und Herren,

bereits zum zweiten Mal veranstaltet die Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen ihren jährlichen Nationalitätenkongress im Siedlungsgebiet des sorbischen Volkes. Ich sehe darin eine Auszeichnung und eine Anerkennung der Bemühungen dieses Volkes, seine Identität zu bewahren und als nationale Minderheit einen wertvollen Beitrag zum Leben seines Landes zu leisten.

Glücklicherweise hat sich in den letzten Jahrzehnten zunehmend die Erkenntnis durchgesetzt, dass nationale Minderheiten keine Bedrohung, sondern eine Bereicherung für die Länder Europas darstellen. Es ist noch gar nicht so lange her, dass viele Staaten ethnische Homogenität als oberstes Ziel ansahen und um die Assimilierung der in ihren Grenzen beheimateten Minderheiten bemüht waren. Reste dieses Denkens wirken bis in die Gegenwart fort. Umso wichtiger ist es, dass sich Menschen und Völker immer wieder den Reichtum bewusst machen, der aus der Vielfalt erwächst.

Die Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen ist seit ihrer Gründung vorbildlicher Träger dieses Gedankens. Sie steht für ein Europa, das nationalistische Übersteigerungen vermeidet und gleichzeitig eine Beheimatung der Menschen ermöglicht. Identität in den eigenen Wurzeln finden, selbstbewusst die eigene Sprache sprechen, mit Selbstverständlichkeit die über-

lieferten kulturellen Ausdrucksformen pflegen, ohne dabei auf andere herabzusehen und die Gemeinsamkeiten des tradierten Erbes zu vergessen - das ist wahrhaft europäischer Geist. Die Föderalistische Union hat dazu beigetragen, vielen Menschen das Bewusstsein zu vermitteln, dass ein Land nicht nur seiner jeweiligen Titularnation gehört, sondern dass die einheimischen nationalen Minderheiten hieran genauso Anteil haben.

Heute haben wir uns daran gewöhnt, dass die verschiedenen nationalen Minderheiten Europas sich nicht mehr feindselig voneinander abgrenzen, sondern Solidarität üben. In diesem Saal sitzen Vertreter deutscher Minderheiten im Ausland und Vertreter nationaler Minderheiten in Deutschland selbstverständlich nebeneinander, dazu Angehörige vieler anderer Völker und Volksgruppen. Diese Selbstverständlichkeit war noch vor zwei Generationen undenkbar. Wir freuen uns, dass diese Entwicklung möglich geworden ist. Wir wollen hoffen, dass in Zukunft überall auf der Welt die Minderheitenrechte geachtet werden und die Erkenntnis des in der nationalen Vielfalt liegenden Reichtums sich weltweit durchsetzen wird.

Der Kongress beschäftigt sich in diesem Jahr schwerpunktmäßig mit Schulfragen. Er greift damit ein Kernanliegen moderner Minderheitenpolitik auf. Zwar hat vielen erst jetzt die krisenhafte demographische Entwicklung in Deutschland - und in vielen anderen westlichen Ländern - bewusst gemacht, dass Kinder Zukunft sind. Doch wie wichtig die Weitergabe des sprachlichen und kulturellen Erbes an die nachfolgenden Generationen ist, wissen wir schon lange. Nichts und niemand kann hierbei die Familien ersetzen. Wenn es nicht gelingt, Sprache und Kultur, Tra-

dition und Identität im familiären Rahmen lebendig zu erhalten, sind Sprache und Kultur nicht zu halten.

Daneben aber kommt dem Umfeld, in dem die Kinder aufwachsen, erhebliche Bedeutung zu. Denn die meisten nationalen Minderheiten sind in ihrer ethnisch anders geprägten Umgebung einem faktischen Assimilationsdruck ausgesetzt. Dieser ist von der Mehrheit heute zwar im Allgemeinen nicht mehr beabsichtigt, ergibt sich aber einfach aus der andersartigen Umweltpprägung. Um gegensteuern zu können, müssen Schulen eingerichtet und erhalten werden, in denen Minderheitensprachen selbstverständliches Angebot sind. Denn die Schule ist ein wichtiger Bezugspunkt im Leben der Kinder und Jugendlichen.

Im Land Brandenburg war es nach der Wiederherstellung der Deutschen Einheit möglich, die Zahl der Sorbischschüler binnen weniger Jahre zu verfünffachen. Sie verharrt, und darüber freuen wir uns sehr, seither auf hohem Niveau. Auch die besondere Betreuung der sorbischen Kinder im Kindergartenbereich durch das Witaj-Projekt hat gute Ergebnisse gebracht.

Das Elternhaus muss durch geeignete minderheitenspezifische Angebote unterstützt werden, beispielsweise auch durch Verstärkung medialer Angebote. Dazu gehören entsprechende Presseorgane, die Gewährleistung einer ausreichenden Buchproduktion in den Minderheitensprachen oder das Angebot von Rundfunksendungen.

Diese Maßnahmen erfordern in vielen Fällen staatliche Subventionierung, da kostendeckende Medienproduktion in Minderheitensprachen oftmals nicht möglich ist. Diese Subventionierung ist aber sachlich geboten, und sie ist als Nachteilsausgleich auch gerechtfertigt.

Für die brandenburgische Landesregierung ist die Unterstützung des sorbischen Volkes nicht nur Verfassungsauftrag, sondern ein wichtiges landespolitisches Anliegen. Daher unterstützen wir nachhaltig gemeinsam mit dem Bund und dem Freistaat Sachsen die Arbeit der Stiftung für das sorbische Volk und werden dies auch in Zukunft fortführen.

Der Europarat hat sich der Situation der nationalen Minderheiten angenommen und insbesondere durch die Europäische Charta zum Schutz der Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen sowie das Europäische Rahmenübereinkommen zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten wegweisende Standards geschaffen. Diese Standards existieren nicht nur in der Papierform, sondern werden durch gezielte Implementationsmechanismen in die Lebenswirklichkeit umgesetzt.

Die einzelnen Länder stehen hierbei mit den zuständigen Europaratsgremien und den Vertretern nationaler Minderheiten in fruchtbarem Kontakt und ringen durchaus auch kontrovers um die richtigen und gebotenen Maßnahmen zur Umsetzung der Bestimmungen von Sprachencharta und Rahmenübereinkommen. Dieser Meinungsaustausch und die ständige Fortentwicklung der Erkenntnisstandes sind unerlässlich, wenn wir den Minderheitenschutz ernst nehmen wollen.

Denn beim Minderheitenschutz ist weltweit keine Zeit mehr zu verlieren. Globalisierung und weltweite Vernetzung haben den Trend zur Verringerung von Sprach- und Kulturvielfalt verstärkt; jede Woche stirbt eine Sprache aus. Diese Entwicklung sollten wir aufhalten und die sich aus der Globalisierung ergebenden Chancen für die Menschen in Europa und weltweit kreativ nutzen, ohne die Beheimatung der Menschen und Völker aufzulösen und ihnen den Wurzelgrund zu entziehen. Um dieses Ziel zu erreichen, ist hoher Einsatz seitens der Minderheiten selbst wie auch der staatlichen und gesellschaftlichen Kräfte notwendig. Wir streben gemeinsam einen Zustand an, bei dem es keinen Widerspruch darstellt, heimatverbunden und volkstreu zu sein und gleichzeitig loyaler Staatsbürger, überzeugter Europäer und Weltbürger.

Hierbei wird der Ausgestaltung und Erweiterung der sprachlichen Kompetenz eine wichtige Rolle zukommen. Es ist möglich, als Minderheitenangehöriger die Muttersprache, die Landessprache und noch eine Weltsprache zu sprechen. Dies wird freilich nur zu leisten sein, wenn früh genug mit Spracherwerb und Vermittlung begonnen wird. Ich habe bereits die Witaj-Projekte im sorbischen Siedlungsgebiet erwähnt. Dieses Modell will durch frühkindliche Zweisprachigkeit die im kindlichen Alter noch ausgeprägte Aufnahmefähigkeit nutzen und dem jungen Menschen das zwanglose Hineinwachsen in die Mehrsprachigkeit ermöglichen. Ich hoffe, dass diesem Modell und ähnlichen Erfolg beschieden sein möge.

Die FUEV wird auch zukünftig eine unverzichtbare Rolle spielen als kompetenter Ansprechpartner für staatliche Stellen und gesellschaftliche Kräfte, als Motor neuer Entwicklungen im Minderheitenschutz und als Kooperationsforum der verschiedenen Völker und Volksgruppen. Die Leistungen der Vergangenheit geben Ihnen Grund zum Stolz und sind zugleich Ansporn dazu, sich den Herausforderungen der Zukunft zu stellen.

Ich wünsche Ihnen einen interessanten Erfahrungsaustausch und gute Beratungen.

## **Jan Nuck:**

*Vorsitzender des Bundes Lausitzer Sorben »Domowina«*

*Grußwort zum 51sten FUEV-Nationalitätenkongreß in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident Arquint,

sehr geehrter Herr Ministerpräsident Prof. Dr. Milbradt,

sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Bergner,  
sehr geehrte Frau Ministerin Prof. Wanka,  
sehr geehrte Abgeordnete der europäischen, Bundes- und Länderebene,  
sehr geehrte Mitglieder des FUEV-Präsidiums,  
sehr geehrte Delegierte und Gäste,

ich freue mich sehr, Sie im Namen der Domowina - Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V. zum 51. FUEV-Kongress in Bautzen begrüßen zu können. Dass dieser Kongress gerade hier, in der „Hauptstadt der Sorben“, stattfindet, ist für uns überaus erfreulich, zeigt es doch, dass die Domowina - die der Föderalistischen Union seit dem Jahr 1990 angehört - ihr anerkanntes Mitglied ist.

Die Domowina als Dachorganisation der Sorben mit 17 Mitgliedsverbänden hat sich gerade in den vergangenen Jahren bemüht, die Beziehungen zu den anderen autochthonen Minderheiten in Deutschland - den Dänen, Friesen sowie den Sinti und Roma - zu vertiefen und zugleich weitere - aus der Gemeinsamkeit erwachsende - Möglichkeiten der politischen Mitbestimmung, zu erschließen, zum Beispiel in Form des Minderheitenrates und die Schaffung eines gemeinsamen Minderheitensekretariats in Berlin. Jedes Jahr organisiert die Domowina das FUEV-Seminar der slawischen nationalen Minderheiten, das von der Bundesregierung finanziell gefördert wird, wofür wir an dieser Stelle den Vertretern des Bundes herzlich danken.

Wir haben jedoch auch Probleme, die uns beunruhigen.

Allzu groß ist die Zahl derer, die auf der Suche nach Ausbildung oder Arbeit die Heimat verlassen, um in der Fremde eine Perspektive für sich und ihre Familie zu finden. Gerade für Minderheiten birgt die jetzt geschaffene Freiheit, die den Menschen die ganze Welt öffnet, auch große Risiken.

Ein kleines Ethnikum lebt nicht mehr im begrenzten und zugleich schützenden Raum, sondern hat sich mit den Herausforderungen der Globalisierung auseinanderzusetzen.

Wir stehen vor völlig neuen Fragen, wie zum Beispiel:



Jan Nuck (links) mit FUEV-Vizepräsident Heinrich Schultz

**Wie bewahren wir uns unsere Muttersprache, wenn keiner unserer Nachbarn sie spricht?**

**Mit wem pflegen wir nationale und religiöse Bräuche, wenn wir die Heimatgemeinde verlassen haben?**

**Wo lernen unsere Kinder die Geschichte und Traditionen unseres Volkes kennen, wenn sie weit entfernt von ihm leben?**

**Und das Nationalbewusstsein - wo wird es vermittelt und worauf kann es sich gründen?**

Doch auch die demographische Entwicklung bedroht uns als nationale Minderheit in fundamentaler Weise. Mit durchschnittlich 1,3 Geburten je Frau kann weder das deutsche Volk und umso weniger das sorbische seine Zukunft sichern.

Die Auswirkungen auf das Minderheitenschulwesen sind bereits sichtbar. Hier auf der Konferenz werden wir uns mit diesem Thema befassen. Ich hoffe sehr, dass es uns gelingt, die Rahmenbedingungen für ein Minderheitenschulwesen zu formulieren, die auch unseren sorbischen Erwartungen entsprechen.

Gestatten Sie bitte, dass ich an dieser Stelle den amerikanischen Autohersteller Henry Ford zitiere. Er meinte: „Zusammenkunft ist ein Anfang. Zusammenhalt ist ein Fortschritt. Zusammenarbeit ist der Erfolg.“

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich unserem Kongress viel Erfolg und tragfähige, zukunftsorientierte Beschlüsse.

Herzlichen Dank.

## Aleksander Studen-Kirchner:

*Präsident der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen*

*51ster FUEV-Nationalitätenkongress in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

Sehr geehrte Anwesende, liebe Freunde, herzlichen Dank / wutrobny ddak an dieser Stelle, dass ich das Grußwort der JEV überbringen darf zum FUEV-Kongress in Bautzen / Budysin. Vielen Dank an die Lausitzer Sorben und vor allem an die Domowina, die als Gastgeber diesen Kongress ermöglicht haben.

Besonders freue ich mich, dass es nach langjährigem Bemühen zu einer guten und gleichberechtigten Zusammenarbeit zwischen FUEV und JEV gekommen ist. Ich denke, dass es für beide Organisationen wichtig ist, die Jugend als ebenbürtigen und kompetenten Partner in die europäische Minderheitenpolitik mit einzubeziehen, ist sie doch der frische Wind und Nachwuchs, der unsere Gesellschaft aufrecht erhält.

Dabei möchte ich auf die, von Präsident Arquint bereits angesprochene, Charta der Minderheiten hinweisen, die Sie, verehrte Delegierte heute Nachmittag verabschieden wollen. Sie ist ein grundlegendes Dokument für Minderheitenfragen und ein weiterer Beweis für die positive Zusammenarbeit zwischen FUEV und JEV, für den enormen Beitrag, den die Jugend geleistet hat.

Meine Vorredner sind ja bereits auf die Minderheitensituation eingegangen - ich denke wir hier als Nachwuchs haben ein Interesse daran, dass unsere Sprache, Kultur, Eigenart und Identität bewahrt bleibt. Deswegen möchte ich an dieser Stelle anmerken: erhaltet die sorbischen Schulen! Die Jugend ist verantwortlich für den Fortbestand dieser gesellschaftskonstituierenden Momente, und auch Sie, liebe FUEV-Mitglieder, werden mir beistimmen, wenn ich Ihnen sage, wie wichtig der Nachwuchs, auch in der politischen Arbeit, für den Erhalt der Minderheiten ist.

Wir alle wissen, dass der demographische Wandel unsere Gesellschaft und das Leben der nachwachsenden Generation tief greifend verändert werden, und dass wir uns jetzt daran machen müssen, tragfähige Strategien zu entwickeln, um als Minderheiten in unseren - oft wirtschaftlich schwachen Regionen - zu überleben. Mein Kompliment deshalb an die Lausitzer Sorben, vor allem aber auch an die Landesregierungen in Sachsen und Brandenburg, die sich offen auf ihre Art und Weise dieser Herausforderung stellen und bereits damit beginnen, einige Strategien umzusetzen.

Mich freut zudem auch, dass - ich denke hier im Namen vor allem des Sorbischen Jugendvereins PAWK - sich der Herr Ministerpräsident Milbradt persönlich darum bemüht, dem Sorbischen Jugendverein die dringend notwendige Fachkraft für die Jugendarbeit langfristig zu sichern.



Aleksander Studen-Kirchner (4. v. l.) mit dem kompletten Präsidium der Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen.

Es freut mich als neugewählter JEV-Präsident vor allem auch deshalb, weil es einer unserer für Deutschland definierten Wünsche— unserer diesjährigen Resolution ist. Ich hoffe, dass sie damit fortfahren - Herr Ministerpräsident, und den Sorben auch die weiteren Wünsche erfüllen und die anderen Länder und Internationalen Organisationen ihrem Beispiel folgen werden.

Deutschland hat vier anerkannte autochthone Minderheiten, neben den Sorben gibt es ja auch die Nord- und Saterfriesen, die Sinti und Roma und die Südschleswiger Dänen, die ihres dazu beitragen die Regionen des Landes attraktiv und lebenswert zu machen. Ich denke Deutschland tut gut daran bei der Übernahme der EU-Ratspräsidentschaft 2007 - im Zuge der Fortführung des EU-Verfassungsprozesses - die Minderheiten mit einzubeziehen. Die Umsetzung einer Repräsentanz der europäischen Minderheiten in Brüssel ist bis dahin - in guter weiterer Zusammenarbeit der JEV mit der FUEV - sicher realisiert.

Zum Schluss möchte ich noch etwas Persönliches anmerken, einen kleinen Eindruck aus Bautzen: Sie können sich gar nicht vorstellen, was für ein Glücksgefühl es ist - wenn man in Österreich lebt, wie ich - und Sie alle kennen ja das Problem der Kärntner Slowenen - durch Bautzen zu laufen und zweisprachige Straßenschilder zu sehen! Wissen Sie, in Österreich ist das Problem der Ortstafeln ein langwieriges und bedrückendes, und ich gratuliere den Lausitzer Sorben zu diesen glücklichen Umständen. Ich möchte mich deswegen hier auch an den Kärntner Landeshauptmann Haider wenden und ihm - als Jugendvertreter nehme ich mir diese Formulierung heraus - ans Herz legen: Lieber Bi als nie!

Ich wünsche uns und Euch einen erfolgreichen Kongress in Bautzen/ Budysin und bedanke mich für die Einladung der JEV. Uns allen viel Erfolg bei »Europa zu Gast in der Lausitz!

## **Françoise Kempf:**

*Council of Europe, Directorate General of Human Rights, Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Europe*

*Opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis;  
51st Congress of Nationalities in Bautzen / Budysin, 25th May 2006*

### OPENING REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51st CONGRESS OF FUEN

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, it gives me great honour to make opening remarks on the occasion of the 51st FUEN Congress of Nationalities.

FUEN has a long-standing cooperation relation with the Council of Europe. It has a participatory status with the Council of Europe and, in this context, it has constructively and restlessly taken part in the work of the Council of Europe related to the protection of national minorities for a number of years.

The protection of national minorities is at the heart of the work of the Council of Europe since the 90's and the Organisation is the main actor in the promotion of minority protection in Europe, with its Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and other tools.

This work pertains not only to the numerically large minorities of Europe – such as Hungarians, Russian-speakers as well as Roma – but also smaller groups and those that are on the verge of disappearing.

The objectives of the work of the Council of Europe on national minorities are manifold:

∑ Promoting full respect for human rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including equal opportunities in all areas of life; this also covers awareness raising on minority rights, including among persons belonging to national minorities; and it is also about fighting discrimination and sometimes racism experienced by some persons belonging to national minorities.

- Preventing potential conflicts and threats to social cohesion; building cohesive societies.
- Promoting diversity (preservation of the language, culture, traditions of national minorities);

True, this work has its limits, including those brought about by the reluctance of some countries, including European Union member states, to ratify the Council of Europe minority treaties.

Still, through these specific legal standards and their consistent monitoring as well as work carried out by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of

Europe has achieved improvements in minority protection. In particular, the monitoring processes of the implementation of the Framework Convention and the European Charter for regional or Minority Languages have served as catalysts of the dialogue between representatives of national minorities and the Governments.

Recent developments with regard to the Framework Convention:

The latest Opinions adopted in 2006 (under the 2nd cycle of monitoring) deal with the implementation of the Framework Convention by Germany, Finland, the Russian Federation and Armenia.

The preparation of the Opinion on Germany included a visit to Germany in January 2006, including to Bautzen.

I would also like to make a particular mention of the recently adopted Opinion on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro): it is an important new development in the work of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention and it is the result of an agreement between the Council of Europe and the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) allowing for monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention in Kosovo, currently administered by the UNMIK. The adoption of this Opinion is particularly important now that talks on the future status of Kosovo are under way. One of the key messages in the Opinion is the need to involve minority representatives (Serbs, Roma and Ashkali, Gorani and other groups) in the status negotiations on the future of Kosovo.

Norway, Portugal, Ireland and Spain are the next countries for which a second cycle of monitoring will be started soon.

To conclude, I would like to add that beside the work on a country-by-country basis, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention started thematic reflections on some of the most important issues identified in the Opinions. It led to the recent adoption of a Commentary on education in March 2006.

The Advisory Committee is now reflecting on a new cross-cutting theme, which is the participation of persons belonging to national minorities, both regarding public affairs and socio-economic life.

I wish you a fruitful conference!

## **Erich Iltgen:**

*Landtagspräsident des Freistaates Sachsen*

*Grußwort zum 51sten FUEV-Nationalitätenkongreß in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

Sehr geehrter Herr Gerichtspräsident,

sehr geehrter Herr Ministerpräsident,

sehr geehrter Herr Arqunt,

liebe Kollegen Landtagsabgeordnete,

meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren,

ich freue mich, Sie im Rahmen Ihres 51. Kongresses zu diesem Empfang im 1000-jährigen Bautzen - dem Zentrum der sorbischen Sprache, Kultur und Lebensvielfalt - begrüßen zu können.

Zugleich möchte ich die Gelegenheit wahrnehmen, Sie auch im Namen der Abgeordneten des Sächsischen Landtags zu der heute gelungenen Verabschiedung der Charta für Minderheiten in Europa zu beglückwünschen.

Und ich will Sie in diesem Zusammenhang ausdrücklich dazu ermuntern, auf der Grundlage dieser Charta Ihr Selbstverständnis auch weiterhin mit Beharrlichkeit in die politische Kultur Europas einzubringen.

Die Bewahrung der Rechte der sorbischen Minderheit und die Förderung der sorbischen Identität haben in Sachsen Verfassungsrang und sind damit ein Anliegen, dem sich keine politisch und gesellschaftlich gestaltende Kraft entziehen kann.

Und dennoch, trotz der Verankerung der Rechte des sorbischen Volkes in der Sächsischen Verfassung, ist die Bewahrung der Sprache und Kultur einer Minderheit ein Prozess, der eine immer wieder neue und sensible Annäherung an die damit verbundenen Probleme erfordert.



Landtagspräsident Erich Iltgen am Rednerpult

Vor diesem Hintergrund ist es mir ein Bedürfnis, dem Rat für sorbische Angelegenheiten, der in Sachsen Regierung und Parlament in Fragen der Minderheitenpolitik berät, für dessen aufmerksames und unnachgiebiges Engagement für die Belange des sorbischen Volkes zu danken.

Ich habe die intensive und kooperative Zusammenarbeit mit dem Rat für sorbische Angelegenheiten immer als ein wichtiges Korrektiv empfunden, wenn es darum ging, mögliche Konflikte bereits im Vorfeld zu erkennen und frühzeitig auf einen optimalen Konsens hinzuarbeiten.

Sie, meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren, werden sich morgen mit Fragen des Schulwesens befassen.

Dieses Thema ist in Sachsen wie in allen Regionen, in denen Minderheiten leben, von ganz besonderer Brisanz.

Geht es doch bei diesem Thema um das zentrale Problem der Bewahrung von Sprache als Grundvoraussetzung für die Bewahrung der Identität.

Ich wünsche Ihnen eine schöpferische Debatte, die sicher auch nützliche Hinweise für die weitere Ausgestal-

tung der sächsischen Schulpolitik im sorbischen Raum erbringen kann.

Was nun die Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen betrifft, so ist bekannt, dass es den Sorben wie vielen anderen Minderheiten aus Osteuropa bis 1989 weitgehend verwehrt war, sich an deren Aktivitäten zu beteiligen.

Erst der Zusammenbruch der totalitären Strukturen und der Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs haben das möglich gemacht.

Insofern freut es mich ganz besonders, dass die Domowina als Interessenvertretung der Sorben Ausrichterin dieses Nationalitätenkongresses ist und wir heute hier in Bautzen zusammen sein können.

Das ist ein deutliches und würdiges Zeichen dafür, dass es den Sorben nach 1989 gelungen ist, im Laufe nur weniger Jahre zu einem aktiven Mitglied der Föderalistischen Union zu werden.

Sie tragen heute wesentlich dazu bei, die europaweiten Diskussionen zu befördern und die Volksgruppen bei der Wahrnehmung ihrer Interessen vorwärts zu bringen.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen auch für diesen Empfang anregende und weiterführende Gespräche und beim abendlichen Galaprogramm des Sorbischen Nationsensembles nachhaltige Eindrücke.

Ich danke Ihnen.

## Csaba Tabajdi:

*Member of the European Parliament, Hungary*

*President of the Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions, and Regional Languages*

*Speech on basic principles: New Challenges for the traditional minorities in Europe;*

*51st Congress of Nationalities in Bautzen / Budysin, 25th May 2006*

### 1. Developments after 1989

I participated at the congress of FUEV in 1990, in Munich, where I outlined the contemporary problems of the minorities in Central and Eastern Europe. Preparing to today's presentation, I have reread my contribution, to see the changes of the world since then. I tell you this, because fighting for minority rights could resemble us sometime to the famous Don Quijote, fighting against the windmills. Heroic fight with no or only minor results. But we should not forget how far we got in the last 16 years, since 1990. Nobody thought back in Munich, that we will have two legally binding Council of Europe documents (the Framework Convention and the Charter), what most Council of Europe member states have ratified. Minority rights became part of the Copenhagen criteria for the accession of Central and Eastern European countries, largely contributing to the improvement of the minority policies of these states. Nobody foresaw

No doubt, there are many things to be done. There are still no comprehensive standards concerning minority rights and minority protection mechanisms and monitoring. We must work to revive the EU's Constitutional Treaty and to complete the ratification process, in order to have a legal basis for the elaboration of legal standards and protection mechanism for minorities on the EU level.

I asked a question here back in 1990, whether the so called West had realized and acknowledged the importance of the question of minorities, the implications of the minority problems to the security and prosperity of the whole continent. This question is still relevant today. Although some developments have taken place, but many countries in Western Europe - especially France - has failed to fundamentally reform their reserved approach to the minority issues. This is the main obstacle that stands in the way of elaborating a legally binding minority protection mechanism on the EU level.

Further to that, the main principles that we had discussed in 1990 are still valid. The passive minority protection logic is insufficient, we need an active approach, positive discrimination/affirmative action. We also need to guarantee the collective rights of the minorities, not only the individual rights. We should not have the illusions, that economic development and welfare in themselves solve all minority problems, as

the examples in Belgium show us.

We must differentiate between the traditional national or autochthonous minorities and the new, immigrant minorities. Both groups need a legal protection and regulation on the European level, but should be treated separately, for their problems largely differ.



Csaba Tabajdi, MEP (Hungary)  
President of the Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions, and Regional Languages

- There are **visible conflicts** stemming from minority tensions, **some of them armed** (most notably Chechnya). These conflict include the Basque Country, Corsica, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, the Kurds in Turkey, Transdnistria, Kosovo, etc. Wherever there are still no armed conflict, it **could erupt any time** (e.g. in the Western Balkans).

- There are **no clear norms and standards** concerning minority rights and protection in Europe. Individual and collective rights are not clarified. The *acquis communautaire* does not contain any specific regulation on minority protection either. If the European Constitution will be adopted, the reference of the rights of people belonging to minorities would constitute a sound basis for elaborating a comprehensive minority protection system within the EU.
- **Leading European countries** such as France or Greece **do not acknowledge the existence of minorities** as such, and refused to ratify the two legally binding instruments of the Council of Europe.
- The problem of **double standards** is a serious one. The old Member States required much more from the new Member States and candidate countries, with which they actually comply. This is the case

with the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages.

- Many in Europe **underestimate the importance** of the question of minorities. They give **simplified answers**, especially in the case of new minorities. Mr. Tony Blair speaks about fighting against terrorism in vain (*hiába*), if there are no answers for the integration of the new minorities. It is crucial to have a **new integration policy in Europe**.
- The **paradox** is that the **successful minorities are** those, who were **radical and fought armed** for their cause. The only exception may be the Swedish speaking Finns, since even in South-Tyrol there were incidents before granting the autonomy (destruction of energy cables, and bridges). Europe has always appreciated more and awarded those minorities, which has stepped up violently.

## 2. Does the European Union have a minority policy?

It is not easy to find a clear answer. Yes and no. This is like the debate was about the gender of angels in the middle ages. The Copenhagen European Council defined the political criterion that all applicants must meet before they could join the European Union. Namely, among other things, they must respect and protect minorities. This is a soft law and it is clear that there are no minority rights standards which would have been integral part of the *acquis*. Therefore, we welcome the text of the Constitutional Treaty, which provides for the criteria of respect for human rights including the ‚rights of persons belonging to minority groups‘. This is the first legally binding reference on the minority rights in the history of the European Union. This is a real historical turning point.

On the level of the Member States, there are several regulations regarding minority rights and there are some very positive examples: the protection of Swedish speaking minority in Finland, or the most progressive example of territorial autonomy in Southern Tyrol in Italy. Or the most efficient language law in the whole Europe, the Welsh language act in the United Kingdom, which stopped the linguistic assimilation. It led to a very rare phenomenon, namely, a real renaissance of the use of the Welsh language.

Despite the fact that there are no Community standards in the EU, the Union was very consistent for monitoring the situation of national minorities in the applicant countries. The regular reports prepared about the situation of minority rights in the 10 new countries reflected this contradiction. The criticism formulated by the EU was lacking a clear set of criteria.

3. Despite the lack of coherent Community minority policy, the logic of EU's development has contributed to a more and more minority-friendly

policy framework in the EU through various indirect instruments, such as cross-border co-operation, regionalisation, the carrying out of the principle of subsidiarity, non-discrimination and the fight against any kind of discrimination. The developments of the Euro-regions are establishing more and more favourable conditions for the preservation of the identity of national minorities.

4. The enlargement of the EU by the 10 new Member States brings a challenge to the minority policy too. The EU will find itself in a „mouse-trap situation“, because the accession criteria formulated in Copenhagen in 1993, as well as the monitoring process of the enlargement remains obligatory for the Member States. This means that the Member States may not ignore these level of requirements, but should respect them. In the new Member States the minority issues are of a greater relevance. It is still a big question, what will be the effects of the enlargement on the minority rights in the EU of 25. In this field we can observe an awkward situation: double standards. If I compare the minority rights in the 10 and the 15, I certainly come to the conclusion that the level of the direct protection of the rights of minorities in the new Member States is higher than in the EU-15. To a large extent, it is a consequence of the Copenhagen criteria and the monitoring process.

What will be the future of the minority rights in the enlarged EU? The new Member States will decrease the level of the protection of minority rights - which scenario should be avoided - or the old Member States will adjust their current regime to that of the new countries? We must preserve our achievement not because of the EU, but because of our internal stability of good neighbourhood and of good regional cooperation.

Let me emphasise that the minority protection is more or less satisfyingly handled and approached in all the EU-10. In none of these countries is any danger of conflicts, especially not interstate conflicts because of minority disputes. This does not mean that minority issues are solved for ever, as these have to be addressed continuously and in a developing way.

We, the EU-10 do not have internal or bilateral, interstate conflicts which would be unmanageable, such as the Northern Ireland crisis, or the extremism in Bask land or Corsica. It is very important that our partners be aware that we will not bring any minority crises into the EU, which we were unable to handle.

5. It is greatly to be feared that the extension of the notion of the Non-discrimination Directive would have a detrimental impact on the special protection of minorities. If citizens of other countries belonging to the same language community can use the special minority linguistic regime, it can lead to the fact that the states will be much more reserved to

give special minority rights. This is a real danger after two decision of the European Court. There is no clear distinction between discrimination and positive discrimination. This problem emerged in the case of the Hungarian ‚Status Law‘ as well.

6. Based on the principle of subsidiarity, the minority groups should be given a right to handle the issues arising in connection with their special status. In a number of countries, some minorities are deeply convinced that only large scale autonomy schemes, including territorial autonomy, would best suit their needs. In other countries still some basic rights are at stake, for example the assignment of minority rights to citizenship, or the right to citizenship at all.

7. We should avoid any kind of illusions after the enlargement. There is some kind expectations towards the „EU-internationalism“, whether the EU itself will solve the minority problems. Earlier, during the communist regimes, the so-called „proletarian internationalism“ was unable to solve automatically the minority problems. The „liberal internationalism“ proved to be equally ill-fated. Therefore, we should not wait for any kind of EU automatism in the improvement of the protection of minority rights.

8. The EU has to continue the efforts to monitor the situation of national minorities in the Member States. Who will do that? There is no structure for this in the architecture of the EU. The Parliament? The Commission? I think the European Parliament has to be much more active in the monitoring of minority rights in the 25 Member States.

For this purpose, we should find a clearer allocation of competences in the Committees. The Foreign Affairs Committee should deal with the monitoring of the situation of national minorities outside the EU, while the Committee of the Citizens' Rights should monitor the situation inside the EU.

Enhanced cooperation may be extended to this field too. Finland, Austria, Italy or Slovenia could play a leading role in this co-operation. These countries have the best practices in the Continent and they can be examples for the other states.

We should consider the establishment of a Committee of Minorities, as a *mutatis mutandis* for the Committee of the Regions.

#### Future tasks:

9. Ensuring the possibility for minorities with an **additional protocol to the European Human Rights Convention** to be able to turn to the European Court of Human Rights;

10. Linking the **European Union with the Council**

**of Europe - better co-operation** in order to avoid the wasteful parallelisms: the Council of Europe has two legally binding instruments for the protection of minorities and minority or regional languages: the **Framework Convention** for the Protection of National Minorities and the **European Charter** for Regional or Minority Languages. Both have an effective control mechanism. The Council of Europe also has a **human rights ombudsman**, not specifically for minority rights, but the ombudsman can also deal with them.

## Wolfgang Wölck:

*Forschungszentrum für Mehrsprachigkeit Brüssel und Staatsuniversität New York*

*Festrede zum 51sten FUEV-Nationalitätenkongreß in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

### **Universalien der Mehrsprachigkeit und Bedingungen des mehrsprachigen Unterrichts**

#### **Universalien der Kontaktlinguistik**

- Mehrsprachige sind toleranter als Einsprachige.
- Die Weitergabe von einer Generation an die nächste, besonders von Eltern an ihre Kinder, ist unentbehrlich für den Spracherhalt.
- Die Funktion der Sprache als Symbol für Identität und Gemeinschaft ist von entscheidender Bedeutung für ihre Vitalität und besonders für ihre Revitalisierung - nicht nur Sprachkenntnis und -gebrauch.
- Einigkeit im Sprachraum und die Entwicklung eines Sprach-Standards fördern den Status einer Sprache, Aufspaltung und Dialektzergliederung mindern ihn.
- Verwendung in den Unterhaltungsmedien, in der Ausbildung und in der Wirtschaft stärkt Sprachen und Dialekte.
- Spracheinstellungen (Attitüden) und eigene Angaben zum Sprachgebrauch stehen in fast vollkommener Korrelation zueinander, d.h. sie entsprechen einander in hohem Masse.
- Minderheitssprachen werden positiver im affektiv-persönlichen Bereich bewertet, Mehrheits-sprachen im institutionell-sozialen (vgl. ‚ehrlich -: gebildet‘).
- Der Gebrauch der Minderheitssprache wird stärker an den beiden Endpunkten des Gesellschaftsspektrums, d.h. in der niederen und oberen Schicht, und geringer im Mittelstand.
- Für das Leben der Minderheitssprache ist ihre ranggleiche Benutzung Seite an Seite mit der Mehrheits-sprache in denselben Gebrauchsdomänen nicht nur ebenso wichtig, sondern vielleicht sogar wichtiger als die komplementäre Verteilung der beiden über getrennte Sprach-situationen.
- Mehrsprachige Kinder entwickeln früher die Abstraktionsfähigkeit, ältere Mehrsprachige behalten länger ihr Konzentrationsvermögen, sie ‚verkalken‘ nicht

#### (Neuere) Erkenntnisse der **(Zweit-)Spracherwerbsforschung:**

[Alte Weisheit: Kinder lernen schneller als Jugendliche, Jugendliche schneller als Erwachsene.]

Für das Erlernen einer Zweitsprache ist das Anfangsalter wichtiger als die Zeitspanne des Lernens.

Mehrsprachige Kinder entwickeln die Abstraktionsfähigkeit früher als einsprachige.

Mehrsprachige Kinder haben einen (viel) größeren Wortschatz als einsprachige.

#### (Neuere) Erkenntnisse der **mehrsprachigen Pädagogik:**

Erfolge des zweisprachigen Unterrichts zeigen sich meist erst nach ca. vier Schuljahren.

Kurzzeitprogramme sind schlechter als einsprachige, d.h., mehrheitssprachige.

Strenge Sprachtrennung (“deux solitudes”) ist nicht nur unnatürlich, sondern möglicherweise sogar schädlich.

Abrupter Sprachwechsel behindert das Lernen, besonders in der Mathematik.

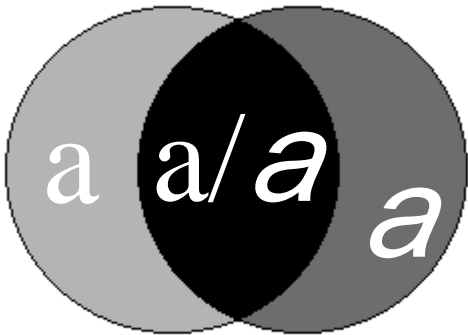
Schüler im zweisprachigen Unterricht

- haben steilere Leistungszuwachskurven
- überholen den mehrheitssprachigen Zweig (früh) in Mathematik und (nach dem 4. Jhr.) oft selbst auch in der Mehrheitssprache
- lernen schneller lesen und schreiben
- sind stärker in die Sprachgemeinschaft eingebunden.

Bessere Ausbildung der zweisprachigen Lehrer; stärkeres ‚Engagement‘ sowohl der Lehrer wie der Eltern; bessere Zusammenarbeit zwischen Schule und Eltern; besseres Verhältnis und Verständnis zwischen Lehrern und Schülern.

In Langzeit-Programmen nicht nur ständiger Anstieg, sondern stetige Beschleunigung der Zuwachsrates, schneller als in der mehrheitssprachigen Kontrollgruppe.

### Natürliche Zweisprachigkeit: Sprachkomplementierung



Zweisprachigkeit ist nicht die Summe zweier Einsprachigkeiten, d.h.

**nicht :**  $Z_{aa} = E_a + E_a$  ,

**sondern:**  $Z_{aa} = / > E_a, E_a$

### Some universals of multilingualism and language maintenance

- Bilinguals are more tolerant than monolinguals.
- Generational continuity and language transfer especially from parents to children is crucial for linguistic reproduction.
- The symbolic function of a language is crucial for its survival and especially for its revival.
- Linguistic unification and standardization are helpful, diversification and dialectalization more likely to be harmful to minority language maintenance and survival.
- Publication and employment in the commercial and artistic media strengthen languages (and dialects).
- Language attitudes and self-reports of language usage are closely correlated.
- Minority languages evoke more positive personal affective reactions, majority languages more instrumental institutional values.
- Minority language use is higher at the two ends of the social scale, i.e., among the lower and upper social class, than in the middle class.
- Sharing domains of usage with the majority language strengthens the vitality of a minority language just as much as, if not more than, a complementary separation of domains.
- Bilingual children develop the capacity for abstraction (lose iconicity) sooner, older bilinguals maintain mental agility longer.



Wolfgang Wölck

### Quelques universaux

- Les bilingues sont plus tolérants que les monolingues.
- La continuité du transfert linguistique, particulièrement entre parents et enfants, est indispensable pour la survivance d'une langue.
- La fonction symbolique d'une langue est presque aussi important pour sa survivance que son usage.
- L'unité linguistique et la standardization favorisent la vie et le maintien d'une langue (minoritaire), la diversité et la dialectalization l'empêchent.
- L'emploi dans les media artistiques et commerciaux fortifie les langues et les dialectes.
- Les attitudes langagières et l'auto-évaluations de la conduite son presque la même chose ou se trouvent en corrélation directe.
- Les langues minoritaires provoquent des réactions plus positives au plan personnel affectif, pendant que les langues majoritaires produisent des réactions favorables aux plans instrumentals et institutionnels.
- L'emploi des langues minoritaires est plus fréquent aux deux extrêmes de l'ordre socio-économique, c.a.d., dans les classes plus basses et plus hautes que dans celles du milieu.
- Le partage de domaines d'usage avec la langue majoritaire et si important, et peut être même plus important pour le maintien d'une langue minoritaire que la séparation ou complémentation des domaines entre les deux.



Federal Union of European Nationalities  
Union Fédérale des Communautés Ethniques Européennes  
Föderalische Union Europäischer Volkgruppen  
Федеративной Союз Европейских Национальных Меньшинств



Youth of European Nationalities  
La Jeunesse des Communautés Ethniques Européennes  
Jugend Europäischer Volkgruppen  
Молодёжь Народностей Европы

# CHARTER

## for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe





## PREAMBLE

**The autochthonous, national minorities /ethnic groups in Europe,**

**the members of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) that sign this Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe in the year 2006,**

**referring to** the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights of the Council of Europe (1953),

**having regard to** the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities of the United Nations (1992) as well as to Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966),

**having regard to** the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1995) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992),

**having regard to** the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Copenhagen criteria for membership of the European Union,

**having regard to** the documents of the CSCE/OSCE of Helsinki, Paris and Copenhagen,

**whereas** the minority rights are part of human rights in general and protection of minorities and support for autochthonous, national / ethnic groups constitute an active policy of peace, brings along economic prosperity and both cultural and linguistic wealth,

**in view of** profound demographic and social change and its implications for autochthonous, national minorities/ethnic groups,

**bearing in mind** the lack of binding, international provisions, the gradual threat of assimilation, marginalisation and the perishing of languages and loss of culture and values,

**are committed to freedom, democracy and the rule of law; tolerance and mutual respect; the right of individuals and peoples to self-determination, the principle of state sovereignty and the principle of territorial integrity,**

**are committed to a Europe of diversity as well as to the inalienable values and the intellectual heritage of our continent, especially to respect and support for linguistic and cultural diversity,**

**are committed to work for the protection of and support for language, culture, identity and characteristic features as part of Europe's irreplaceable wealth,**

**are committed to active and constructive creation of a European civil society which includes the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups.**



## SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE OF THE CHARTER

**With this Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups in Europe the signatories pursue the interest,**

**tyingin** with the Catalogue of Fundamental Rights in the Cottbus Declaration 1992 of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the draft supplementary protocol to the European Human Rights Convention that was presented by FUEN in 1994 as well as with other adopted documents of FUEN and YEN,

**referringto** the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights 1993) and the Venice Commission (Draft European Convention for the Protection for Minorities 1991),

**to emphasise** the positive significance of the autochthonous, national minorities for the development of the European civil society,

**to show** the self-conception of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe,

**to call** for the preservation of natural bilingualism and multilingualism and for the preservation of the regional or minority languages that are often threatened by extinction œ as a natural richness of Europe and a factor of cultural and regional identification œ by providing the necessary conditions and support,

**to substantiate** again the necessity on comprehensive minority protection and active support for minorities as the guarantors of stability, peace and diversity in Europe,

**to bear out** the need for further development of European minority protection, because the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages do not constitute the endpoint for a sustainable protection of minorities,

**to urgently demand** that minority protection remains a central topic of a political discourse at regional, national and European level, in which the autochthonous, national minorities are included.



## FACTS

**The autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups of Europe are a significant political, cultural, linguistic, economic, regional and intellectual factor in Europe:**

In the 45 states belonging to Europe, there are more than 300 national minorities numbering about 100 million people, which means that almost every seventh European considers himself to belong to a autochthonous, national minority.

Around 90 languages are spoken in the European Union, of these 37 are official state languages and consequently 53 are so-called —stateless“ languages, i.e. regional or minority languages.

## SELF-CONCEPTION

**To the autochthonous, national minorities/ethnic groups belong the minorities that came into being as a result of developments in European history, as a result of the changes of state borders and other historical events. To the autochthonous, national minorities/ethnic groups also the peoples of Europe belong who have never established a state and who live as a minority in the territory of a state.**

## DEFINITION

A legally binding definition of autochthonous, national minorities has been under discussion for decades, but it has not been possible yet to reach consensus. A legally binding definition is important because only a defined group can exercise rights collectively.

The signatories refer here to the definition in the FUEN declaration of 1994, which is given here in an adapted version.

An autochthonous, national minority / ethnic group should be understood as community,

- 1 that is resident in an area of a state territory or scattered around a state territory,**
- 2 that is of smaller number than the rest of the state population,**
- 3 the members of which are citizens of that state,**
- 4 the members of which have been resident in the area in question for gene rations,**
- 5 that is distinguishable from the state’s other citizens by reason of their ethnic, linguistic or cultural characteristics and who wish to preserve these characteristics.**



## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** make clear that minority rights are part of human rights in general.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** are the guarantors of linguistic and cultural diversity and are an important political, economical, regional and intellectual factor in Europe,

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** see ourselves as mediators between the cultures and guarantors of European diversity and would like to be recognised for the enrichment that we are and contribute to the development of a European civil society.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** invoke the right to protection from threat, to preservation of our own identity and to protection of our existence as well as to protection from assimilation.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** refer to the principle of nondiscrimination, equal treatment and real equal opportunity. We reaffirm the necessity for countervailing support to achieve real equality. This principle of —positive discrimination“ does not violate the principle of equal rights or non-discrimination under international law, but takes into account the special need of the autochthonous, national minorities to be protected and supported.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** underline the principle according to which declared membership of a national minority is a matter of individual freedom and not subject to official scrutiny.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** repeat the demand for collective rights for the autochthonous, national minorities of Europe and refer to the right to selfdetermination of peoples.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** demand the right to cultural autonomy and to appropriate forms of self-administration.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** ensure active integration of young people as the rising generation and the guarantee for the continued development of the autochthonous, national minorities as well as continuous and permanent support for the younger generation.

**We, the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups,** will work for a contemporary implementation of the fundamental rights that have been defined in minority protection legislation.



## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

**Minority protection as part of human rights in general ensures the following fundamental rights to the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups:**

- 1 The right to language/the right to use the mother tongue in dealings with public authorities and in a court of law.
- 2 The right to education/the right to schools and the right to classes given in the mother tongue
- 3 The right to culture
- 4 The right to religion
- 5 The right to establish organisations of its own
- 6 The right to unhindered contact across national boundaries
- 7 The right to information and media of one's own
- 8 The right to representation in public administration
- 9 The right to adapted forms of self-administration and cultural autonomy
- 10 The right to political representation and political participation
- 11 The right to spell and pronounce one's name in one's own language
- 12 The right to use and make visible traditional place, field and street names in signposting and other topographical signs.
- 13 The right to protection of the ancestral area of settlement.



## POLITICAL DEMANDS

**The signatories of the Charter for the autochthonous, national Minorities in Europe, reaffirm the following indispensable demands, aimed at both the international organisations as well as the individual states, for**

binding minority protection under international law and a definition of minority protection in human rights legislation,

participation in political dialogue on the basis of equality and constructive involvement in social change,

recognition and strengthening of the civil organisations of the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups in Europe as well as an improvement in the conditions for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) of the autochthonous, national minorities / ethnic groups, in particular for FUEN and YEN,

full cooperation between the international organisations, in particular the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the United Nations, in the field of the protection of and support to minorities. The signatories warn against the creation of competing structures,

a concept, in which norms and standards of similarities and differences are defined between the autochthonous, national minorities and the groups that came into being as the result of immigration or as refugees.

**The signatories of the Charter for the autochthonous, national Minorities in Europe, demand from the European Union**

the implementation of the Union's motto —"United in diversity" — or however, not merely restricted to the national cultures and languages of the member states, but extended to all the cultures and languages of Europe,

the reopening of negotiations concerning the future of the European Constitutional Treaty respectively the adoption of the fundamental rights or Part II or of the Constitution,

that non-compliance with minority standards as laid down in the Copenhagen criteria will remain a condition for refusal of membership of the EU. In this connection, we urge for an improvement in the monitoring system and refer to the experiences and competences of the Council of Europe,

an end to the —"double standards on minorities" — under which new member states are called upon to implement effective regulations in favour of minorities while many —"old member states" — do not apply them or even deny the existence of minorities in their state territory,

minority protection to be integrated into the monitoring system for human rights of the European Union, thereby establishing European minority standards;

minorities to be integrated into all projects, funding programmes and other proposals or especially where the support for multilingualism and language teaching as well as regional development are concerned;

it to become a party to the European Convention on Human Rights.



### **The signatories of the Charter for the autochthonous, national Minorities in Europe, demand from the Council of Europe**

to expand its hitherto very innovative mechanisms with a new, strategic orientation in minority protection and a clear concept aimed at preserving linguistic and cultural diversity,

a concept that enables organised civil groups that are directly affected to have a say in the policy-forming and decision-making process of the Council of Europe,

the stringent further development of functioning minority-protection mechanisms which have by no means come to an end with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities,

a further development of control mechanisms within the scope of the existing legal documents. Thereby the direct involvement of the minorities affected and the organisations representing their interests must always be taken into consideration,

œ referring to the recommendation on an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and to the proposed draft European Convention for the Protection for Minorities by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe œ concrete further development of minority protection to be initiated in a consistent way. The top priority here must be minority protection with enforceable collective rights.

### **The signatories of the Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe, demand from the European states**

the recognition of all autochthonous, national minorities/ethnic groups in their state territory,

the ratification of the European documents œ the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,

the appropriate and complete implementation of the provisions of the documents mentioned above,

the consistent implementation of the laws created in the course of accession to the EU as well as their application in the —old member states“ of the European Union as well,

to upkeep and improve the minority standards already achieved in close dialogue with the minorities and the organisations representing their interests.



**The signatories of the Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe as well as both umbrella organisations of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe æ the Federal Union of European Nationalities and the Youth of European Nationalities æ commit themselves to,**

accept and adhere to the principles that underlie this Charter,  
secure the linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe and to contribute to the development  
of the regions of Europe,  
active participation in the creation of a European civil society and a European community  
that is based on the indispensable values and intellectual heritage,  
in particular on the linguistic and cultural diversity.



**Adopted by the Assembly of Delegates of FUEN**

Bautzen / Budysin, 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2006

The Charter was officially signed by the member organisations of FUEN during a reception of the President of the Parliament of Saxony, Erich Iltgen, and the Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony, Georg Milbradt. At first, the Presidents of the Federal Union of European Nationalities, Romedi Arquint, and Youth of European Nationalities, Aleksander Studen-Kirchner, signed the document of both organisations together.

# RESOLUTION 2006-01

FUEN Main Resolution 2006

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

## **Main resolution 2006**

*The Assembly of Delegates of FUEN*

*expects and call upon*

### **1. The European Union EU**

to attend to and respect our rights in the EU both in terms of strategic policy objectives and in programmes and projects.

Specifically, the FUEN calls for

— lasting provision to be made for linguistic, cultural and ethnic diversity, taking into particular account the autochthonous national minorities in the states within the scope of the EU Constitution project which urgently needs to be readdressed,

— the respect and binding enforcement in all member states of minimum standards for a minority policy, such as those laid down in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities,

— close co-operation on human rights issues, including minority rights, with the Council of Europe and its various institutions and bodies,

— the speedy establishment of a human rights agency, whereby the rights of autochthonous national minorities are to be assigned their constitutive place under the mandate to be negotiated and in the agency's subsequent day-to-day work,

— the formation of an independent foundation to be supported by the representatives of the national minorities, the designated purpose of which should be the institutional and project-oriented financial support of national minority organisations in the member states,

— a concept which, like the structures of the Council of Europe, involve civil organisations in political decision-making processes. Specifically, the organisations of those autochthonous national minorities in Europe directly affected by such decisions should be involved to a greater extent in the policy-forming and decision-making process. It is imperative that such organisations be recognised as important stakeholders in the areas of new governance and integrated into the various procedures of the Open Co-ordination Method as regular contacts.

— a body within the EU to be made responsible for minority issues within the institutional structure of the EU. FUEN deems that it would be useful for this extensive task to be assigned to an EU commissioner who would be responsible for developing a coherent strategy with which to address the special concerns of the autochthonous national minorities and also co-ordination within the EU bodies.

### **2. The Council of Europe**

to evaluate the policy hitherto in place concerning the preservation of autochthonous national minorities and to bring about a strategic realignment based on the assumption that preservation of ethnic diversity in Europe is the goal.

Specifically, FUEN calls for a switch from policies *for* to policies *with* the autochthonous national minorities and thus for the development and implementation of a concept that will guarantee the genuine involvement of those directly affected in the policy-forming and decision-making process of the Council of Europe. The civil organisations representing the autochthonous nationalities and ethnic groups must at last be recognised as important stakeholders in the areas of so-called "new governance" and integrated into the various

procedures of the Open Co-ordination Method as regular contacts. FUEN reiterates its demand for those directly affected to be afforded genuine participation in all committees of the Council of Europe responsible for the evaluation and updating of minority-related standards.

### **FUEN further calls for**

a review of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, priority demands and unconditional framework conditions to safeguard endeavours to preserve ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe,

- a clear concept – aimed at preserving linguistic and cultural diversity – to take the place of wishy-washy, bendable phraseology and requirements,
- a binding definition of “national minorities” based on the right of the national communities to perceive themselves as such and on the requirement that provisions for protection and rights be applicable not only in their traditional settlement areas, but also beyond them,
- a commitment from the member states to transform the vision of linguistic and cultural diversity into a policy that does not stop at introducing protective provisions in favour of the various communities but is also binding on the majority population; this includes the postulate of multilingualism and of an open policy on culture and the media,
- a commitment from the member states to recognise the autochthonous national minorities without any ifs and but,
- emphasis to be placed on and the enforcement of effective participation and self-determination of autochthonous national minorities coupled with the granting of adapted forms of cultural autonomy as well as the necessary financial resources,
- the resumption of the Council of Europe project to implement the protective provisions by drawing up an additional protocol on human rights with the aim of creating an international court with enforceable rights for ethnic groups and nationalities,
- a concept defining norms and standards for the similarities and differences between the “old” historical autochthonous national minorities and the “new” minorities.

### **3. The member states**

to adopt a general policy guided by the right of every member of the population to preserve and foster their individual and collective ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

Specifically, FUEN calls for

- the ratification and implementation of the conventions and protective provisions in force in all Council of Europe states. These should be respected “in spirit and not to the letter”,
- all state bodies at local, regional, state and international level to take the civil organisations of autochthonous national minorities seriously as equal partners capable of fighting eye to eye for their rights and interests,
- adapted forms of self- and co-determination to be granted to those directly affected. These should be understood to include forms of cultural autonomy and self-administration, in particular for the fields of training and education, culture and media,
- the majority population in the individual states and in Europe to be better informed about the situation of autochthonous national minorities, both in school books, in the media and in politics.
- FUEN reminds the states of the recommendations of the Council of Europe concerning language teaching in schools and would like to see teaching of second and third languages as well as all forms of intercultural exchange intensified, also and especially for members of majority populations in the European states.

#### **4. The individual states**

*FUEN expects and calls for the following*

##### **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

The four umbrella organisations of Germany's recognised autochthonous national minorities (Frisians, Danes, Sorbs and the German Sinti and Roma), which joined forces to form the Minority Council (Minderheitenrat) at the end of 2004 with a view to obtaining better representation of their common minority interests, achieved the following results at federal level in negotiation with the federal government and parliament, the Bundestag, in 2005:

The German Bundestag parliamentary working party on minority questions set up in the 15th legislative period will continue its work in the new legislative period (2005 to 2009).

A non-government minorities' secretariat was set up in mid-2005 at the office of the federal government's commissioner for minority affairs.

The following political goals/tasks are on the minorities' short- to long-term agenda:

Inclusion of a general minority article in the German Constitution for the protection and fostering of the four recognised national minorities;

Institutional provision for national minorities in the implementation of the EU's antidiscrimination guidelines in Germany;

Provision for the culture of the autochthonous national minorities in the so-called "Kulturstaatszielklausel" (national cultural objective clause) of the German Constitution;

Assurance from the Federation that the necessary means for answering basic cultural needs, including infrastructure for the cultural education of autochthonous national minorities, will be included in the upcoming reform of the federal state structure;

The continuation and increase of sustainable and targeted federal funding for autochthonous national minorities;

permanent continuation of the secretariat for minority affairs for the four autochthonous minorities (with a full-time employee instead of a part-time one as to date).

FUEN welcomes the measures undertaken in 2005 and calls upon the Federal Republic of Germany to provide constructive and targeted backing for the goals of the Minority Council.

##### **GREECE**

1. The recognition of the Macedonian and Aromanian minority.
2. The recognition of the Macedonian and Aromanian language as a minority language and its introduction into the elementary and secondary educational systems in the regions where it is widely used. The establishment of a university chair dedicated to the Macedonian and Aromanian language. Additionally, the recognition of cultural organisations like the Home of Macedonian Culture (registration pending for more than 15 years despite ruling of the European Court of Human Rights).
3. The introduction of the Macedonian and Aromanian language into the state mass media.
4. Unconditional and free entry into Greece for all political refugees of Macedonian origin. Additionally, the ability to claim back/buy property as well as to reclaim citizenship, which was taken from thousands of Macedonians during the civil war in Greece (1945–49).
5. The ratification of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as the implementation of all the international conventions and standards by the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe concerning the rights of national minorities.
6. The reinstatement of citizenship to Macedonian emigrants, most of whom live in Australia and Canada. Their citizenship was revoked following their public expression of their Macedonian identity.
7. Also, we would like to discuss the attitude of the Greek Ministry of Education towards FUEN's fact-finding mission in Greece and its refusal to meet EFA-Rainbow.

**NETHERLANDS**

Bearing in mind that the EU's Mercator network for the study and furtherance of minority languages has, in the over twenty years of its existence, laudably acquitted itself of its task according to the recent Interarts evaluation report, it is with alarm that we have been informed of the EU's intention to end earmarking of the Mercator network for subsidisation and to mainstream it instead.

In view of the fact that the official state languages are subsidised by the same mainstream, the actual allocation of any subsidy would henceforth be the result of a competition between the interests of minority and state languages, with the State's authorities as their referee.

The unavoidable effect would be the crumbling and eventual breakdown of the Mercator network, in economic terms a considerable capital annihilation.

With reference, again, to the main resolution of the 2003 FUEN Congress in Bolzano, reminding the EU of "its responsibility to preserve and foster linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe", we appeal to the EU to recall the said measure and to continue allotting an earmarked and adequate subsidy to the Mercator network.

**AUSTRIA**

FUEN establishes that the Austrian federal government, after more than four or five years, is still unwilling to act on the decision taken by the Austrian Constitutional Court (VfGH) either with regard to state languages or place-name signs – not least because the Carinthian head of state Jörg Haider, whose party, Bündnis Zukunft Österreich (BZÖ – Alliance for the Future of Austria) is a coalition partner in the government of Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, is torpedoing the implementation of the initiatives, especially that concerning the place-name signs. The aggressive campaign of Carinthia's head of state against the Constitutional Court and also against the vice-chairman of the Carinthian Council of Slovene, Rudi Vouk, whose complaints to the Constitutional Court brought about the decisions relating to the place-name signs and official languages, is fomenting increasing agitation against minority nationalities in the state of Carinthia. At the same time, FUEN establishes that under existing Austrian legislation, the ethnic groups and their organisations have no right of complaint before the Constitutional Court and that suits for bilingual place-name signs can only be brought before the Constitutional Court in the form of opposition to penalties imposed against individual members of an ethnic group.

FUEN calls upon the Austrian federal government to act upon the decisions of the Constitutional Court without delay and to make it possible for the ethnic groups to form a body under public law that shall be entitled to bring complaints before the Constitutional Court.

In view of a lack of linguistic skills and poor teaching results for the minority language Croatian at bilingual elementary schools in the state of Burgenland, the FUEN Congress of Nationalities appeals to the competent bodies within the Austrian education administration and legislation to amend the 19 August 1994 Minorities' Education Act for Burgenland, and to place particular emphasis on the following:

- a) The amendment to be passed for compulsory schools should lay down exactly to what extent classes are to be given in the minority language.
- b) At all lower levels of general secondary education in Burgenland, the minority languages must be available as a compulsory optional course. Here, the opening of a class or department should be based upon the relevant numbers applicable to secondary schools.
- c) Bilingual classes for pupils must be provided at secondary schools in communities with elementary schools for those pupils who attended bilingual elementary schools.

**SLOVENIA**

Unlike the autochthonous minorities – Hungarians and Italians – mentioned in the Constitution, the existence of the autochthonous German-speaking minority is still denied; the minority neither receives official recognition, nor does it enjoy any collective rights. Although mentioned in the Agreement on Cultural Co-operation between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Austria, it receives virtually no financial backing from Slovenia. The Republic of Slovenia should recognise its German-speaking minority because minorities whose status is not anchored in the Constitution enjoy no collective protection in Slovenia. FUEN calls for recognition of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia.

## RESOLUTION 2006-02

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

The Assembly of Delegates is concerned about continuing racial discrimination in many cities of the Russian Federation.

Information is coming in from Moscow, St Petersburg, Voronesh, Chabarovsk and other cities and regions about discrimination against people of non-Slavic appearance (university students from African countries, Azerbaijan, China and many other countries) including incidents of people being brutally beaten up and often critically or fatally injured.

The murders of students from Cameroon and the Congo in St Petersburg and of a Peruvian in Voronesh are just some instances of what has recently occurred.

Attacks on foreigners have become much more frequent. As a result, foreigners are now prepared to take defence of their rights into their own hands. In 2005, more than 40 people became the victims of such attacks. Citizens of the Russian Federation, such as Caucasians, Adigs, Balkars, Kabardins and Chechens, are also exposed to similar reprisals. Such crimes are often dismissed as hooliganism, however.

The Assembly of Delegates addresses an urgent appeal to the government of the Russian Federation to take steps to prevent such attacks and to punish offenders.

## RESOLUTION 2006-03

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

The Assembly of Delegates of the 51th FUEN Congress of Nationalities expresses its gratification and gratitude to the government and president of the new, democratic state of Georgia, who, after many years in which the state has boycotted the problems of the Turkish Meskets, are now addressing this issue with all due care and attention in order to meet the obligations to which Georgia agreed upon its admission to the Council of Europe. These obligations concern the return to Georgia of the ethnic group, which was deported under the Stalin regime. The announcement by the Georgian leadership of the possibility of repatriation for Turkish Meskets, who are still scattered about various CIS states today and whose human rights are often violated there, has given rise to high hopes.

At the same time, the Assembly of Delegates expresses its concern about the intentions of different levels of the Georgian administration in bringing about the repatriation of the Turkish Meskets on a basis that would be of a discriminating character and in fact perpetuate the policy of discrimination against this people. Its concern relates to the officially declared intention, which has already been put into practice

- of prohibiting the Turkish Meskets from preserving their Turkish identity and of declaring them all, irrespective of their personal opinions and choice, as "Turkish" Georgians (Meskets), and in such a manner to implement the policy of eliminating the national group;
- not to permit the Turkish Meskets to return to and live in their historical homeland, the Achalzych region in the south of Georgia, from which they were illegally deported in 1944;
- to hold a plebiscite in that region prior to the return of its autochthonous people, the Turkish Meskets and therefore effectively in their absence, on the provocative question "Do you want (would you agree to allowing) the Turkish Meskets to come here and to live here?" ;
- to scatter the repatriated Turkish Meskets, against their will, in small groups (two-three families) throughout Georgia, which could lead to the effective elimination of the whole ethnic group as a community with its shared cultural characteristics and demands.

The Assembly of Delegates protests against such a policy and expresses the hope that the Georgian state will bring about a drastic change and take a democratic approach towards the problems posed by the repatriation of the Turkish Meskets.

## RESOLUTION 2006-04

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

**Witnessing** the continued French government policy of ignoring the Breton language, the last Celtic language spoken on the European continent and part of the heritage of all Europeans,

**Taking stock of the fact** that France represents **a unique case in Europe**, in that its very constitutional set-up - to wit, article 2 of the French Constitution - provides the legal basis for a policy of total destruction of all her minority languages and makes it possible to actually implement their planned elimination.

**Considering** that the whole corpus of texts aimed at the protection of minorities, be they adopted by the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, UNESCO, or the CPLRE, have neither been signed nor ratified by the French government and thus remain totally ineffective on French territory,

**Considering** that the French government has for many years totally ignored the resolutions it has received from FUEN regarding this issue:

FUEN most pressingly appeals to the FUEN members living in countries respectful of their own minorities and urges them to request their diplomats to interpellate the French government on this subject, either through diplomatic channels or by means of written or verbal questions within the framework of international forums in Europe.

FUEN appeals more particularly to nationals of countries which France has, in the recent past, enjoined to pay due respect to legal texts it totally disregards itself, to governments such as that of Austria or the Irish Republic, for instance, which France has recently called to order regarding their minority languages.

FUEN appeals to the governments of Central and Eastern European countries, the new members of the European Union, which France has dared reproach for their failings in the field of human rights.

FUEN expresses the urgent wish that this desperate call for help from a small European people threatened with complete cultural extinction be as widely circulated as possible.

## RESOLUTION 2006-05

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

### **Certain demands on the Italian government**

for uniform, legally guaranteed, positive measures for the protection of Ladin institutions throughout the entire Dolomite Ladin area, which is divided into three provinces and two regions, which should take into consideration the positive protective measures in place within the autonomous provinces and regions.

Assured institutional representation at community, provincial, regional, state and EU level.  
Increase in bi-/trilingualism (as a preferential title and reflected in salaries).

Recognition of the UGLD as an institution of co-ordination on minority issues within the autonomous and non-autonomous local corporations and in relations with the state (as provided for in article of law no 482/99, for example,).

Equal rights for the official weekly newspaper of the UGLD, *La Usc di Ladins*, to receive state subsidies available to the daily newspapers of linguistic minorities.

## RESOLUTION 2006-06

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

The Karachay nation lives right at the foot of Mount Elbrus and is old and indigenous to the Northern Caucasus. On 2 November 1943, all the Karachay people were repressed and deported to Central Asia and Kazakhstan by order of the Stalinist regime. There, in order to achieve their full assimilation, they were scattered around 558 villages. The autonomous Karachay region was then destroyed.

In 1957, after 14 years of exile/genocide and with a new leader, Khrushchev, ruling the country, most of the surviving Karachay people managed to return to their historical homeland, but some were not able to return and remained in exile. Half a century has passed since then, yet the Karachay people has still not been able to re-establish its autonomous region. On 26 April 1996, the Russian parliament passed a law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples. The law is now 15 years old, but in reality it has not changed anything in the lives of the repressed Karachay people. Even today, certain books containing “justifications” for the deportation are still being published; new “scientific” works and doctors’ dissertations are being written in order to cast aspersions on the Karachay people; even the mass media contribute to this despicable business. Moreover, efforts are increasing to have the law repealed. The Constitutional Court of Russia has even had to scrutinize the law once again in order to affirm its importance. Yet the verdict of the court was simple: the law is constitutionally valid and must therefore be enforced. Unfortunately, the law has still not been enforced and time is running out fast. In fact, if the truth be told, time is working against the repressed nations.

The Karachay people, for instance, are losing their language and customs. There are no national schools; not a single “mother-tongue and literature” textbook has been published for more than 20 years; there are no journals for children or, for that matter, for adults either. The efforts of some enthusiasts to publish books, journals, scientific or fictional literature privately are not successful. The reason for this is lack of money and persistence. It is clear that without state support, minority cultures are doomed. The only way for small nations (especially repressed small nations) to survive in today’s Russia is by creating their own national autonomies, while Russian policies, on the other hand, make sure that national institutions are destroyed under the pretext of strengthening regions.

The second very acute problem is that of the Karachay people still unable to return from exile – from Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian republics – even though their repatriation to their historical homeland is provided for under the law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

There is no alternative to the law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples. Only when law has been enforced will we be able to say without doubt that the repressed nations have been truly rehabilitated and that Russia has truly become a democratic country.

All that law-abiding Karachay people demand is the restoration of their rights and statehood as outlined by international conventions and, most importantly, the law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

Fifteen years have passed since the law was enacted, but its basic and fundamental conditions have still not been fulfilled. It seems that Russian authorities are distancing themselves more and more from the problems of the repressed nations and even trying to destroy those national institutions still remaining. Such policies could lead to an explosion in multinational Russia.

FUEN is troubled by the statements of the Karachay Democratic Organization Dzhamagat and draws the attention of both the Russian authorities and international democratic organisations to the worries and legitimate demands of the repressed Karachay people.

## **RESOLUTION 2006-07**

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities passed the following resolution on 25th May 2005 in Bautzen / Budysin:

On 10th of December 2005 the National Congress of the Crimean Tatar peoples drew attention to the fact that within the framework of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars which took place on 18th of May 1944 a genocid began.

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities supports the efforts of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people to draw international public attention to their sorrow.

## **Bildungsleitlinien:**

*erarbeitet während des 51sten FUEV-Nationalitätenkongresses in Bautzen / Budysin vom 24-28. Mai 2006*

Ausgehend von der Charta der autochthonen, nationalen Minderheiten/ Volkgruppen in Europa stand das Grundrecht auf Bildung im Mittelpunkt des 51. FUEV-Kongresses.

Am Kongresstag, Freitag, dem 26. Mai 2006 wurden das Thema umfassend behandelt und die Schul- und Bildungsmodelle mehrere autochthone nationaler Minderheiten/ Volksgruppen vorgestellt, unter anderem, die der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft in Belgien, der Lausitzer Sorben, der Bretonen, der Minderheiten in Ungarn und der Kärntner Slowenen.

Das Grundrecht auf Bildung wurde in einer anschließenden Experten-Sitzung am Beispiel der Lausitzer Sorben qualifiziert. Das Experten-Team legte den Delegierten Bildungsleitlinien der Lausitzer Sorben vor, die vom Kongress unterstützt und vom Präsidenten der FUEV Romedi Arquint der Domowina und ihrem Vorsitzenden Jan Nuck zur weiteren Verwendung übergeben wurden.

Zugleich nahm der FUEV-Kongress die Empfehlung des Experten-Teams an, sich mit dem Thema Bildung im Jahr 2006 intensiver zu beschäftigen und die Ausgestaltung des Grundrechts auf Bildung zum kommenden Kongress 2007 zu verabschieden.

### **Bildungsleitlinien der Lausitzer Sorben**

#### **Präambel**

Der Schutz der Bewahrung der sorbischen Identität, der sorbischen/wendischen Sprache und Kultur wird in Dokumenten sowohl der Sächsischen als auch der Brandenburgischen Regierung und der beiden Landtage als gesamtgesellschaftliches Anliegen im Rang eines staatlichen Auftrages gewertet. Auch von der Bundesregierung unterzeichnete internationale und europäische Dokumente zum Minderheitenschutz erlauben diese Interpretation.

**In diesem Sinne fordern die Delegierten des 51. FUEV-Kongresses 2006 in Bautzen/ Budysin den Erhalt und die Förderung des sorbischen Volkes und seiner Sprache durch ein ganzheitliches sorbisches Bildungssystem mit umfangreicher Mit- und Selbstbestimmungsbefugnis der Sorben.**

#### **Hierbei erwarten wir**

1. Die Schaffung von selbstbestimmten schulischen Einrichtungen des sorbischen Volkes zur Gewährleistung von Kontinuität, Intensität und Qualität einer optimalen Sprachaneignung im Rahmen der ganzheitlichen Bildung in Familie, im vorschulischen Bereich, in der schulischen Bildung, in Aus- und Weiterbildung, in schulischen und außerschulischen Ganztagsangeboten sowie in der Erwachsenenbildung.
2. Die Gewährleistung von Rahmenbedingungen für den Erhalt bzw. die Schaffung weiterer öffentlicher Sprachräume als Voraussetzung für die Aneignung und die uneingeschränkte Anwendung der sorbischen Sprache in Öffentlichkeit und Gesellschaft, insbesondere durch Kindertagesstätten, Schulen und andere Bildungseinrichtungen in Sachsen und Brandenburg.
3. Die Übertragung der Verwaltungsbefugnis im Bildungsbereich auf eine Einrichtung des sorbischen Volkes im Freistaat Sachsen. Die Gewährleistung der Mitbestimmung in spezifischen Fragen bei sorbischen Bildungsinhalten im Land Brandenburg.
4. Die Gewährleistung von materiellen und finanziellen Ressourcen für die Unterhaltung von Einrichtungen mit sorbischen Bildungsangeboten.
5. Die Beteiligung des Bundes an der Förderung des sorbischen Schulwesens in Erfüllung der gesamtstaatlichen Verantwortung Deutschlands gegenüber dem sorbischen Volk auf der Grundlage des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten und der Europäischen Charta für Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen.

## **Photo impressions:**

*at the 51st Congress of Nationalities in Bautzen / Budysin, 24th-28th May 2006*





## **Participants and guests:**

*at the 51st Congress of Nationalities in Bautzen / Budysin, 24th-28th May 2006*

A	Baumgartner, Gerhard Dr	D	Kämper, Anne
A	Emrich, Stefan	D	Kareit, Manfred
A	Gieler, Zlatka	D	Karichowa, Anja Dr.
A	Gudownig, Michael Dr.	D	Kieyne, Edward
A	Kassl, Thomas	D	Klose, Susanne
A	Kornfeind Julia	D	Konzack, Harald
A	Kulmesch, Janko	D	Kosel, Heiko
A	Studen-Kirchner, Aleksander	D	Kossatz, Anna
B	Britz, Roger	D	Kotopp, Riecke
B	Heinen, Patrick	D	Kowar, Marko
B	Heinen, Serge	D	Kring, Ingrid
B	Paasch, Oliver	D	Kring, Karl
B	Wölck, Wolfgang Prof.	D	Kühl, Jørgen
BG	Hodkewitsch, Leonid	D	Kühl, Katherine
BG	Hristov, Mihai	D	Küssner, Dieter Paul
BG	Kyurkchiev, Nikolay	D	Küssner, Vibeke
BG	Zakharieva, Olga	D	Lange, Antje
CH	Arquint, Romedi	D	Lisbet Mikkelsen Buhl
CH	Cantieni, Martin	D	Mahler, Claudia Dr
CH	Condrau, Pius	D	Meyer, Annalise
CH	Josty, Chatrina	D	Meyer, Ernst
CH	Rassel, Andrea	D	Meyer, Flemming
CZ	Dzingel, Martin	D	Michalk, Maria
CZ	Kunc, Irene	D	Milbradt, Georg
D	Arfsten, Antje	D	Müller, Beate
D	Baumgärtel, Christian	D	Muuss, Harro
D	Baumgartner, Inken	D	Nadolski, Angelina
D	Bergner, Christoph Dr.	D	Nickelsen, Frank
D	Bernading, Antonia	D	Norberg, Madlena Dr
D	Boysen, Thede	D	Nuck, Jan
D	Brankack, Jurij Dr.	D	Nygaard, Jens
D	Bresan, Peter Dr.	D	Petrick, Hans-Peter
D	Christensen, Inger Marie	D	Rautenberg, Peter
D	Christiansen, Jens A.	D	Rein, Detlev Dr.
D	Elle, Christian	D	Rein, Hanna
D	Elle, Elisabeth Dr.	D	Runz, Olaf
D	Elle, Ludwig Dr.	D	Sass, Babette von
D	Felber, Bärbel	D	Schäfer Diana
D	Funck, Gary	D	Schäfer, Raphael
D	Goll, Sebastian	D	Schekalla, Kaja Dr.
D	Grote, Kirsten	D	Schenk, Susann
D	Grunenberg, Reinhard	D	Schmole, Manuela
D	Grzyb, Roman	D	Schneider, Horst
D	Habip Oglu, Halit	D	Scholze, Christina
D	Hahn, Jörgen Jensen	D	Scholze, Diana
D	Harcke, Renate Dr	D	Scholze, Gabi
D	Helgest, Georg	D	Scholze, Jana Dr.
D	Hüseyin, Memet	D	Schowtka, Peter
D	Iltgen, Erich	D	Schramm, Christian
D	Jacobsen, Maike	D	Schröder, Steen
D	Joldrichsen, Anke	D	Schultz, Heinrich
D	Jurk, Katharina	D	Schuster, Lydia
D	Kaminsky, Sigrid	D	Schwarz, Caroline

D	Siering, Benjamin	MK	Kostov, Goran
D	Sonntag, Andreas Dr	NL	de Boer, Frank
D	Sroka, Werner	NL	Riemersma, Willem
D	Walde, Christiana	NL	Rinzema, Jaap
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D	Weisser, Marie Luise	PL	Gryga, Tomasz
D	Wenke, Alena	PL	Grzdzicki, Lukas
D	Wessela, Marko	PL	Kociukiewicz, Anna
D	Wuschansky, Georg	PL	Laschek, Margarethe
D	Ziesch, Bernhard	PL	Willan, TS
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DK	Buch, Jørn	RO	Kovacs, Peter
DK	Candussi, Frauke	RO	Lorincz, Csilla
DK	Clausen, Vivian	RUS	Arutiunov, Michail
DK	Diedrichsen, Jan	RUS	Kereytov, Ramazan
DK	Hallmann, Harro	RUS	Korkmazov, Boris
DK	Hansen, HH	RUS	Koudousov, Ernst
DK	Heil, Hermann	RUS	Melanifidi, Georgij
DK	Johannsen, Peter Iver	RUS	Pepinov, Fuad
DK	Kleinschmidt, Stephan	RUS	Rotermel, Andrey
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DK	Küsel, Ulrich	SK	Dolezal, Pavel
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DK	Seifert, Kurt	SM	Budincevic, Ivan
DK	Søndergaard, Harald	UA	Leysle, Ivan
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EE	Prozes, Jaak	UA	Turianica, Ivan
EE	Savinova, Nina	UZ	Schur, Irina
EE	Weber, Erika		
F	Kempff, Françoise		
F	Kergren, Jean		
F	Le Moine, Per		
F	Nadeau, Claude		
F	Texier, Marcel		
GE	Augst, Harry Dr		
GR	Omer, Gkioulseren		
GR	Pervin, Chairoula		
GR	Voskopoulos, Pavlos		
H	Brenner, Koloman		
H	Cristian, Martin		
H	Gavril, Gurzu		
H	Heinek, Otto		
H	Kerner, Anna		
H	Sebök, Katalin		
H	Szauer, Agnes		
H	Tabajdi, Csaba MEP		
HR	Orlovic, David		
I	Brezigar, Bojan		
I	Kostner, Marion		
I	Pizzinini, Hilda		
I	Stocker, Martha Dr.		
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LV	Misevica, Renate		
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