



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 24 October 2014

Public
Working document

**SECRETARIAT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**COMPILATION OF OPINIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RELATING TO ARTICLE 3 OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION**

THIRD CYCLE

“Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.”

Note: this document was produced as a working document only and does not contain footnotes. For publication purposes, please refer to the original opinions.

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As of 24 October 2014, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities had adopted a total of 35 opinions, among which 2 opinions on Article 1.

NOTE

Based on the information currently at its disposal, the Advisory Committee considers that implementation of certain articles does not give rise to any specific observations.

This statement is not to be understood as signalling that adequate measures have now been taken and that efforts in this respect may be diminished or even halted. On the contrary, the nature of the obligations of the Framework Convention requires a sustained and continued effort by the authorities to respect the principles and achieve the goals of the Framework Convention. Furthermore, a certain state of affairs may be considered acceptable at one stage but that need not necessarily be so in further cycles of monitoring. It may also be the case that issues that appear at one stage of the monitoring to be of relatively minor concern prove over time to have been underestimated.

1. Albania

Opinion adopted on 23 November 2011

Article 1 of the Framework Convention

Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Recommendation from the two previous cycles of monitoring

In the previous cycles of monitoring, the Advisory Committee considered that the authorities of Albania should consider signing and ratifying the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which was one of the commitments entered into by Albania on its accession to the Council of Europe in 1995.

Present situation

No progress has been registered since the second monitoring cycle. To date, Albania has not yet signed this treaty.

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee considers that the authorities should seriously examine the situation, with a view to signing and ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

2. Russian Federation

Opinion adopted on 24 November 2011

Article 1 of the Framework Convention

Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Present situation

When acceding to the Council of Europe, the Russian Federation committed itself to signing and ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by 28 February 1998. It signed the Charter on 10 May 2001, and, from 2009 to 2011, implemented a Joint Programme related to the development of minority languages and cultures in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the European Union. However, no progress has been made as regards the ratification of this instrument.

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages without further delay.