



Internal News:

FUEN Advisory Board meeting in Kiel/Schleswig-Holstein

On the invitation of FUEN, a first meeting took place from 9 to 11 December 1999 in Kiel/Flensburg between the Schleswig-Holstein Representative Assembly and the government of the state of Schleswig-Holstein with the aim of establishing a so-called FUEN Advisory Board. Further meetings of this kind have been planned.



President of the Representative Assembly Heinz-Werner Arens and Delegate for Border Issues Kurt Schulz presented the minority report from Schleswig-Holstein.

Background to the FUEN Advisory Board:

Idea:

Representatives of the political institutions (governments and parliaments) of countries in which FUEN member organisations live and which morally and financially support and foster the activities of FUEN will form an independent, informal FUEN Advisory Board. In this way, FUEN expresses that the demands of the national minorities essentially depend on constructive

cooperation between the minorities and the political institutions of the regions and countries. With this, it also underscores a prime characteristic of a mature democracy, in which organisations of civil society and political institutions work together in partnership.

Purpose:

Information exchange; coordination of activities to support national minorities; provision of advice by FUEN; support and

development of its own and joint initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe; support and development of its own and joint initiatives in European and international institutions (Council of Europe, EU, OSCE; UN, etc.) and FUEN financial support.

The meeting in Kiel was marked by an extremely constructive and friendly atmosphere. With a declaration of intention in mind, the idea was welcomed and it was resolved to convene a



Initial talks on creating an FUEN Advisory Board also took place in 1997 at the 42nd FUEN Congress on Nationalities in Pörtlach between President of the Representative Assembly of Brandenburg, Dr Herbert Knoblich (l.), and FUEN President Romedi Arquint.

constituting meeting at the next FUEN Congress of Nationalities in Komárno/Slovakia.

FUEN fact-finding mission in Azerbaijan and Georgia



An FUEN delegation comprising FUEN President Romedi Arquint, FUEN Vice-President Hans Heinrich Hansen and the two Eastern European experts Prof. Svetlana Czervonnaja and Martin Scheuermann undertook a fact-finding mission to Azerbaijan and Georgia from 9.10.–16.10.99.

In the photo from left to right: Fuad Pepinov, Vice-President of Watan; Hans Hansen, FUEN Vice-President; Svetlana Czervonnaja, FUEN expert; Arthur T. Rasi-Zade, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan; Romedi Arquint, President of FUEN; Hidayat Orudjov, Minorities Delegate of Azerbaijan; Martin Scheuermann, FUEN expert.

A report on the mission is available by the FUEN Secretariat

Slavonic minority in Bautzen

The ethnic groups and the media, a speech by Bela Tonkovic, Bautzen, 21.–24.10.99

The situation of the media in countries of transition—the Slavonic minorities mainly live in such countries—is very varied and so is that of the minority media. It is FUEN's view that the rights of ethnic groups, in the media also, are to be guaranteed according to the directives

and guidelines of the UN, OSCE and CE and good local traditions as an essential element of human rights in all countries, and that these rights are to be defined and developed as a component of the collective rights of the ethnic groups.

We, as ethnic groups, face a

major question: are the media in our languages the media of the ethnic group or the media for the ethnic group?

The ethnic group media are media of the ethnic group in the sense that the ethnic group promotes its own specific life through its own media, presents itself to its

own public and the public at large and offers them—the media—as a forum for open discussion both within the group and with the majority population. In this respect, the media are also 'for the ethnic group'. To achieve this objective, the media have to be free, free in structuring and distribution, but also free from financial worries.

The media can also be 'for the ethnic group' in another sense, namely as a mouthpiece of the government, i.e. the majority population, speaking to the ethnic group. In this case they are not the 'media of the ethnic group', but ideally a bridge to span the gap to the ethnic group, yet are frequently only the majority's propaganda tool in the ethnic language.

The media of the ethnic groups are a significant element in structuring a society, in which everyone can be integrated and no one is subjected to assimilation against his will.

Our demands are justified democratically and should be presented to the local majorities in a comprehensible manner.

German minorities in Bad Kissingen

Rolf Goßmann is appointed departmental head at the Ministry of the Interior

From 7 to 11 October 1999, 83 participants from 21 states met at the—since 1991—9th Congress of the Workgroup of German Minorities in the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Bad Kissingen. This year, the workgroup chaired by Hermann Heil (German ethnic group in Denmark) was able to welcome Ministerial Director Frank Willenberg/Bonn, who presented 'the future concept for promoting the German minority in eastern Central Europe, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe as well as in the new states of the former Soviet Union in Central Asia'. This speech is available from

Rolf Goßmann goes to Strasbourg

The congress in Bad Kissingen (see above) was the last in his official function as departmental head at the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Bonn. Rolf Goßmann, who promoted this and other FUEN congresses with great involvement and commitment, will remain available for participants in future as the Chairman of the Expert Committee of the Council of Europe for issues concerning the protection of national minorities.



Rolf Goßmann

the FUEN General Secretary on request.

The congress was divided up into several smaller workgroups to deal with the classic major issues, e.g.

public relations, contact with the media, municipal policies and youth relations as well as the scope for integration in the work of the regions on a European level.

Framework law on the protection of lingual minorities in Italy passed by the Senate

The new framework law on the protection of lingual minorities was recently passed by the Senate of the Republic of Italy despite massive protests from the right-wing parties. The law has now been submitted to the state president who is responsible for announcing it and putting it into effect. The law provides better protection for 'historically established lingual minorities' who live

within the territory of Italy. Article two of the law lists the names of the minorities: 'In accordance with the fundamental principles of the European Union and the international community, the Republic protects the language and the culture of the Albanian, Catalan, German, Greek, Slovenian and Croat population as well as the language and culture of the French, Franco-Provençal, Friulian, Ladin, Occitan and Sardinian-speaking population'. The law is being applied by the individual provincial administrations in line with the local requirements of individual communities. At least 15% of the population or a third of the members of local councils have to demand application of the law to their community. Among other things, the law provides for teaching in the minority languages in kindergartens

45th FUEN Congress on Nationalities in Komárno/Slovakia

On invitation of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia Magyar Koalicio Partja MKP, the FUEN Presiding Committee is planning to hold the next FUEN Congress on Nationalities in Komárno (Hungarian: Komárom) from 31.05.–01.06. 2000.

The two representatives of the MKP, A. Duka-Zolyomi and L. Florian, presented the venue for the congress at a meeting of the FUEN Presiding Committee in the name of their President Bela Bugar:

Komárno has approximately 40,000 inhabitants, is located on traffic routes between Bratislava (approx. 100 km away) and Budapest (approx. 110 km away) and is in an area occupied by Hungarians to 70%.

Further information is available from the FUEN General Secretary

RMDSZ Bulletin on the Internet

The FUEN member organisation Romániai Magyar Demokrata Szövetség (Hungarian Democratic Association of Romania) has been publishing a brief bulletin on its current situation on the Internet for some weeks now. Further information from the RMDSZ Website at: <http://www.rmksz.ro>

and schools and can also be used in teaching from a secondary level upwards. In addition, proposed laws can be published in the respective minority language in the appropriate communities and

persons, who were not permitted to use their name in the minority language, can again use their original names on presentation of the relevant documentation.

The Slovaks in the Czech Republic

According to official statistics, the number of Slovaks living in the Czech Republic amounts to 315,000, accounting for approximately 3% of the total population (unofficially there are a good half a million people). None of the population is autochthonous, yet sometimes their third or fourth generation is living in this country—despite this, it is a very young national minority. As young as the two new states that were created when Czechoslovakia separated on 1 January 1993—the Czech Republic and Slovakia. From this day onwards, the Slovaks in the Czech Republic had to adapt to the new situation, i.e. the situation of a minority. This is also the time when the Community of Slovaks was founded as an organisation, that however is not the only Slovakian society in the Czech Republic, but is certainly the largest and most widely known. It is structured in territories currently based on new basic organisations in the country and is present in practically all cities where the concentration of citizens of Slovakian nationality is relevant, e.g. in Prague, Brno, Karviná, Olomouc, Tábor, Kladno or Western Bohemia. Historically, it is interesting to note that, after the Germans were expelled subsequent to the Second World War, the Slovaks were mainly settled in areas where the German minority had previously lived, that is in the border regions. The Slovakian settlers not only came from Slovakia itself, but also from Hungary and Romania. It has to be pointed out that other Slovakian societies are primarily devoted to partial problems within the whole spectrum, for example culture, the church, students, folklore, etc. Only the Community of Slovaks can be considered universal. Based on the resolutions of the organisation's 4th General Meeting in March 1999, its main activities can be described as follows:

- non-political actions to defend and assert the natural rights of the Slovaks regarding culture and native language,
- positive involvement to consolidate relations between Czechs and

Slovaks - support for the Republic of Slovakia on a national and international level. The situation of the national minorities at present in the Czech Republic is complicated by the fact that the respective complex of problems is not sufficiently regulated in law. Intensive work is being invested in the law governing national minorities and the Community of Slovaks actively participates in the preparations. Parliament is expected to pass the bill in the year 2000. Despite this, there are other partial problems that have not yet been solved to a sufficient degree, which

applies, for example, to the access of the Slovakian minority to programmes of the national television station. There is no programme for the Slovakian minority. In contrast to this, this has been granted on Czech radio. With financial aid from the government, the Slovaks have three monthly periodicals in their native language in the Czech Republic, including *Korene (Roots)*, which is published by the Community of Slovaks. Another unsolved matter is the issue of Slovakian schools in the Czech Republic. There is only one primary school in Karviná (Northern Moravia), and this is to be closed in the

year 2000. The reason stated is the lack of interest on the part of parents. Finally, it has to be concluded that all Slovakian governments after 1993, independent of their political convictions, have provided and still provide aid as far as it is actually possible for the Slovakian minority organisations. Since May 1999 and the 44th Congress on Nationalities in Haderslev/Denmark, the Slovaks in the Czech Republic, represented by the organisation *Obec Slovákov v Ceskej Republike*, have been regular members of FUEN.

MOIN 99: the autumn seminar of the YEN at Knivsberg youth centre in Denmark

40 delegates of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) met at the Knivsberg youth centre in Denmark from 17 to 21 Nov. 1999 for their annual autumn seminar MOIN 99.

The hosts extending the invitation were the German Youth Association for Northern Schleswig, the *Sydslesvigsk dansk Ungdom* and the North Frisian *Rökelfloose*.

Apart from workshops and workgroups on various topics like obtaining financial funds and organisation management, several speeches were also held, e.g. on the European Language Charter presented by Ms Farimah Daftary from the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). The seminar was rounded off by an excursion through the German-Danish

borderlands and a variety of accompanying events.



Faith and Faithfulness

10 years since the revolution in Timisoara, Romania, broke out

by FUEN-Vicepresident Joseph v. Komlóssy

»Ten years ago, the ongoing terrorist activities by Romanian secret police directed at the prominent protestant protagonist Laszlo Tökes triggered, in the town of Timisoara/Temesvár, a kind of solidarity among Hungarians, Romanians, Serbs and other nationalities that had never been known before in Romania. The common effort was to support Tökes in his passive resistance to communism. This solidarity ignited into a fire. It not only engulfed the town, but swept through the whole country, inspiring the population to hope for the removal of Ceausescu, his hated regime and communism, and to look forward to a pluralistic and democratic society.

The development towards a democracy under the rule of law and efforts towards economic integration proved time-consuming and complex. Apart from the accomplishments, attention was drawn to the difficulties in finding satisfactory solutions to the urgent needs of the Hungarian minority. This mainly concerns:

- setting up a Hungarian-language university
- return of property to all Christian churches
- repeal of the obligation to teach history and geography in the Romanian language at Hungarian schools.

The celebration in Timisoara lasted four days. It was an honour for me to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of our organisation with a dozen state and church representatives. Amongst other things, I pointed out the importance of fully respecting human rights in general and the rights of ethnic and national minorities for Romania in the process of European integration, and of honouring the obligations made to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe by signing Opinion 176 and other Charters.«

Cultures, Languages, and Minorities in the Danish-German Border Region : Example of Conflict Resolution

"Humankind – Nature – Technology" is the motto of EXPO2000, which will take place in Hannover from 1 June to 31 October 2000.

For many people, the year 2000 is symbolic for the change to a new era. Despite some feelings of anxiety, this date also marks hopes for a better future. The world exhibition EXPO2000 is designed to make a special contribution to these hopes. As Germany is hosting the world EXPO for the first time, expectations are high. It is estimated that 40 million visitors from 150 nations will visit EXPO2000.

The goal of EXPO2000 is to provide courage to mankind in finding ways to improve the quality of life and the earth that we all live on.

ECMI and Sønderjyllands ErhervsCenter (SEC) are sponsoring a project at EXPO2000 named "Cultures, Languages, and Minorities in the Danish-German Border Region : Example of Conflict Resolution." The way that majorities and minorities live together will be a central problem in the coming century. This is demonstrated today by the conflicts in the Balkan and Caucasus regions. The example of the way that Danish, German, Sinti, Roma, Frisians and other groups in the Danish-German border area live together harmoniously can give courage and provide ideas for those who want to resolve such conflicts. The cooperative project of minorities in the border region demonstrates how peoples of various cultures and languages can live together harmoniously, even though relations remain susceptible to fragilities and uncertainties. The goal of the cooperative project is to bring together the manifold activities of the individual minorities, in order to strengthen integration in the border region, and to present them to a world audience. One central component of the project is language acquisition. Language is a crucial means for finding self-conception and for keeping culture alive. Bilingual education is often the foundation for preserving minority identity. The models presented here also invite the majority to participate. <http://www.ecmi.de/about/expo2000.htm>

Job Opportunities at the European Centre for Minority Issues

• Director of the ECMI • Research Associate at the ECMI

The European Centre for Minority Issues is an independent scientific centre established by agreement between the governments of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. ECMI's aim is to promote interdisciplinary research on various dimensions of minority-majority relations in a European perspective. The working language of the Centre is English.

Job description

The Director is, in co-operation with the Executive Board, responsible for the management of the Centre. Requirements include a high academic profile in minority-majority relations, with experience in leading research positions. A practical background in conflict management would be an asset.

The Research Associate should be able to cover the fields of international law, minority rights and human rights. Requirements include a suitable academic profile and expertise, preferably with an emphasis on south-eastern Europe.

Applications

Applications should include a c.v., full professional details, a complete list and sample of publications, and be addressed to Ambassador Peter Dyvig, Chairman of the ECMI Executive Board, c/o Astrid Voss, Schiffbruecke 12, 24939 Flensburg, Germany, no later than 31 January 2000.

The Board and a scientific committee will evaluate the applications according to the demands of the positions.

For further information, please contact

Ms. A. Voss
at voss@ecmi.de.
<http://www.ecmi.de>
<http://www.ecmi.de/jobs.htm>



Help FUEN!

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

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

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

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

AVAILABLE

STATUS REPORTS

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

FUEN-Now ACTUEL

With brief features on:

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

DOCUMENTATIONS

42nd Congres of Nationalities Pörtlach/A	1997
43rd Congres of Nationalities Prague/CZ	1998
44th Congres of Nationalities Haderslev/DK	1999

FUEN / OSCE-CONFERENCES

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

RESOLUTIONS

• of the FUEN Assembly of Delegates

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