



25 + 60 YEARS YEN & FUEN

/ WE ARE - LIVING DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

**60 YEARS FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES
FUEN JUBILEE CONGRESS BRUSSELS 2009**

President
of the European commission
Mr José Manuel Barroso
B - 1049 Brussels / Belgium

Flensburg,
28/10/2009

Dear Mr President Barroso,

Europe grows together; and we, Europeans from many different regions of our continent, would like to thank you for your efforts.

We – FUEN (the Federal Union of European Nationalities) – represent 86 member organisations in 32 states of Europe – from the Sami in the north to the Bretons in France, from the Frisians in the Netherland to the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine. National minorities like the Hungarians in Romania or the Danes in Germany are also part of our community, just like the Sorbs, Rhaetians – people that did not establish a state of their own.

This letter, together with the resolution that was adopted at our Assembly of Delegates of 2 October 2009, is sent to you from our jubilee congress in Brussels – FUEN celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2009.

The situations of the European minorities show a heterogeneous picture. In some regions an exemplary coexistence between minorities and majorities developed. But elsewhere many minorities have to struggle for their survival. At this very moment a silent dying of European languages and cultures is going on, which can only be averted by a clear change of direction in minority policy.

According to research each seventh European or circa 100 million people in Europe belong to an autochthonous minority or speak a minority language.

We follow the developments in Europe with great concern and see an abandonment of minority protection and its significance. There is a tendency to move away from the standards that have been reached.

FUEN can be your partner – with a direct connection to those involved and with much practical experience. A balanced perspective is what we stand for. There are solutions for settlements between minorities and majorities – there are encouraging examples in Europe. However, both sides have to take some steps and a dialogue on a par must take place.

Dear Mr President Barroso, we count on your support and hope you will continue to enter in such dialogue between minorities and majorities.

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We take the liberty to enclose the resolution on creating a specific remit for minority issues within the European Commission along with European Charter for the autochthonous national minorities, our FUEN document of principles.

I send you the best wishes on behalf of our 86 members and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With kind regards,

Hans Heinrich Hansen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hans H. Hansen', written in a cursive style.

FUEN-President