

Editor: The Presidium
FUEV Generalsekretariat
Schiffbrücke 41
D - 24939 Flensburg
Tel. ++49 - 461 - 12 8 55
Fax ++49 - 461 - 18 07 09
EMail info@fuen.org
Website http://www.fuen.org



now ACTUEL

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

Composition:
Frank Nickelsen
Printer:
Sydslesvigsk Forening

Internal News:

Inadequate Minority Protection in Europe!

This year, the 46th FUEN Nationalities Congress, which took place from 24th to 26th May 2001 in Heerenveen (Netherlands), once again drew over 200 delegates from more than 70 European national minority organisations, politicians and scientists as well as others with an interest in minority issues. The hospitality of the FUEN member organisation Ried fan de Fryske Beweging and the presence of important political figures from both the Dutch (Ms Diuwke de GRAAFF NAUTA), the Friesian provincial government (Deputierte Dr. AJ Bertus MULDER) the

speech, FUEN President Romedi Arquint (Switzerland) pointed out that the subject would be dominated by the ideology of national security for as long as people spoke of majorities and national minorities and failed to make the preservation and fostering of linguistic and cultural diversity as Europe's historic heritage the central issue.

Arquint's original speech available. Just click into: <http://www.fuen.org/Seiten/eactuel76.html>

The retiring High Commissioner for National

and called for international legal instruments of greater scope; he went on to outline

The delegates' assembly concerned itself with regular



During a panel discussion chaired by the Austrian Slovenian Karel Smolle of the Austrian institute for national groups, Österreichisches Volksgruppeninstitut, representatives of the Roma in Germany (Romani Rose), of the Friesians in the Netherlands (Prof. Dr. Durk Gorter), of the Slovenians in Italy (Dr. Bernard Spacapan) and of FUEN (Romedi Arquint) reported on what had been achieved to date (see picture 2601.jpeg). Criticism was expressed particularly with regard to the co-operation of the states with the organisations of the national groups concerned on the ratification of the framework convention for the protection of national minorities and the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages. However, even in the European Council and other international institutions, the national and international organisations of the national minorities are barely included in the decision-making processes, and then only marginally.

the proposal put forward by the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council for a supplementary protocol to the Declaration of Human Rights which would lay down enforceable rights for the members of national minorities.

Russian minorities now FUEN members!

business. After the retirement of the long-standing cofounder, president and vice president, Breton Per Le Moine, the committee re-elected for a three-year period now comprises a Rhaetian from Switzerland (Romedi Arquint), a German North Schleswiger from Denmark (Hans Heinrich Hansen), a Sorb from Germany (Dr. Lud-

FUEN – Member organisations evaluate State reports regarding the Language Charter

Within the framework of the present situation of the national minorities during the 46th Congress of Nationalities from 23-27 in Heerenveen (see photo), the FUEN received a proposal, which the FUEN-Presidium and its Secretariat are willing to adopt.

The task is to collect evaluations of the FUEN – Member organisations relating to the State reports regarding the European Charter of Regional- or Minority languages in order to create a summarized report of FUEN which should be distributed to the responsible Committee of the Council of Europe.

A couple of weeks ago the FUEN – Member organisations in those states, which have ratified the charter, were requested to fill in a questionnaire to evaluate the first State reports regarding the Charter.

The summarized FUEN-report will be available as soon as possible

municipality of Heerenveen (Frans BOUWERS) and the new president of the Ried fan de Fryske Beweging, Jaap VAN DER BIJ were an expression of the significance allotted to the peaceful co-existence of the majority with the Friesian ethnic minority in that country.

The congress in Heerenveen defined the exact present location of national minorities in Europe. In his opening

Minorities of the OSCE, Max van der Stoep, referred in his speech held by his personal advisor, Mr. Carl Salicath, to what had been achieved so far and to the many unsolved problems still facing the international community (see picture 2604.jpeg). Lluís Maria de Puig, vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council (Gerona) gave a comprehensive analysis with regard to "Western Europe"

FUEN-Congress of Nationalities 2002 in Subotica / Serbia

The 47th FUEN-Congress of Nationalities will be taking place in SUBOTICA/Vojvodina from 08 to 12 May 2002. It will be the first time that FUEN has organised its congress in Serbia. Preliminary talks for the preparation will be held with the board of the FUEN-memberorganisation »Demokratski Savez Hrvata u Vojdonini« (<http://www.dshv.org>) who will be the hosts.

wig Elle), a South Tyrolean from Italy (Dr. Bruno Hosp), a Croat from Serbia (Bela Tonkovic) and a representative of the Hungarian minorities living in Switzerland (Joseph v. Komlóssy).

Organisations of Russian minority groups in Estonia, Latvia Ukraine and the Estonian Union of National Minorities in Estonia were for

the first time admitted as members in Heerenveen. The

increase in members to a total of 45 ordinary and 30 associated members, who come in particular from states of the former Communist Bloc, make FUEN probably the largest and most representative umbrella organisation although its financial resources do greatly limit our scope of action.

In addition to the main resolution, the delegates' assembly approved various appeals made by the Meskhetian Turks in Russia and Georgia, the Nogai in Russia, the Dolomite Ladins in Italy, the Aromanians in the Balkan states, various minorities in Russia and the Carpatho-Rusins in the Ukrai-

ne. All resolutions available. Just klick into: <http://www.fuen.org/Seiten/rese2001.html>

By setting up the advisory committee, both FUEN and NGOs along with state representatives underlined their willingness to enter into

constructive co-operation without which minority issues cannot be satisfactorily addressed and solved. The congress and delegates' assembly were rounded off by a final trip on board across the Frisian See.



The advisory committee set up in June 2000 in Komarno, Slovakia held its first session. The president, Dr. Herbert KNOBLICH, parliamentary president of the German state of Brandenburg, welcomed numerous parliamentary and government representatives of countries in which FUEN organisation members live. The committee is an informal body for the exchange of information and ideas which will advise and support the activities of FUEN.

Press announcement by the Presiding Committee of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

The Federal Union of European Nationalities has always followed the developments in the Sorbian educational system with great interest and has declared its solidarity with the demands of Domowina, the Sorbian school society and the parent's initiative in Chrostwitz. The President of FUEN, Romedi Arquint, directed a letter last year to the Saxon state minister for culture, Dr Rösler, calling for the number of Sorbian schools to be preserved. The wholesale reply he received at that time was sobering and unsatisfactory. At this year's FUEN congress, the delegate of Domowina again informed the representatives of the European nationalities and the representatives of European politics about the threat to the Sorbian school network. The delegates confirmed their solidarity with the demands of the Sorbs.

The educational system plays a major role in European minority policies. There is consensus that minority schools are not only an important guarantee for the preservation and progressive development of the language, but are also a yardstick for judging minority policy as regards how honest and how much in the interests of the minority it is. Losses occurring in the school system cannot be replaced by other fields or other measures. On the contrary, they are followed also by losses in other parts of the ethnic groups' lives.

An important principle in European minority policy is that the problems of minorities cannot be treated with the same means or methods as those of the majority population. In the European Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, also ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany, states engage to promote equality for the majority and minority in all areas of life, with the special problems of the minority receiving particular attention. The decisions made by the Saxon cultural ministry and the Dresden administration court obviously ignore this principle.

The reasons for the decisions on the Chrostwitz secondary school and the Sorbian school network in general solely contain technical arguments and numbers of pupils. It is stated that there are no alternatives. However, these are in fact political decisions. But in politics, alternatives are always possible. In Europe, and also in the Federal Republic of Germany, there are solutions for German minorities which are more in the interests of the pupils and parents affected.

A positive fundamental attitude to the special requirements and conditions of the Sorbian minority; an honest will to contribute to preserving the language, culture and identity; flexibility in searching for and designing alternatives and democratic interaction with those affected could lead to finding a solution to the conflict in the interests of preserving the Sorbian schools.

The Federal Union of European Nationalities continues to support all efforts towards retaining the Sorbian secondary school in Chrostwitz and the Sorbian school network in Lusatia.

Conference on Minority Rights Implementation Mechanisms

from 30 November to 03 December 2001 at the European Academy Sankelmark

The FUEN (<http://www.fuen.org>) plans a conference in cooperation with the European Centre for Minority Issues ECMI (<http://www.ecmi.de>) and the European Academy Sankelmark (<http://www.eash.de>) on »Minority Rights Implementation Mechanisms«, in order to demonstrate to the national minorities the present situation of minority rights.

The aim of the conference is to create a documentation in which the Implementation Mechanisms will be included.

The organisers will invite

Minority Seminar in Belgrade

The Council of Europe and the Federal Ministry for Minority Issues of the Yugoslavian Government organised a seminar on 11-12 June 2001 regarding the European Charter for Regional- or Minority Languages in Belgrade. The Council of Europe was represented by Rolf GOSSMANN, expert for national minorities, Elda MORENO, Secretary in the office for the Implementation of the Charter and Eduardo RUIZ, expert. Since Yugoslavia ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe on 11 May 2001, it will also sign the European Charter for Regional- or Minority Languages.

The first day of the conference was attended by representatives and civil servants of the Yugoslavian Government. The day after a number of representatives of national minorities and NGO's were invited. The FUEN was represented by its Vicepresident, Mr. Bela

Subsidies for Danes and Frisians to be cut

The state government of Schleswig-Holstein has announced that subsidies for the Danish and Frisian minorities are to be cut by approx. 20% in the coming year. These cutbacks would affect the Danish education system and the agricultural association especially hard. Leading Danish politicians have indicated that if the state government were to retain this policy, it would also have a negative effect on the good

relationship with the neighbouring state of Denmark. Denmark already pays the majority of the subsidies for the Danish minority and for the German minority in North Schleswig (DK). The political representation of the Danes and the Frisians, the South-Schleswig Association of Voters (SSW) is threatening consequences for the so far good cooperation between SSW and the state government.

scientists, representatives from international Human Rights Departments (United Nations, OSCE, EU, Council of Europe, Council of Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe etc.), and the representatives of the national minorities themselves.

Regarding the amount of accommodation of the European Academy Sankelmark, the organisers invite the speakers and up to 40 representatives of the national minorities from 30 different states. 40 is exactly the number of ordinary FUEN-member organisations.

TONKOVIC (see photo) who also is the chairman of the Democratic Union of Croats in the Voivodina. In the Round Table discussion it came to light, that there are a lot of deficits of information regarding both instruments of the Council of Europe. Furthermore attention was drawn to the fact that the Yugoslavian Government is not consistent in minority issues: The international level is laudable, but the national level remains where it was under the Milosevic regime. FUEN-Vicepresident, Mr. Bela TONKOVIC reminded of the law of the court of constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which forbids the official use of the Croatian Language and the use of Hungarian signs in the municipality of Subotica. Furthermore Mr. TONKOVIC drew attention to the fact that the Parliament of the Province Voivodina did not adopt the introduction of Croatian as one of the official languages.

Slovakia ratifies language charter

Slovakia now also ratified the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in September. It is due to take effect from 1 January next year. The Charter has already become valid in 14 European states and another 12 have signed it.

Criticism of Denmark's minority policy

Denmark does not adequately protect its minorities, according to a delegation from the Council of Europe. Although Denmark has ratified the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities for the German minority in North Schleswig, the Faroese, Greenlanders, Sinti and Roma are still excluded from the convention.

New cultural attaché at KDV

The KDV (Carpathian-German society) has a new cultural attaché. Lenka Kollarova, 25, hails from Kosice and concluded her studies of German in 1999. The former German teacher intends to place her major focus on working with Carpathian-German youngsters.

Ombudsman Prof. Jenö Kaltenbach re-elected



On 20th June 2001 the Hungarian Parliament re-elected the present Ombudsman for ethnic groups and national minorities, Prof. Kaltenbach, for six years. The State President of the Republic of Hungary, Prof. Dr. Ferenc Mádl referred to the joint letter of all 13 Self-Governing authorities of January 2001.

The FUEN also (among others also the Germans and Romanians in Hungary) is very happy about Kaltenbach's re-election. A couple of days ago FUEN-President Mr. Romedi Arquint wrote a letter to the State President of the Republic of Hungary, Prof. Mádl and drew attention to the fact, that Prof. Kaltenbach is respected by a number of ethnic groups and national minorities as well as by the Hungarian and international public.

Per Le Moine 75!

Per Le Moine, founding member, former President and for many years a member of the FUEN Presiding Committee is looking forward to his 75th birthday on 4 August.

Mr Le Moine celebrated his retirement during the 46th FUEN Congress on Nationalities from 23-27 May 2001 in Heerenveen.

Armin Nickelsen, for many years FUEN General Secretary, held the laudatory speech for Mr Le Moine. Here a few excerpts:

».....When FUEN was founded in Versailles near Paris in 1949, Per Le Moine, a young student of architecture at the University of Paris, was an interested participant and attentive listener. Pierre Le Moine represented the Breton ethnic group and, from the outset, was involved in asserting rights for the Bretons, for the preservation of the Breton language and culture.

.... Pierre Le Moine was dedicated to FUEN for more than half a century and served the union loyally, first from 1965 to 1969 as President of the FUEN Young Commission and later from 1986 to 1990 as FUEN President, and several decades as FUEN Vice-President to this very day!

.... In many situations when tensions within FUEN arose, Pierre Le Moine acted as an honest negotiator, a skilled mediator, who repeatedly impressed on the groups in dispute that we only have a chance in solidarity to represent FUEN to the outside world and gain recognition and attention in Europe.«



Congratulations from FUEN!

The Cornish in the south-west of Great Britain

The Cornish are at home on the peninsula of Cornwall in the extreme south-west of Great Britain and have Truro as their district capital.

History

After the Romans departed, Cornwall first came under Saxon influence. During the Norman invasion Cornwall became a county and the, since 1337, a duchy. Early modern history was marked by several rebellions and wars. In 1549 the introduction of English church services was rejected in the Prayer Book Rebellion. An offer to provide an official translation of the prayer books into Cornish could not pacify the Catholic militants. The Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 also ended in bloodshed. As industrialisation approached the mines in particular experienced a sudden upswing and were the basis for Cornwall's



Cornish Stannary Parliament: General Secretary Rodney Nute (left) and the Officer for European Affairs, Mr. Dr Nigel Hicks.

economy for more than a hundred years. In the mid-19th century the tin and copper mines, deep and cost-intensive compared to the colonies overseas, became too expensive and mining declined drastically. The last mines are now closed. Many Cornish miners emigrated to America and Australia..

The language

Cornish (Kernuak) is a Celtic language and closely related to Breton and Welsh, the so-called 'p' languages. Since the Reformation the number of native speakers has continually declined. Only few people were able to understand Cornish around 1750 and the language became extinct in the 19th century. Efforts have been made to preserve Cornish or at least document it since the end of the 17th century. Excerpts from the Bible and other scripts were translated. Nicholas Boson and his children should be particularly mentioned here as his works laid the basis for the textbook Cornish for All published 200 years later in 1929 by Robert Morton Nance. In actual fact, the already extinct language has successfully been revived.

Today there are again children who speak Cornish as their native tongue. Courses in Cornish are provided throughout the region. There are even complete language courses on the Internet (www.clas.demon.co.uk/html/online_course.htm). The legal status of the Cornish language is minimal. Great Britain has not included Cornish in the protection provided by the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.



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

Slovakia	1996/97
Carpathian region	1996-03
Crimean Tartars	1996-10
Former Yugoslavia	1998-03
Georgia	1998-11
The Aromanians	1999-03
Montenegro & Kosovo	1999-07
Azerbaijan & Georgia	1999-10
Georgia	2000-10

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
No. 70 Slovaks in the Czech Republic	1999-12
No. 72 Hungarians in Slovakia	2000-03
Nr. 73 Scanians in Sweden	2000-09
Nr. 75: Russians in Latvia	2001-04
Nr. 75: Russians in the Ukraine	2001-04
Nr. 75: Russians in Estonia	2001-04
Nr. 76: Friesians in the Netherlands	2001-06
Nr. 76: Friesen in Germany	2001-06
Nr. 77: Cornish in Great Britain	2001-10

DOCUMENTATIONS

42nd Congres of Nationalities Pörschach/A	1997-05
43rd Congres of Nationalities Prague/CZ	1998-05
44th Congres of Nationalities Haderslev/DK	1999-05
45th Congres of Nationalities Komarno/SK	2000-06
46th Congres of Nationalities Hererenveen	2001-05

CONFERENCES

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

PRESS RELEASES

http://www.fuen.org/Seiten/d_press.html

50 YEARS FUEN

The History of FUEN 1949-2000

FUEV - GENERALSEKRETARIAT

Schiffbrücke 41 • D - 24939 Flensburg
0049-461-12 8 55 • 0049-461-18 07 09 Fax
info@fuen.org • <http://www.fuen.org>