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now ACTUEL

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

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## Internal News:

### FUEN-Delegation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

A couple of days ago a delegation of the Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, which consisted of President Romedi ARQUINT, Vicepresident Dr. Ludwig ELLE and its Executive Secretary Frank NICKELSEN travelled to Subotica,

hosts of the a/m congress will be the Demokratski Savez Hrvata u Vojvodini (Democratic Union of Croats in the Vojvodina). Its chairman, Bela TONKOVIC - also FUEN-Vicepresident - took the opportunity, to organize a



Mr. Arquint, Mr. Elle and Mr. Tonkovic chaired the press conference.

Novi Sad and Belgrade in order to focus on the present situation of the national minorities in Yugoslavia just one year after the fall of the Milosevic-Regime. The visit was also the preparation work for the next 47th FUEN Congress of Nationalities, which will be held from 08 - 12 May 2001 in Subotica. The

seminar for all national minorities living in the Vojvodina (Hungarians, Croats, Ukrainians, Ruthenes, Slovaks, Germans and Gypsies). This conference ended with a press conference.

Furthermore the FUEN-delegation held first talks with the municipality of Subotica,



From left to right: Romedi Arquint (FUEN), Jelena Markovic and Dr. Agnes Kartag-Odri (Federal Ministry of National and Ethnic Communities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), Dr. Ludwig Elle (FUEN), Interpreter and Bela Tonkovic (FUEN).

the Autonomous Province of the Vojvodina and the Government in Belgrade. All official representatives of the

country welcomed the a/m congress and promised any help in the framework of preparation work.



### FUEV-Advisory committee meeting in Bozen/Bolzano

The advisory committee set up in June 2000 in Komarno, Slovakia held its last session on 10th November 2001 in Bozen/Bolzano (South Tyrol). New President of this informal group is the Commissioner for Minority Issues in Schleswig-Holstein / Germany, Ms Renate Schnack (see photo)

#### 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.



Commissioner for Minority Issues in Schleswig-Holstein, Ms Renate Schnack

## Non-Governmental Organisations from Macedonia visit the FUEN

On initiative by Project Leader Ms. Farimah DAFTARY from the European Centre for Minority issues ECMI (<http://www.ecmi.de>), a couple of days ago the FUEN was visited by Non-Governmental Organisations from Macedonia. FUEN-Executive Secretary Frank NICKELSEN presented to those NGO's the aims and the work of the FUEN.

The group (see photo) consisted of 10 representatives of non-governmental organisations from Macedonia who were in Flensburg for a brainstorming meeting on 20-21 October on the strategy and further development of the "ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia."

This Network is the result of the project "NGO Roundtable on Interethnic Relations in FYR

Macedonia" launched by ECMI in December 2000 and funded through a generous grant by the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FRESTA- Secretariat for Peace and Stability) and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The overall aim of this project is to foster constructive discussion between domestic NGOs in Macedonia on the question of inter-ethnic relations in order to identify common ground for action. In addition to establishing an NGO Network in Macedonia, this initiative seeks to encourage the development of joint projects between member NGOs of the network which will benefit their local communities, irrespective of ethnic background. The ECMI will assist NGOs in the evaluation of these projects and in seeking sources of funding with the international community.



In the framework of a visit in Macedonia in the beginning of December, FUEN President

Romedi ARQUINT will take the opportunity to meet those Non-Governmental Organisations.

Vorsitzende der Foriining for nationale Friiske, Jörgen Jensen Hahn:

## »»Germany would today stand no chance of being admitted to the EU«



Jörgen Jensen Hahn

»The Federal Republic evades its responsibility to the Frisians. At the congress 'Lingual diversity and democracy in Germany' in Berlin on 16 and 17 November held by the Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz (alliance for democracy and tolerance) and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Chairman of the Foriining for nationale Friiske, Jörgen Jensen Hahn (see photo), criticised the policy of the Federal Republic concerning the old-established minorities in Germany: 'In recent years some things have been done in Germany to promote the minorities, but we are still far away from being able to consider the situation for the Frisians reasonable. On the contrary, the cultural and lingual diversity in North Frisia is being starved as the state does not afford adequate support to foster the Frisian language. We risk cultural poverty that a

Central European land is not worthy of. Thus the threat of lingual decimation has to be prevented'. Hahn particularly drew attention to the fact that the old-established Frisian minority is in need of collective rights, to which it can refer. 'The members of the Frisian minority are taxpayers like all the other citizens in our state and have a legitimate right to a basic culture,' Hahn continued and called for an equal status for the Frisian's as the German minorities abroad have.

The chairman of Foriining also stated: 'Democracy also means that the minorities have to be actively protected and promoted by the state. This primarily means that adequate economic conditions have to be created for the Frisians and that legal security for the minorities is laid down in the German constitution.'

Finally, Hahn quoted the position in Germany as follows: 'In the European languages league, Germany is risking relegation as far as the Frisian language goes:

- 3 minutes of radio per week on public radio—the last place in Europe
- no TV programmes in the Frisian language—the last place
- Frisian lessons only in single classes and work groups—the last place in Europe
- minimal financial support—the last place in Europe.

»Germany would today stand no chance of being admitted to the EU«

More about the Frisians: <http://www.fuen.org/Seiten/aktuel76.html>

## FUEN-Presidium on XII European Congress on Ethnic Minorities in Carinthia

At the invitation of the Carinthian Government and the Carinthian Institute for Ethnic Minorities CIFEM, the FUEN-Presidium took the opportunity to take part in the annual European Congress on Ethnic Minorities in Carinthia from 27 - 29 September 2001 in Ossiach. The Congress, which regarded the topic »Learning languages - Living languages« was opened by a speech on basic principles by FUEN-President

Romedi Arquint (the speech is available at the FUEN-Secretariat). The FUEN-Presidium, which held its regular meeting in Ossiach, also held advisory talks to its members in Austria in general and the Carinthian Slovenes in particular. Furthermore the contact to the Carinthian Institute for Ethnic Minorities with its representatives Prof. Reiterer and Dr. Anderwald were improved and projects planned.

## Solidarity 'Silver Rose 2001' presented to Rudolf Sarközi

On 17 October 2001 the solid 'Silver Rose 2001' was awarded under the auspices of MEP Glenys Kinnock and EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Anna Diamantopoulou, in the presence of numerous delegates and journalists at the European Parliament in Brussels. This award is to honour the exceptional achievements of an individual or organisation in matters relating to civil society and in struggling for a fairer and more just society.



One of this year's winners is a representative of the FUEN member organisation Cultural Society of the Austrian Roma, Rudolf Sarközi (see photo). Sarközi's involvement for his ethnic group has decisively contributed to the Roma and Sinti being recognised as a national minority. He advises officials and staff of the People's Aid in Austria on issues concerning ethnic minorities, integration and anti-discrimination.

The Cultural Society of Austrian Roma has been a member of FUEN since 1997 and is regularly represented at FUEN congresses by Rudolf Sarközi.

## Annual Meeting of the Workshop of German national minorities in the FUEN from 11 - 14 October 2001 in the European Academy Sankelmark / Schleswig-Holstein

The workshop of German national minorities in the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) held its 11th meeting. This workshop was established on the initiative of the German Ministry for Internal Affairs in 1991 in Budapest as an informal workshop, including all those organisations within the FUEN, the umbrella organisation of national minorities and ethnic groups in Europe, which regard themselves as German minority organisations. The

topic will be MINORITIES in the EUROPEAN PROCESS.

The event was opened by

- FUEN-Vicepresident Hans Heinrich HANSEN,
- Deputy Head of Section, in the German Ministry for Internal Affairs, Mr. Roland DUBYK,
- the Commissioner to the Minister of the Land Schleswig-Holstein for Minority Affairs, Ms. Renate SCHNACK and the Director of the European Academy Sankelmark /

Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Rainer PELKA.

Mr. Rolf FISCHER, Member of Parliament in Schleswig-Holstein and chairman of the European-Committee held a speech on basic

principles and Mr. Uwe PAULS focused on the Charter of Regional or Minority Languages from the Government of the Schleswig-Holstein's point of view.

### The German minority in Denmark registered a slight drop in the number of votes during the elections

The »Schleswigsche Partei (SP)«, the political organisation of the German minority registered a slight drop in the number of votes during the local and district elections in Denmark on 20 November 2001.

In the district elections the SP received 4.420 votes - 119 fewer than in 1997. This resulted in the SP receiving one mandate in the district council.

In the local elections the SP received 4.037 votes (in 1997: 4.160).

The chairman of the SP, Gerhard MAMMEN, says »We set ourselves a high target. We wanted to be

established as a regional party. We are still on the right track, but we hoped for a better result. We will continue our work«

From the SP's point of view, the linking of the regional elections with the Danish Parliament (Folketing) was the main reason for the bad result.

Other more nationwide topics, e.g. how to deal with refugees and foreigners were the most discussed topics. Other topics had no chance to be discussed.

More information available Just klick on to the <http://www.nordschleswig.dk>

### FUEN is organising a Minority Seminar in Latvia

Olgerts TIPANS, personal advisor of the president of Latvia in minority-, human rights and religion issues,



Photo from left to right: Hansen, Interpreter, Tipans

visited the FUEN-Secretariat a couple of days ago. Vicepresident Hans Heinrich Hansen and Executive Secretary Frank Nickelsen presented to the Latvian State representative the aims and the work of the FUEN. It was decided to organise a seminar for national minorities in Latvia - especially on account of the fact that Russians in Latvia became FUEN-members during the last FUEN-Congress of Nationalities in Heerenveen. In the framework of his visit to Flensburg, Mr. TIPANS also visited the European Centre for Minority Issues ECMI.

### Conference on Minority Rights Implementation Mechanisms in Sankelmark

From 30 November - 03 December 2001 the FUEN (<http://www.fuen.org>) organised 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.

Mechanisms«, in order to demonstrate to the national minorities the present situation of minority rights.

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

Regarding the amount of accommodation of the European Academy Sankelmark, the organisers invited 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.

The organisers invited scientists, representatives from international Human Rights Depart-



Participants: Valeri Dill from Kirgistan, Alexander Dederer from Kazakstan and Dr. Harry August from Georgia.

## Annual meeting of the workshop of Slavonic national minorities in the FUEN from 18 - 21 October 2001 in Kromeriz / Czech Republic

The FUEN-member organisation »Obec Slováků v České republice (the Slovaks in the Czech Republic) and the Council of Lusatian Sorbs »Zwjazk Luziskich Serbow Domowina« organise the annual meeting for Slavonic national minorities in the Federal Union of European Nationalities. The topics of these annual meetings change regularly and are evaluated correspondingly. The main topic of the annual session will focus on »The National Minorities and the State - Minority in the Majority« The seminar was opened by the President of the FUEN, Mr. Romedi Arquint.

The participants came from Austria, Estonia, FR of Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, FR of Yugoslavia and the Czech Republic.

### Dr Harry Augst new president of the Germans in Georgia

Dr Harry Augst (see photo), new elected President of the Organisation of Germans in Georgia helped us very much to organise our missions in Georgia (see Fact Finding Missions 1998-2000) and accompanied us most of the time. His organisation »the German Association EINUNG« was founded in 1991, has about 2.000 members; additional there are Georgians who feel attached to the German language and Culture as associated members.

The German minority has no schools of its own. At the time being, there are 15 language courses for members (supported by the German Foreign Office). Although, Einung maintains a German kindergarten "Veilchen" (Violet) and a youth theatre studio, where German fairy tales are performed.



The judicial problem of the return of the Germans who had been deported during World War Two is still unsolved; the law of repatriation that has to be elaborated for the Meskhetians would therefore concern the Germans, too.

Before World War II, about 40.000 Germans lived in Georgia. As in Azerbaidshan, all Germans and members of mixed marriages with a German husband were deported on decree of Stalin during the last world war. Therefore, nearly only descendants of German women married to non-German husbands are to be found in Georgia. Never the less, the feeling of being of German origin is still strong, as well as Lutheran religion.

The a/m Fact-Finding-Missions are available at the FUEN-Secretariat (address see below)



## 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/pages/english/e\\_5a\\_2002.html](http://www.fuen.org/pages/english/e_5a_2002.html)

### 50 YEARS FUEN

The History of FUEN 1949-2000

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