

RESOLUTION

Schäft qwant - Trans-national association for Yenish cooperation and cultural exchange

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) adopted the following resolution in Hotel des Nordens in Flensburg, Germany, on 10 May 2014:

Out of respect for their indigenous, autochthonous culture and way of life the Yenish should be recognised on the national and transnational political levels as a separate ethnic group under their own name of “Yenish”. The current practice of particular national authorities to conceive the specific minority of the Yenish as “a group also represented by the Roma”, or according to the common parlance of the majority population and disregarding the individual way of life and traditions, joining them together with other minorities and generic social groups into pejorative and exclusive categories such as “Travellers”, “gens du voyage”, “Fahrende” etcetera, shall no longer be tolerated. Specifically, the obligations from the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities shall be consistently applied in relation to the Yenish too.

Article 3, paragraph 1

Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

Article 5, paragraph 1

The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

Article 12, paragraph 1

The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

Because of its pan-European character and transnational dimension the Yenish language shall be promoted and preserved both by the individual states and by the supranational institutions, in accordance with the text and intention of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The diversity of the Yenish idioms in different European language areas requires comprehensive protection and support on regional level; the common language basis shall be supported as a central element for the preservation and promotion of the transnational Yenish culture.

The Yenish shall have a determining say in all the research projects that focus on them and they have to be involved in all the decision processes and institutions on cultural and policy level that concern them.