



FUEN

FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES
FÖDERALISTISCHE UNION EUROPÄISCHER VOLKSGRUPPEN
ФЕДЕРАЛИСТСКИЙ СОЮЗ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ МЕНЬШИНСТВ
UNION FÉDÉRALISTE DES COMMUNAUTÉS ETHNIQUES EUROPÉENNES

To the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin

To Prime Minister of Russian Federation

To the Federal Ministry of Regional Development

To the City Municipality of Moscow

To the Organizations of the ethnic minorities of the Russian Federation

To the heads of National Cultural Autonomies of the Russian Federation

Declaration by the Federal Union of European Nationalities

supported by the Society for threatened People International

Preamble

In its self-conception as civil-society representative organisation, FUEN is active for all the autochthonous minorities of Europe. In doing so, the biggest pan-European umbrella organisation with 90 members in 32 European countries, has a special focus on the interests of the regional and minority languages. Linguistic diversity and the preservation of languages in Europe were the main topics of the annual congress of the FUEN in the Russian capital of Moscow from 16 – 20 May. About 170 participants from 30 minorities attended the largest meeting of the autochthonous, national minorities from all over Europe. As a result of this Congress we propose to appeal to the state administration of the Russian Federation and to the public:

- I. FUEN calls upon the government of the Russian Federation to provide for more recognition of the minority language-speaking people in Russian Federation. The Russian Federation should be committed to human rights as a fundamental value of human existence. Ethnic minority rights in general and especially in the field of mother tongue education (also for ethnic minorities outside the national Republics, Counties and Rayons¹ as well as for those peoples, who do not have a national administration subject of their own (like the Shore people of Southern Siberia) should be respected.

The federal, regional and municipal authorities should pay strong attention to the issues of ethnic minorities protection, promoting their languages, widening the spheres of their presence und support this process materially and spiritually.

- II. The implementation of the Law for the Rehabilitation of Formerly Deported People should proceed in an earnest and sustainable way. The Russian Federation should recognize certain peoples, who were yet not on the official list of formerly deported peoples of RF and peoples, who where just partially deported (like the Kumyks from the Tarki area and the Laks from the Turtshi area in the Northern Caucasus).

¹ For instance instead abolishing the Tatar National Schools outside the Republic of Tatarstan they should assist.



- III. FUEN calls on the representatives of the ethnic minorities organizations of the RF to join the activities of FUEN as the main pan-European forum on interethnic issues. FUEN is calling for sufficient basic funding of cultural associations of the ethnic minorities of RF.
- IV. FUEN is calling on all ethnic minorities' organizations of the RF to join the civic action in cooperation with European Parliament on a European Minority Citizens' Initiative as well as to join the FUEN-platform for language diversity RML2future.
- V. FUEN appeals for awareness in the different media of the Russian Federation not to ignore the civic actions and democratic struggle of the national minorities for reclaiming their chartered human rights².
- VI. FUEN calls upon the government of the Russian federation to ratify the European Charter for Regional- or Minority Languages and adequate implementation of the aims and provisions enshrined in it.

Moscow, 19 May 2012

² Here we refer to the mass demonstrations and the Kumyk protest camp in Makhatshkala, Dagestan, this month as well as to the struggle for their minority rights by the Karachay and Balkar people.