



RESOLUTION

Sydslesvigsk Forening / the South Schleswig Association

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), at its meeting in Moscow, Russia, of 19 May 2012, adopts the following resolution

Submitted originally in the German language

Since 11 January 2012 the Danish television station TV2 has started broadcasting in an encrypted format. Therefore everyone who wants to continue receiving the station must have a subscription in the form of a paid-for smart-card.

From the perspective of the Danish minority in South Schleswig, this means that the possibility to receive the TV2-station and eventually also other television stations by cable or terrestrially (by antenna) has to be safeguarded. The main challenge is posed by national obstacles in regard to intellectual property and technical difficulties, because South Schleswig – located in Germany – is not part of the Danish territory.

For the Danish minority the cultural links between South Schleswig and Denmark are of vital importance. Only these links make it possible to maintain the Danish language, culture and identity in South Schleswig and to foster these. Therefore, the cultural-policy objective must be to uphold the possibility of receiving at least the large, nationally broadcasted Danish television networks in South Schleswig.

Fortunately the television station TV2 succeeded in establishing an agreement with Kabel Deutschland (Cable Germany) about the dissemination of its programmes. Because far from all the households in South Schleswig have access to the cable network, many people especially in rural areas are dependent on television by terrestrial means. Since 11 January they can no longer receive the TV2-signal, because the TV2-overspill has been encrypted since then. Only by acquiring a Danish smart-card, reception by antenna can be decrypted. However, it is not permitted to deliver such smart-cards to clients with a foreign address, because they normally do not fulfil certain conditions in regard to intellectual property rights.

The issue of TV2 demonstrates clearly that developments in media-policy and conditions imposed in relation with intellectual property do not match with obligations stemming from cultural policy. The Danish minority in South Schleswig is part of the Danish language and cultural area and therefore has the expectation to receive Danish television just like their kin north of the border.

The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities calls upon the European Union and the Council of Europe to take the initiative to intervene in this matter with the objective to make it possible for autochthonous minorities in the border regions of Europe to receive the television and radio-programmes of their kin-state unhindered, without obstacles in relation to intellectual property rights or technical difficulties.