

Protection of Minority Rights in Slovakia

The ELDR Council, consisting of 80 delegates from 32 parties, met in Rome under the chairmanship of Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and adopted the following resolution.

The ELDR Council,

- A. recalling the attempts made over the past years by the Prime Minister of Slovakia to expel the Democratic Union Members of the National Council of Slovakia although their election has been declared legal by the Supreme Court,
- B. gravely concerned by the introduction of the Law on the State Language which will deprive the 11 % of the population who speak Hungarian of the opportunity to use their mother tongues in official communications and in some spheres of public life,
- C. recalling that the Slovak Republic has signed a Europe agreement with the European Union, where adherence to democratic principles and respect for human rights constitute a key principle of these contractual relations,
 1. Demands that the Slovak Government comply with the Constitution of Slovakia and show respect for human, citizens and minority rights in compliance with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
 2. Demands that the Law on the State Language, as adopted on 15th November 1995, be published immediately;
 3. Requests the Council of Europe to draft a report on the Slovak Law on the State Language, assessing how it complies with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and calls on the LDR Group in the Council of Europe to promote this;
 4. Points out to the Government of Slovakia that if it continues to follow policies which show insufficient respect for democracy, human and minority rights and the rule of law, it will be necessary for the European Union to close its office in Bratislava and end the programmes of assistance and cooperation under the Europe Agreement;
 5. Instructs the Secretary-General to forward this resolution to the President and Government of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak National Council, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the LDR Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Resolution:

Protection of
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Slovakia

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Freedoms

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