



# ELECTION CHECKSTONES OF FUEN

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Dear electoral party to the European Parliament!

Dear candidates!

With over 100 member organisations in more than 35 European countries, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is the largest umbrella organisation of autochthonous national minorities/ethnic groups and language communities in Europe. Founded in Paris in 1949 – the same time as the Council of Europe - FUEN represents the interests of over 50 million EU citizens belonging autochthonous national minorities/ethnic groups at the regional, national and especially the European level.

We invite political parties and their candidates in the European elections to find solutions to our concerns at the European level and draw attention to the situation of indigenous minorities.

In order for the minorities to know the position of their different candidates regarding minority issues, we kindly ask you to forward this letter to the candidates of your party in the European elections and to ask them to answer our questions.

The answers will be forwarded to our member organisations and to the national minorities in your country, who certainly will support the candidates that best represent their concerns in the European parliament.

Yours sincerely,  
Loránt Vincze  
FUEN President

## **PROPOSALS AND QUESTIONS OF THE FUEN** **on behalf of all members of national minorities in Europe**

Dear candidate,

FUEN would like you to answer the following questions:

### **MINORITY SAFEPAK**

In 2017-2018, the FUEN collected 1,128,385 signatures for its European Citizens' Initiative called Minority SafePack (MSPI). The Minority SafePack Initiative is a package of legislative proposals with a unifying aim: to establish an EU minority rights framework. MSPI was designed to ensure the protection of national minorities and language communities through the adoption of a set of EU legal acts, which enable the promotion of minority rights, language rights and the protection of their cultures. In short, it summarises our main objectives: the protection of minorities and legislating for minorities. With the MSPI, we call on the EU to implement measures in the following areas:

Language, Education and Culture: the MSPI calls for an EU recommendation on the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, the creation or modification of funding programmes (for example Erasmus and Creative Europe) so that priority is given to less widely spoken languages and the creation of a Center for Linguistic Diversity.

Regional policy: FUEN calls for the inclusion of the protection of national minorities and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity into the objectives of the European regional and development funds. We also call for the inclusion of minorities in regional and state support programmes for the promotion of their culture, media and cultural heritage.

Audio-visual rights: FUEN wants a comprehensive European copyright law so that media and public broadcast services can be followed in the mother tongue of all citizens. We also call for a Europe-wide freedom to transmit and use audio-visual content, so that customers residing outside the licensed territory can follow the broadcasting of sports events in their mother tongue. In addition, European regulations should be adopted so that television signals from neighbouring countries can be received in the area of minorities across national borders.

→ [Please click on this link to learn more about the Minority SafePack Initiative and its proposals.](#)

**1. Are you prepared to actively support the implementation of our European Citizens' Initiative, MSPI in the European Parliament? If so, how?**



## REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES IN THE EU

In addition to the MSPI demands, our main concern is to ensure the long-term political participation of minorities and minority communities in the European multi-level system. So far, European minorities have found it difficult to participate in our EU-level decision-making processes. EU Member States with only a few hundred thousand inhabitants have their own EU Commissioner and seats in the European Parliament, while many numerically large minorities and ethnic groups with more than one million people are not represented.

**2. How could the political representation of minorities in the European institutions be guaranteed? Are you committed to working for a more minority-friendly electoral system in your Member State for the next European elections?**

## PACT BETWEEN MINORITY AND MAJORITY

With the Minority SafePack campaign, a new European movement has emerged that shows how minorities are committed to improving their cultural and linguistic diversity. That is why FUEN has created a Pact, a written agreement that we present to the majority and ask for its support of our cause, to live together in a Europe “united in diversity”. We propose a Pact between the minority and majority to start a new chapter of living together in Europe. By signing this Pact, you are committing yourself to the cause of minorities and support them their equal rights as EU citizens.

[Please click on this link for more information about the FUEN Pact between minority and majority!](#)

**3. Are you prepared to endorse this pact with the minority? Are you willing to sign it? If not, please explain why.**

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and kind responses!

Sincerely yours,

Loránt Vincze,

President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities