



53rd FUEN-Congress in Pécs / Fünfkirchen / Hungary

22 – 24 May 2008

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Publishing information

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)
President Hans Heinrich Hansen

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www.fuen.org
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Wednesday, 21 May 2008

18.00 hr *Arrival of the participants in hotels Palatinus and Patria*
Dinner and joint evening in hotel Palatinus

Thursday, 22 May 2008

09.00 hr Breakfast

10.00 hr: meet before hotel Palatinus
“Pécs - a multicultural town” – visit to minority institutions (in groups)

Visits in turns at:

1. Minority editorial offices in the regional studio of the Hungarian radio.
Visit, information and speaking with editors of the:
 - German, Croatian and Serbian programme
2. Minority editorial offices of the regional studio of the Hungarian television.
Visit, information and speaking with editors of the:
 - German and Croatian programme

3. Rácz Aladár Közösségi Ház
Cultural centre of the Roma

4. Lenau-Haus
Cultural centre of the Germans in Hungary

5. August Senoa Klub
Cultural centre of the Croats

13.30 hr: Lunch in hotel Palatinus

15.00 hr: **“Pécs – a multicultural town”** (in groups)
Pécs – European capital of culture 2010 – guided city tour

18.30 hr **Kick-off reception of the Media congress with get-together in the foyer**

19.30 hr Dinner in hotel Palatinus

- Dinner Speech Erika CSOVCSICS,
director of the Ghandi-Gymnasium high school, Pécs
- FUEN-Choir: singing together with Bernhard ZIESCH (Domowina)

Friday, 23 May 2008

09.00 hr **Opening of the congresses, welcoming words and music**

- Hans Heinrich HANSEN, president of FUEN
- Ferenc GÉMESI, State-Secretary of the government of Hungary,
- Csaba TABAJDI, MEP, chairman of the Intergroup for traditional minorities in the European Parliament
- Judit SOLYMOSI, DH-MIN committee of the Council of Europe
- Otto HEINEK, chairman of the self-government of the Germans in Hungary
- Dr. Ioan CIOTEA, chairman of the cultural union of the Romanians in Hungary
- Hester KNOL, president of the Youth of European Nationalities

- 10.00 hr **Speech**
 • Péter TASNÁDI, mayor of Pécs » Pécs – a multicultural town«
- 10.30 hr **Press conference** and coffee break
- 11.00 hr **Presentation of the Media day and the Fundamental Right to Media**
- 12.00 hr Lunch in hotel Palatinus
- 13.30 hr **Elaboration of the fundamental right to Media**
 (short speeches, workshops, discussion rounds)
- 18.00 hr: Reception by Dr. Katalin SZILI, president of the Hungarian Parliament in
 hotel Patria

Saturday, 24 May 2008

- 09.00 hr **Assembly of Delegates I**
 TOPIC 1 statement by the FUEN-president Hans Heninrich HANSEN
 • Report on the strategic programme of FUEN, the main working areas and the
 strategy of the largest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous minorities in
 Europe.
- Presentation of the Language Network and the Dialogue Forum at the
 European Parliament
- Followed by discussion / debate with the delegates
- 10.30 hr Coffee break
- 10.45 hr **Assembly of Delegates II**
 TOPIC 02 Report “Brussels-Project”
 TOPIC 03 Annual report 2007 and proposal budget 2008
 TOPIC 04 Report of the FUEN-auditors
 TOPIC 05 Report of the Youth of European Nationalities
 TOPIC 06 Motions
 TOPIC 07 Resolutions (submitted until 31 March 2008)
- 12.30 hr Lunch in hotel Palatinus
- 13.45 hr TOPIC 08 Election of the European Dialogue Forum
 TOPIC 09 Miscellaneous
- 15.45 hr **Presentation of EUROPEADA 2008**
- 17.00 hr: Excursion to the municipality of Wemend/Véménd::
- 18.00 hr: Welcome by Dr. János HARGITAI, chairman of the comitat/region Baranya
- 18.05 hr: Folklore-programme of Germans, Croats and Romanians in Hungary
- 19.00 hr: Dinner, followed by social evening
- 22.00 hr: Back to Pécs

Sunday, 25 May 2008

Departure of the participants

FUEN being guest in a multicultural town - Pécs / Fünfkirchen

Pécs (Hungarian), Fünfkirchen (German), Pečuj (Serbian), Pečuh (Croatian) was host to the 53rd congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) from 22 to 24 May 2008. With circa 250 participants from 31 countries the annual meeting of FUEN was once again the largest of its sort in Europe.

Pécs / Fünfkirchen / Pečuj / Pečuh offered an ideal surrounding for the annual congress of the European minorities. With its various minorities the town has a remarkable diversity. In 2010 Pécs will be promoted to European capital of culture.

Fünfkirchen / Pécs is also the centre of the Germans in Hungary. The FUEN congress was organised in cooperation between FUEN and the self-government of the Germans in Hungary.

History of the municipality Pécs

Pécs is one of the oldest towns of Hungary and has been inhabited since ancient times. In the era of the Romans the town, then known as Sopianae, was an important town of the province of Pannonia since the third century.

Later it was called Quinque Ecclesiae (Latin for "five churches"), from which the later German name Fünfkirchen derives. The current name of the town first was used in an official document from 1235 as Pechut (road to Pécs). In 1290 the town was already mentioned as Peech in another document.

In 1367 king Louis the Great (Nagy Lajos) established the first Hungarian university. The golden age of Pécs in the Middle Ages was in the second half of the 15th century. In this time the bishop of Pécs was Janus Pannonius, the greatest poet of the Hungarian humanism. The occupation by the Turks in the 16th and 17th century can still be noticed in several places around the town. One of the most important baroque principals was bishop Klimo who was involved in the establishment of the first public library.

In 1780 Pécs became a "free royal town". This started the civic development of the town and a boom in industry and economy. The factories that were established in the period 1850-1860

(amongst them the pottery factory of Zsolnay) were famous in the whole country and are producing down to the present day.

In 1869 the synagogue was built, in which the first Angster-organ can be visited. Also many bourgeois houses and public buildings were built: the university library, the national theatre of Pécs and the Elephant House. In this period Széchenyi square, the main square of the town was created in its current form. Pécs also exhibits works of artists from the 20th century: in the Csontvay Museum and in the Kaptalan Street (e.g. in the Vasarely Museum and the exhibition of Amerigo Tod) give you an impressive art experience. Close to the basilica is the unique monument for the martyrs of Arad.



The mosque of Gazi Kaszim pasha

As an innovation the “social day” was introduced in Pécs; an introduction to country and people at the first congress day. Amongst other things the participants visited the radio-stations of the town and talked to editors of the German, Croatian and Serbian programmes. The participants got an insight in the engagement of the minorities through visits to the cultural and community centres of the Germans, Roma and Croats. Subsequently the participants to the congress had the opportunity to do some sightseeing in Pécs / Fünfkirchen.

The Roma-community in Pécs and the difficulties which the Roma in Europe are



Erika Csovcics

confronted with, were also a subject of the congress. The participants visited the community centre “Rácz Aladár Közösségi Ház”, the cultural centre of the Roma in Pécs. During a dinner speech was held by Erika Csovcics, the director of the Gandhi Gymnasium, a unique Roma high school, which is famous all over Europe.

The school director made clear that the solution for solving the problems of the Roma can be summarised in only one word: Education.

“We have to offer the children and youngsters from the Roma, who are from social strata at a great distance to education, opportunities to give their life perspective – with proper education”, according to Erika Csovcics.

The Gandhi-Gymnasium in Pécs, Hungary, is the first high school that is established and attended by Roma. In 1992 this school was established by several Roma-organisations. Since 1994 the school has been in operation. The school has been named after the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, pointed to the supposedly Indian origin of the gypsy-groups. The aim of the secondary school is that Roma-children can reach a higher education entrance qualification, so that the current situation of the ethnic group in Hungary can be improved. Additionally the youngsters should learn to be proud about their own culture. The school is for a major part financed by the Hungarian government, and to a smaller extent by EU funding and gifts. The school consists of 6 class rooms, where about 250 school students in the age of 14 till 18 years study for their school diploma. The first students, who started in 1994, did their exam in 2000. From the 18 school students, 16 applied for universities and 7 were accepted.

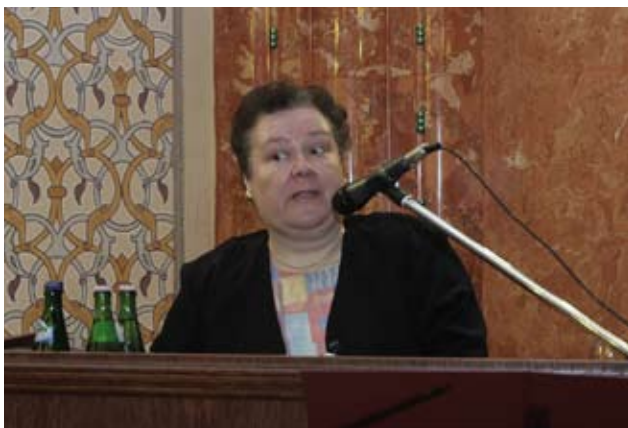
The first congress day was concluded with a get-together and singing with the FUEN-songbook in the hand.

At the official opening of the 53rd congress of FUEN, in the 59th year since its foundation, around 300 people had come to Fünfkirchen. Also Hungarian political notables had come. The chairman of the self-government of the



MEP Csaba Tabajdi

Germans in Hungary and host Otto Heinek welcomed the guests. Besides the Hungarian State-Secretary Gemesi also the chairman of the Intergroup for national minorities in the European Parliament Csaba Tabajdi and the chairwoman of the DH-MIN committee of the Council of Europe spoke to the guests.



Judit Solymosi, Council of Europe

In his keynote speech Hans Heinrich Hansen, president of FUEN, addressed the contribution of the minorities in Europe and the importance of the right to media and information of one's own.

The newly elected YEN-president Hester Knol, who is a West-Frisian from the Netherlands, presented herself and her team of delegates and spoke in favour of a continued cooperation together, which must actively include the youth.

The mayor of the town Pécs, Peter Tasnádi, explained in his speech at the FUEN-congress the significance of the town of Pécs for the cultural balance between the ethnic groups and why the fifth largest town of Hungary applied successfully for the title of European Capital of Culture. "Because Pécs is a truly multicultural town with most different ethnic groups living together, this is what decided about our nomination as European Capital of Culture", mayor Tasnádi said confidently.

The fact that we have a chairman in the Intergroup and a chairwoman of the DH-MIN committee, both coming from Hungary, shows the commitment the Hungarians have for minority protection in Europe, FUEN president Hans Heinrich Hansen remarked after the welcoming words. He was pleased that with Hungary one more European state gives FUEN the necessary support to do its work.

The main subject of the FUEN-congress – after the official opening – was the Fundamental Right to Media and Information of One's Own. In several short lectures, workshops and discussions the subject that is of so great importance to the European minorities was exemplified. Together with the renowned Mercator Institute of the University of Wales (Mercator Institute for Media, Culture and Languages, Prifysgol Aberystwyth University,

Cymru /Wales), FUEN elaborated its second Fundamental Right from the Charter for the autochthonous national minorities.

The day came to an end with a special highlight. The president of the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest, Katalin Szili, who comes originally from the region of Pécs, gave a reception for the FUEN-guests in Hotel Patria and praised the engagement of the European minority organisation FUEN as "excellent".

The last day of the congress was reserved completely for the FUEN Assembly of Delegates. The member organisations of FUEN – with 84 members in 32 European countries – FUEN is the largest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous minorities in Europe – adopted the strategic programme 2008/2009 unanimously. The programme defines the strategy in the work of FUEN for the coming years. The FUEN delegates had eagerly awaited the exciting elections of the members in the new European Dialogue Forum.

Moreover the new language network of FUEN was presented, which was established to improve the situation of the small and smallest languages in Europe. Also the "Europeada 2008" in Graubünden/Switzerland, the first football-championships for the minorities in Europe that take place under the auspices of FUEN, aroused great interest amongst the delegates, guests and representatives of the media.

The congress of 2008 ended with an excursion to the German-Hungarian municipality of Wemend / Véménd, where the guests became experienced to the hospitality of the Germans in Hungary.

"With the FUEN-congress in Fünfkirchen Europe has become a bit easier to handle", was the conclusion of the president of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen. "FUEN was accepted more as a dialogue partner in politics, and moreover the congress strengthened our internal cohesion. It is beautiful to see how the much praised diversity of Europe gets a face amongst us, in FUEN. You only should look at the faces of the people, they are just as diverse as the regions of Europe – and then you know that it pays off to stand up for them and for their rights to diversity and variety with all our strength".

Opening speech of the president of FUEN at the 53rd Congress 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Representatives of the Hungarian Government
Mr. State Secretary Gemesi,
Dear Delegates and Representatives of our
Member Organisations,
Dear Friends of FUEN,

The long list of names from the various regions shows that we have gathered a piece of Europe here that you will not find anywhere else, not in this configuration, not with this profile. Everyone has come to show us that they take the subject of minorities in Europe seriously.

And that they take us, the FUEN, seriously.

The FUEN is the largest minority organisation, with 84 member organisations from 32 countries.

This is something we always have to keep our eye on – and with this knowledge we can also take pleasure in the fact that we meet here at the annual general meeting of the FUEN as friends, and that we do not overestimate our own importance, because it is the cause that is important – not all the peripheral stuff. For us it is important that we have similar issues and similar aims despite the very different lifestyles.

Why we decided to come to Pécs, in Hungary, is obvious.

As European Capital of Culture in 2010, Pécs is not just a symbol of European diversity, but also the centre of the German minority in Hungary, and the homeland of nine autonomous minorities. An ideal conference venue for the largest umbrella organisation for the autochthons; the traditional, old minorities in Europe. As far as this diversity is concerned, let me just mention a few figures: In the 45 states in Europe there are 337 ethnic and national minorities, with almost 105 million people. This is about 14% of the total population.

The Roma live in 28 European states, and German-speaking nationalities live in 22 states. Other large groups are the Russian, Hungarian and Slav minorities.

This means that every 7th citizen in Europe is a member of a national minority.



FUEN-President Hans Heinrich Hansen

This should ensure the minorities of Europe great influence, but the unfortunate fact is that the minorities in Europe have neither the influence nor the recognition that they should be afforded on the basis of their numbers alone. The European minorities need a strong lobby – both on nation state level and European level.

I am therefore also very pleased that State Secretary Ferenc Gemesyi is here today. As a representative of Hungary he has repeatedly taken up the cause of the European minorities and has always accompanied the FUEN's work very benevolently.

A few weeks ago we signed up to a dialogue forum with the European Parliament – under the direction of the former Hungarian state secretary and President of the Intergroup for minorities in the European Parliament, Csaba Tabajdi. This dialogue forum will give the minorities direct access to the European Parliament, and consequently open up the doors to the European decision level. As umbrella organisation we want to guarantee that the topics that move the minorities in Europe are also communicated on.

As the FUEN – with over 80 member organisations in over 30 European countries – we want to ensure, together with our friends in Europe and the member states, that the European minorities achieve more importance, better conditions, and better protection and promotion provisions. This is the only way that European diversity, can really be guaranteed.

We have dedicated this congress to the topic of media. This is the main topic over these coming

days, because the media are very important to us for two reasons: on the one hand, the media convey our concerns, and disseminate knowledge about us – because the way they report on us determines whether we are seen as sectarian outsiders or an important component in the oft-claimed diversity of Europe. The Mercator Institute of the University of Wales has done a stocktaking of the media of the minorities, which we will be presenting here.

Let me put it another way: because of our multilingualism which we have from birth, we minorities are a piece of the future of Europe, and with the tenacity with which cling to what is near and dear to us, we will make our contribution in ensuring Europe retains its profile of diversity and autonomy.

This is why we demand the fundamental right to media presence, and it would be desirable that at the end of the congress, our media representatives and those working at scientific and practical level, join forces to meet the challenges set by the new media, as well as to deal with the chances these new media offer.

The task is to find information and patterns in the new media that are ideally suited for the minorities. Through the new media, especially the Internet, we have this chance. And the old adage applies here as well: Together we are strong.

The French philosopher Charles de Montesquieu once said: “I am a human out of necessity, French by chance”.

We, whether we are majority or minority, are first and foremost human beings. The national identity that identifies us as Hungarians, French or Germans depends on where we are born, from what parents, with which language and culture.

We all know that the dream of the national states to achieve ethnic uniformity within their borders has not and never will be achieved. Minorities have been established within the state borders because a border has by some chance been altered, or because settlements have arisen as a result of migration where the people have retained their language and culture, and lie like islands in the national state.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

I look forward to two days of intensive work, two wonderful and informative days. And here, on behalf of the many helpers involved in preparing this congress, I would like to thank the Chair of the German minority in Hungary, Mr. Otto Heinek, for his active support.

Dear Otto, the congress is just starting and - although we shouldn't count our chickens before they hatch – we would like to thank you for providing the framework for this congress. Europe is often compared with a symphony orchestra in which everyone plays his or her instrument. And of course minorities do not play first violin, but solo instruments that tend to make just rare appearances – like the kettledrum. And what would Haydn's Surprise symphony be without the kettledrums? You cannot dispense with the minorities, as demonstrated here.

I thank you for your attention, and wish us all a successful FUEN Congress.



The speech by Hans Heinrich Hansen,
FUEN president to the Assembly of Delegates
at the 53rd FUEN Congress
can be downloaded at
www.fuen.org

The fundamental right to media and information of one's own for the minorities in all countries of Europe was claimed by the Assembly of Delegates of FUEN, the umbrella organisation of the European autochthonous national minorities during its annual Assembly in the Hungarian town of Pécs/Fünfkirchen.

With the Charter for the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe and the 13 fundamental rights that are contained therein, FUEN adopted in 2006 in Bautzen / Budyšin, Germany a road map for the coming years. Each year one of the fundamental rights of this charter is presented. This year the congress dealt with the Right to Media. In workshops, lectures and presentations the very complex topic was illuminated and the Right to Media that was elaborated in written form was adopted by the delegates.

In an inventory about the media situation of the minorities the Mercator Institute of the University of Wales concluded that the access to the media for minorities is guaranteed in many countries, but that resources are not available and that as a result the access does not get beyond a declaration of intend. Therefore – according to the conclusion of the congress – the equal treatment of majority and minority media must be safeguarded. Amongst other things the delegates call for:

- The European autochthonous national minorities should have equal access to steering and strategy development of the media.
- Minorities should be given free access to media in their own language.
- The media substance for minorities should be of similar quality as that of media, which are produced by and for the majority of the population.
- The financial resources for this must be made available.

In an internal survey by FUEN media scientist Mareike Watolla found a serious scarcity of daily newspapers and own radio-stations in the minority languages. Television is for most

minorities a Utopia. "Because so many information and entertainment needs are covered by the majority media, in daily life many subjects are for the individual speakers only present in the majority language. As a result even more loss of proficiency in the minority language takes place", according to the survey.

Heinrich Schultz, vice-president of FUEN and responsible for media, expressed his satisfaction that the subject of media yielded so much response. During the congress a working group was established that will be exploring the possibilities and function of FUEN as voice of the minorities, also in the information sector in regard to media issues.

At the end of the conference Heinrich Schultz said: *"The media are the key to the awareness of minorities, and therefore it is logical that FUEN puts the information policy of the minorities, the opportunities the new media offer*



FUEN-Vice-president Heinrich Schultz

and dealing with traditional publications on the agenda. FUEN installed a working group on the subject, which consists of representatives of minorities, media representatives and politicians".

The Fundamental Right to Information and Media of One's Own has been published in printed form by FUEN.



A large number of media representatives were present, e.g. MDR.

Programme Friday 23.05.2008

PLENARY SESSION

The charter of fundamental rights and the right to media and own information
Introduction by Heinrich Schultz, Vice-President FUEN

The right to media in Hungary's minority laws
Short overview given by Otto Heinek, LdU

FUEN Survey: Media situation in the member organisations
Presentation by Mareike Watolla, FUEN

PLENARY SESSION

Lecture

The right to information and media of one's own
Explanatory Report: Current situation, legal framework,
relationship between media and minorities
***Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones (Director) and
Rebecca Williams (Research Associate) Mercator Media, Wales***

Strategy for Action and Recommendations

followed by discussion
Mercator Media and FUEN

Brief contributions / discussion contributions

*Chances and limits to multimedia provisions for minorities from a current
point of view using Radio e Televisiun Rumantscha (RTR) as an example*
Maurus Dosch, RTR

„When are minorities of interest to majority media?“
Reinhard Olt, FAZ, Peter Meier-Bergfeld, Rheinischer Merkur

The changeover to digital media, ***Harro Hallmann BDN***

FUEN information policy, ***Jan Diedrichsen, FUEN***

WORKSHOPS

- 1) Online Media – Minorities and the new media (RTR/FUEN)
- 2) Co-operation between media representatives and journalists
(led by Andrea Kunsemüller)
- 3) European Media Policy (FUEN/MIDAS/EUROLANG)
- 4) Recommendations: The Right to Media (FUEN/MERCATOR)
- 5) Media & Youth (YEN/FUEN)

PLENARY SESSION

- Presentation and plenary discussion
- Passing of position statement and right to media

Moderator: Heinrich Schultz, Vice-President FUEN





THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND MEDIA OF ONE'S OWN

for the autochthonous, national
minorities in Europe

Pécs/Fünfkirchen
2008



With loud applause by the Assembly of Delegates of FUEN in Pécs, the last seven representatives for the European Dialogue Forum were elected. The delegation of the European minorities in the newly founded forum at the European Parliament has been established now.

Nine candidates stood for election. From these, the following persons were elected: Bernhard Ziesch, secretary general of Domowina – the umbrella organisation of the Sorbs in Germany, Dr. Koloman Brenner, vice-chairman of the self-government of the Germans in Hungary, Dieter Paul Küssner, chairman of SSF, of the Danish minority in Germany, Dr. Jacob van der Bij, chairman of the Council of the Frisian Movement, Aleksander Studen-Kirchner, from the Youth of European Nationalities, Nicolae Sdrula, from the Aromanians in Romania and Halit Habip Oglu, chairman of ABTTF, of the Western Thracian Turkish minority in Greece.

Together with both representatives of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), Hester Knol and Christiana Walde, as well as with a representative of the FUEN-presidium the delegation is complete.

The forum will meet twice a year, to discuss challenges, problems and long-term strategies

for the autochthonous national minorities in Europe. The contact between politics and the European minorities will thus be brought into a institutionalised framework.

The document establishing the dialogue forum was unanimously adopted by the delegates. The first meeting will take place during autumn 2008.



The Dialogue Forum consists of following persons: F.l.t.r.: Jan Diedrichsen (FUEN / YEN Commissioner), Aleksander Studen-Kirchner, (Youth of European Nationalities), Nicolae Sdrula (Aromanian in Romania, FUEN-President Hans Heinrich Hansen, Halit Habip Oglu (Western Thracian Turkish minority in Greece),, Dr. Koloman Brenner (German in Hungary), Dr. Jacob Van der Bij (Frisian in the Netherlands) and Dieter Paul Küssner (Dane in Germany). Furthermore Bernhard Ziesch (Sorb in Germany) Hester Knol and Christiana Walde (both Youth of European Nationalities) belong to the forum but do not appear on this photo.

Further details about the European Dialogue Forum available at www.fuen.org/edf_EN.html

Position paper adopted about the situation of the Sinti and Roma

In a position paper about the increase in discrimination of Sinti and Roma in the media,



Dr. Uwe Wenzel from Central Council for German Sinti and Roma

FUEN decided to take a clear stance. The position paper – prepared by the Central Council of the Sinti and Roma in Germany – was unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

“The stigmatising coverage about Sinti and Roma in the media contributes significantly to the dissemination of negative stereotypes about the minority. And thus it cannot be a surprise that in representative polls up to 64 percent of all persons belonging to the German majority society dislike Sinti and Roma in general and do not wish persons belonging to this minority as their neighbours”, according to the paper.

Language policy remains a central issue in the work of FUEN

The field of European language policy will remain a central working area for FUEN in 2008 / 2009. Linking in to the language resolution of 2007 in Tallinn the Assembly of Delegates in Pécs once again adopted a resolution, in which

it repeats the demands from Tallinn and gives further recommendations about giving consideration to the smaller and smallest languages in Europe.

Here follows the text of the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

Based on the right to the safeguarding and promotion of the linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe as defined in the European Union (Art. II-82) and in other legislation and political documents, in particular the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe,

with regard to the aim to make the European Union into the most competitive and knowledge-based economic area in the world and to contribute to the Lisbon Strategy through lifelong learning and the development of systems for education and training,

with regard to the policy on multilingualism of the European Union, the Action Plan for promoting language learning 2004-2006 and the reports on this, the Communication on Multilingualism from 2005, the installation of a Commissioner for Multilingualism and participation in the EU Consultation 2007, and awaiting the new Communication of Language Learning at the end of 2008,

with regard to the policies of the EU member states in the field of language learning and language promotion and the Open Method of Coordination, which is used in the EU to coordinate objectives and indicators,

recognising the language policies of the Council of Europe, in particular its methodology of monitoring and reporting in the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in Europe,

taking into consideration the developments within the European Union in the field of language promotion, in particular in the field of regional or minority languages (Ebner-report in the European Parliament in 2003, Feasibility study of 2004, Communication on Multilingualism, end of earmarked funding for EBLUL) and the decision taken to mainstream language support within the EU programmes, in particular within the field of Lifelong Learning,

having knowledge of the situation of linguistic diversity in Europe – which apart from the 23 official languages of the European Union comprehend other languages as well, like e.g. more than 60 regional or minority languages, of which the total number of speakers is estimated at 40 million EU citizens,

considering the current situation of the European regional or minority languages and the languages that are threatened by extinction; according to the EUROMOSAIC-study those languages with less speakers than 300 000 are characterised as critical, a continuous assimilation and decreasing number of speakers – influenced by challenges of a changing society, changes in employment, demographic developments and globalisation,

based on the survey for the needs of the member organisations of FUEN in regard to the field of European language support and language policy, of which the results will be published, and which showed that the European minorities, just like all other languages, have the need in the field of teacher training and the development of learning materials and

special need for support in the maintenance and development of their languages and to manage these professionally, because they have to overcome didactic, pedagogic and logistic challenges, e.g. in the implementation of multilingualism in schools, in safeguarding the linguistic quality of the RMLs and have the need for increasing the prestige and anchoring their languages in public use, based on the expectations to European support for languages and the experiences and expectations to the work of FUEN,

after thorough research of language projects that have been supported by the EU so far, as well as further projects in all education fields, in particular in the programmes Comenius and Grundtvig,

after talks about cooperation and examining cooperation with other organisations active in the field of regional- or minority languages, in particular after participation in meetings to found the network of the Language Boards led by the Welsh Language Board and several talks with EBLUL and its member state committees,

after consultation with experts in the field of education and language promotion, as well as with potential partners and supporters,

the Federal Union of European Nationalities – the umbrella organisation of the autochthonous national minorities in Europe – decided to establish a network for the European multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe and to apply for funding within the EU Programme Lifelong Learning, transversal programme Languages, with a renowned consortium.

As the largest European stakeholder of the minorities, FUEN sees it as its task to stand up to the benefit of the autochthonous national minorities for support **for languages and for language policy on the European level that include the regional and minority languages.**

In this context FUEN renews its demands formulated in the language resolution adopted in Tallinn in 2007, and supports the conclusion of the consultation on multilingualism in Europe conducted by the EU Commission, in which FUEN also participated, that more has to be done for the recognition of the regional and minority languages, and that the European Union should take a more pro-active role.

FUEN calls upon the European Commission to integrate the regional and minority languages, and in particular the small and smallest languages in Europe, in the planned strategy for multilingualism to be worked out in 2008.

FUEN - as European umbrella organisation - offers the EU Commission to continue the dialogue which started in April 2007 with EU Commissioner Orban at a meeting in Copenhagen, to ensure that the interests of the regional and minority languages, and in particular the small and smallest languages, are effectively represented.

Further details about the
network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity
available at
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Pécs- a multicultural town

A review by Olivia Schubert, LDU

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After an intense preparation and successful candidacy under the motto “Pécs – a multicultural town” the Hungarian town of Pécs obtained the title “European Capital of Culture 2010”.

This offered a very good occasion to call attention for the significance of the role of



Olivia Schubert, LDU

minorities and for the peaceful living together of those belonging to them within the framework of the 53rd FUEN Congress of Nationalities and Assembly of Delegates.

Pécs is the home to several minorities and the life of the different nationalities belongs to the daily practice in town. In 2006 11 minorities founded their minority self-governments, and here also the minority editorial offices of the Hungarian radio and television can be found. Furthermore the minority communities have their own institutions within their cultural autonomy to foster their cultural values and to strengthen their identities.

On the second day of the congress the circa 300 guests were able to get for themselves an impression about the work, the successes and challenges of these establishments.

The first stop was at the minority editorial offices of the regional

studio of the Hungarian television, where the editors for the German and Croatian programme, showed their work. After a short introduction by the editor in chief, Judit Klein, the participants were able to see a short selection from the programmes of both minorities. In the discussion that followed the main subjects were problems of financing, about broadcasting time and length as well as the content of individual programmes.

In the studio of the minority offices of the regional studio of the Hungarian radio the editors of the German, Croatian and Serbian minorities presented themselves. With Robert Stein and Krisztian Erdei an active discussion about the use of languages, about broadcasting time and about the financing possibilities of radio programmes went off.

After the visit to the media the participants of the congress were able to meet representatives of the minorities who live in Pécs. The first place they visited was the cultural centre of the Roma minority, the community centre Aladár Rácz. In the house, which is decorated with paintings and sculptures of famous Roma-artists, they were received by the chairman of the Roma-minority self-government in Pécs, István Koszticz. He took the guests on a musical-artistic travel to show them the life and thinking of the Roma-minority. Apart from the presentation of the multilayered culture of the Roma also issues of education and public life were discussed.

From here the journey went on to the cultural centre of the Germans in Hungary, to the Lenau House. The director of the house, Johann Habel, guided the guests through the house and presented to them the cultural heritage of the Germans in Hungary. The house is a cultural meeting point and the place for se-



veral cultural and educational activities; it includes a German library and gives the opportunity to German-Hungarian artists to present their works in the form of an exhibition. The house also supports the dialogue between the majority and the minority and regularly offers programmes about issues of public life.

The last stop of the tour to visit was the community and cultural centre of the Croatian minority, the August Senoa Club. The director of the centre, Mihály Sárosácz, showed the old house, which is protected as an historic monument. In it the August Senoa Club, the women's choir and the Croatian library have their place. In the centre cultural activities, exhibitions, film screenings, trainings and podium discussions are being organised.

In the late afternoon LDU offered an additional guided tour to the participants of the conference. During the city tour, Zoltán Schmidt, the director of the regional office of LDU and trained tour guide presented the sights of Pécs that are based on the multi-ethnic nature of the town.

In hotel Palatinus the festive dinner of the conference took place, where the director of the Gandhi-Gymnasium gave a dinner speech about the conference and the financing of this high school for Roma-children, as well as about the professional-methodological experiences and future plans of the school.



A reception was given by Dr. Katalin Szili, president of the Hungarian Parliament



Bernhard Ziesch (left) chaired the singing together.



Folklore programme in Wemend/Véménd

Minorities have the fundamental right to media and the provision of information in their own language. This and a comprehensive strategic programme that should make FUEN visible as the voice of the minorities in Europe and ensure the assertiveness of FUEN as a political organisation, were things that were adopted at the 53rd annual congress of FUEN in the Hungarian town of Pécs/Fünfkirchen last weekend. It defines the aspirations of FUEN to represent the interests of the European minorities at the international organisations. It comprehends amongst other things European language policy and language promotion, close cooperation with the youth organisation of the European minorities, YEN (Youth of European Nationalities) on the European level.

The dialogue with politicians of regional, national and European level has assumed a permanent form; FUEN is acknowledged as important discussion partner in minority issues, according to the president of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen. The establishment of the Dialogue Forum at the European Parliament gives FUEN the opportunity to use the most important contacts at the European level. It is also a strong recognition of the work of FUEN as the voice of the European minorities.

There were elected seven members for the Dialogue Forum. The president of FUEN is automatically member of the delegation. Elected were: Bernhard Ziesch, Secretary General for the Domowina - the umbrella Organisation of the Sorbs in Lusatia, Dr. Koloman Brenner, Vice-President of the Germans in Hungary, Dieter Paul Küssner, President of SSF, Danish minority in Germany, Dr. Jacob Van der Bij, chairman of the Council of the Frisian Movement, Aleksander Studen-Kirchner, Youth of European Nationalities, Nicolae Sdrula, from the Aromanians in Rumania and Halit Habip Oglu, President of ABTTF, the Western Thracian Turkish minority in Greece.

"In the Dialogue Forum current challenges, problems and long-term strategies for the autochthonous national minorities in Europe are being discussed and the contact between politics and the European minorities will be brought into an institutional framework. In this way we have come a big step further to our goal, to be recognised as equal partner by politics also on the European level", according to Hans Heinrich Hansen.

Hans Heinrich Hansen emphasised that the establishment of the Dialogue Forum would not have been possible without the active support from Csaba Tabajdi and Michl Ebner as chairman and co-chairman of the Intergroup for traditional national minorities at the European Parliament. In his welcoming speech at the annual congress of FUEN in Pécs/Fünfkirchen Csaba Tabajdi once more stressed the significance of the minorities in the European Union and stated that the sense of democracy within a society can not in the last place be defined on the basis of attitude towards minorities.

Furthermore FUEN succeeded in obtaining an ad-hoc observer status in the committee for minority rights at the Council of Europe, the so-called DH-MIN Committee. Judit Solymosi, the chair of the committee, also came to the annual congress of FUEN in Pécs/Fünfkirchen.

"Europe has become a bit easier to handle after the congress in Pécs", according to the president of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen. "FUEN was accepted a bit more as dialogue partner by politics and moreover the congress strengthened our cohesion. It is simple beautiful to see how the often acclaimed diversity of Europe gets a face with us, FUEN. One only has to look at the faces of the people, who are just as diverse as the regions of Europe – and then you know that it pays off to engage for them and for the right to diversity and variety with all our strengths".

After FUEN dealt with the subject of media during the annual congress of this year, the main subject of next year's 54th annual congress will be the right to political representation and political participation.

The next annual congress of FUEN will take place in Brussels in 2009. In 2009 FUEN will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

A Austria

Burchhart, Bruno Dr
Gieler, Anton
Gieler, Zlatka
Hödl, Angelika
Kassl, Thomas
Kulmesch, Janko
Meier-Bergfeld, Peter Prof.
Perusich, Jelka
Puck, Christian
Rozsenich, Benjamin
Studen-Kirchner, Aleksander

Guest
Croatian Association HKD
FUEN Presidium / Croatian Association HKD
Media representative / radio AGORA 105,5
Government of Carinthia
NSKS Slovenes in Carinthia
Media representative / Rheinischer Merkur
Croatian Association HKD
Driver Government of Carinthia
Youth of European Nationalities YEN / Croat
Youth of European Nationalities YEN / Slovene

B Belgium

Dries, Joseph

Government of the German Speaking Community

CH Switzerland

Dosch, Mauros
Rassel, Andrea

Media representative / RTR
FUEN Presidium / Rhaetian in Grisons

CZ Czech Republic

Kunc, Irene
Mlejnek, Peter

German Association
German Association

D Germany

Adam, Horst
Birkemose, Flemming
Boysen, Thede
Brankack, Jurij Dr.
Buhl, Lisbet
Christensen, Inger Marie
Christiansen, Jens A.
Felber, Barbara
Feldmann, Michael
Gollasch, Martina
Habip Oglu, Halit
Hahn, Jörgen Jensen
Joldrichsen, Anke
Jurk, Katharina
Kämper, Anne
Konzack, Harald
Koreng, Bogna
Küssner, Dieter Paul
Küssner, Vibeke Nørup
Nickelsen, Frank
Noack, Heinz
Nuck, Jan
Nygaard, Jens
Olt, Reinhard Prof.
Pauls, Uwe
Petersen, Johannes
Poel, Alexander
Präsno, Christian
Reiff, Klaus

Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina
Danish Youth Organisation SDU
Office for the four national minorities in Berlin / Frisian
FUEN Presidium / Lusatian Sorb
Danish minority School Association
Danish Youth Organisation SDU
Danish minority SSF
Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina
Media representative / Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk MDR
Media representative / Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg RBB
West Thracian Association
Frisian Association Friisk Foriining
Frisian Association Friisk Foriining
Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina
Danish Youth Organisation SDU
Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina
Media representative / Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk MDR
Danish minority SSF
Danish minority SSF
FUEN General Secretariat / North Schleswig German
Media representative / Lausitzer Rundschau
Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina
Danish minority Flensburg Avis
Media representative / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
Government of Schleswig Holstein
President of the Regional District of Schleswig-Flensburg
Media representative / PHOENIX
Danish minority Aktivitetshuset
Hermann Niermann Foundation

Rein, Detlev Dr.
 Rein, Hanna
 Resit, Oskan
 Runz, Olaf
 Schenk, Susann
 Schneider, Horst
 Schowtka, Mrs
 Schowtka, Peter
 Schröder, Steen
 Schultz, Heinrich
 Sperl, Wojtek
 Walde, Judith
 Watolla, Mareike
 Weisser, Marie Luise
 Wenzel, Uwe Dr
 Wiencke, Gert
 Ziesch, Bernhard

Federal Ministry for the Interior
 Guest
 West Thracian Association
 Danish minority School Association
 YEN General Secretary / FUEN / Lusatian Sorb
 Danish Youth Organisation SDU
 Guest
 Member of Parliament of Saxony
 Danish minority SSF
 FUEN Presidium / South Schleswig Dane
 Media representative / PHOENIX
 Youth of European Nationalities YEN / Lusatian Sorb
 FUEN Congress Staff
 Frisian Association NF Verein
 Central Council for German Sinti and Roma
 FUEN Auditor / Danish minority SSF
 Council of the Lusatian Sorbs Domowina

DK Denmark

Asmussen, Heinz
 Candussi, Frauke
 Clausen, Vivian
 Diedrichsen, Jan
 Hallmann, Harro
 Handler, Brigitte
 Hansen, Hans Heinrich
 Johannsen, Peter Iver
 Jürgensen, Hinrich
 Köhler, Patrick
 Krag, Elfi
 Kunsemüller, Andrea
 Küsel, Ulrich
 List Petersen, Nis Edwin
 Meyer, Peter
 Nielsen, Ketty Lilian
 Seifert, Kurt
 Slumstrup, Finn
 Vestergaard, Elisabeth

German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 FUEN & YEN Commissioner / North Schleswig German
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 FUEN Presidium / North Schleswig German
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German newspaper Der Nordschleswiger
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 German minority BDN
 Border Association
 University of Southern Denmark.

EE Estonia

Seifullen, Timur
 Weber, Erika

Tatar community
 Association of the Germans

F France

Mélenec, Louis
 Mervin, Yves
 Texier, Marcel
 Zyman, Krzysztof

Breton minority
 Breton minority
 Breton minority
 Council of Europe DHMIN

GB Great Britain

Cutcliffe, John
 Hicks, Davyth
 Jones, Elin Haf Gruffyd
 Williams, Rebecca

FUEN Presidium / Cornish Stannery Parliament
 Media representative / Eurolang
 Mercator Wales
 Mercator Wales

GR Greece

Chairoula, Pervin
 Kavaz, Sinan

West Thracian Association
 West Thracian Association

H Hungary

Ambach, Monika
 Benedek, György
 Brad, Ana
 Brenner, Koloman Dr
 Ciotea, Ioan Dr
 Fazekas, Márta Dr
 Fogarasi, Sarolta
 Fretyán, István
 Gemesi, Ferenc
 Hargitai, János Dr
 Heinek, Otto
 Klingenberg, Annette
 Koch, Emil
 Koranyi, David
 Major, Pál
 Müller, Mónika
 Okosi, Nikolett
 Paulik, Antal
 Péntzes, Eva
 Pilsits, Maria
 Schmidt, Zoltán
 Schubert, Olivia
 Sebök, Katalin
 Shafit, Marina
 Solymosi, Judit
 Szabó, Lóránd
 Szauer, Agnes
 Szili, Katalin
 Tabajdi, Csaba
 Tasnádi, Péter
 Varga, Róbert
 Völgyi, Géza
 Zimmermann, Claudia

German Association
 Interpreter
 Cultural Union of the Romanians
 German Association
 Cultural Union of the Romanians
 Andrassy Gyula German University
 German Youth organisation
 Hungarian Government Dept National Minorities
 Secretary of State
 District of Baranya
 German Association
 Interpreter
 German Youth Association
 European Parliament
 Interpreter
 Interpreter
 Hungarian Government Dept National Minorities
 Hungarian Government Dept National Minorities
 German Youth organisation
 Croatian Association
 German Youth organisation
 German Association
 Youth of European Nationalities YEN / German GJU
 Interpreter
 Council of Europe DHMIN
 Interpreter
 Hungarian Government Dept National Minorities
 President of the Hungarian Parliament
 European Parliament
 Mayor Municipality Pécs
 Interpreter
 Croatian Association
 Interpreter

HR Croatia

Milosevic, Aleksandar

Serb National Council

I Italy

Fuscaldo, Agostino
 Hanni, Martin
 Holzer, Heinrich
 Rautz, Günther

Media representative / RAI MINET
 Media representative / RAI MINET
 Autonomous Province of South Tyrol
 EURAC / MIDAS

LV Latvia

Balasko, Aina
 Misevica-Trillitzsc, Renate

Latvian Government Office for National minorities
 Latvian Government Office for National minorities

MD Moldova

Reaboi, Alexandr

German Association

NL Netherlands

Bij van der, Baukje
 de Boer, Frank
 Knol, Hester
 Oppewal, Chea
 Oppewal, Jacob

Guest
 Youth of European Nationalities YEN / West Frisian
 Youth of European Nationalities YEN / West Frisian
 Guest
 Guest

Riemersma, Willem
Rinzema, Jaap
Van der Bij, Jacob Dr

West Frisian Association
West Frisian Association
West Frisian Association

PL Poland

Brehmer, Dietmar
Donitza, Richard
Hutsch, Damian
Kreft, Malwina
Kroll, Heinrich
Kusmierska, Tatiana
Matusiak, Tadeusz

German Community in Katowice
German Association VDG in Poland
German Association VDG in Poland
Kashubian-Pomeranian Association
German Association VDG in Poland
Kashubian-Pomeranian Association
German Community in Katowice

RO Romania

Ambrus, Attila
Csernik, Attila
Iosif, Angela
Kovacs, Peter
Lengyel, Erika
Sdrula, Nicolae

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians
Democratic Alliance of Hungarians
Aromanian in Romania
Democratic Alliance of Hungarians
Democratic Alliance of Hungarians
Aromanian in Romania

RS Serbia

Budincevic, Ivan
Horvat, Dajana

Croatian Association DSHV
Youth of European Nationalities YEN / Croat

RUS Russian Federation

Dzhappuev, Rasul
Dzhatdoewa, Zulfa
Filistovich, Tatiana
Gartman Olga
Korkmazov, Boris
Martens, Olga

Balkar People
Dzchamagat
German Association
German Youth Association
Dzchamagat
German Association

S Sweden

Darwesh, Nishtiman
Ghalandari, Bahman
Hansson, Göran
Hessami, Arzoo
Heydari, Hussam

Kurdish Youth Association
Media representative / Kurdish satellite TV
Stiftelsen Skåne Framtid
Kurdish Union Association
Kurdish Union Association

SI Slovenia

Debenjak, Primoz

Gottscheer Association

SK Slovakia

Kluknavska, Andrea
Pöss, Ondrej Dr.

Youth of European Nationalities YEN / German
German Association

UA Ukraine

Mateleshko, Stepan
Turyanitsa, Ivan

Carpatho Rusyn Association
Carpatho Rusyn Association

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Prime Minister's Office -
Department for national and ethnic minorities
Hungary



Bundesministerium
des Innern

Federal Ministry
of the Interior

Germany



Municipality Pécs

Hungary



German minority
LDU

Hungary

