Recommendation CM/RecChL(2014)5 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Germany

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 28 May 2014 at the 1200th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification submitted by Germany on 16 September 1998;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Germany;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Germany in its fifth periodical report, supplementary information given by the German authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Germany and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

Recommends that the German authorities take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. adopt and implement a structured policy for the promotion and preservation of Lower Sorbian, including measures which ensure that pre-school, primary and secondary education is systematically available in this language;

2. continue the measures taken and further strengthen the efforts to develop viable offers for the teaching of North Frisian and Sater Frisian;

3. develop an adequate educational offer for Low German in the Länder of Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony-Anhalt;

4. upgrade the teaching of Low German to the status of a regular school subject taught as an integral part of the curriculum in the Länder where Part III of the Charter applies to this language;

5. take measures to provide adequate radio and television broadcasting in Danish, Low German, Lower Sorbian, North Frisian and Sater Frisian;

6. develop further measures to promote Romani and the culture of which this language is the expression, in co-operation with the speakers.