



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Addendum 1

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Second periodical report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

SERBIA

***Comments/questions submitted to the
Government of Serbia
regarding its Second Periodical Report***

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR THE EUROPEAN CHARTER
FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Comments/questions submitted to the Government of Serbia
regarding its second periodical report

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has made a preliminary examination of the second periodical report of Serbia. The Committee has observed that a number of elements in the report need to be clarified before it can be in a position to make its evaluation as required by the Charter.

The Serbian authorities are kindly requested to reply to the questions contained in this document.

1. In the first periodical report, the Serbian authorities stated that the application of the Charter can result in the specification of further languages to which Part III will be applied. Have any steps been taken, in co-operation with the speakers of Part II languages, to pursue these plans?
2. What steps have been taken to apply stronger options of Part III inter alia to the Hungarian language?
3. Several languages covered by the Charter are not in official use at local level because the respective national minorities do not reach the legal thresholds of 25% or 15% respectively. What steps have until now been taken by the Serbian authorities to encourage those municipalities where the respective minorities have their highest (absolute or relative) concentration to introduce such languages in official use through an amendment to the municipality's statute?
4. As mentioned in the first evaluation report of the Committee of Experts (paragraphs 40-42), representatives of the Bulgarian and Hungarian national minorities consider that existing administrative divisions represent obstacles to the promotion of their languages. What steps have been taken to examine these concerns in co-operation with the representatives of the said minorities?
5. The Committee of Experts was informed of the letter sent by the Bosniak National Council to the President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 5 February 2010 concerning possible negative effects that the Decree on Nomenclature of Statistic Territory Units may have on the promotion of the Bosnian language. What is the position of the Serbian authorities on the concern raised in this letter?
6. Minority language classes can also be set up on the request of less than 15 pupils or parents if the Minister of Education approves it. The Serbian authorities have informed the Committee of Experts of numerous cases where classes have been set up with very few (e.g. two) pupils. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to actively inform pupils and parents of the possibility of setting up minority language classes with less than 15 pupils?
7. In light of the possibility of setting up minority language classes with less than 15 pupils, what active steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to introduce the teaching of Czech with elements of national culture in Bela Crkva and possibly other places where Czech is used (e.g. in Gaj, municipality of Kovin, and Veliko Središte, municipality of Vršac)?
8. Has the application made by the National Council of the German National Minority for broadcasting time in German on Radio Novi Sad and RTV Novi Sad been approved? What active steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to improve the presence of German in the print media (e.g. through a more frequently published newsletter)?
9. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to allot broadcast time for a television programme in Czech?

10. What steps have been taken to adopt for each of the Part II languages a structured policy for the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges in the fields covered by the Charter, including relations with neighbouring states?
11. In their comments on the first evaluation report by the Committee of Experts, the Serbian authorities announced that the Ministry of Education would request an expert team to carry out a revision of history textbooks in which certain national minorities were presented in a stereotyped way. What has been the outcome of this revision?
12. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to strengthen pre-school education for Croatian and Romanian and to provide pre-school education in Ukrainian?
13. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to strengthen primary education for Croatian and Romanian?
14. Please provide more detailed information in regard to measures taken to promote Romani primary education in Central Serbia.
15. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to strengthen secondary education for Romanian?
16. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to strengthen technical and vocational education for Romanian and Slovak?
17. Please provide information about the application of Article 8 paragraph 1 d iv to Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.
18. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority languages to all pupils in the respective language-areas?
19. What steps have been taken by the Serbian authorities to ensure that citizens are actively encouraged by judicial staff to use a regional or minority language in courts, for example through bi- or multilingual notices and signs in/on court buildings, and information in public announcements or court forms?
20. Please provide information about the application of Article 9 paragraph 1 b ii to Albanian, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian.
21. Please provide specific information about the application of Article 9 paragraph 2 a with respect to all Part III languages.
22. What measures have been taken by the Serbian authorities to ensure the application of Article 10 to Romani and Ukrainian?
23. Please provide information about the application of Article 10 paragraph 2 b to Bosnian, Bulgarian, Romani and Ukrainian.
24. Please provide information about the application of Article 10 paragraph 2 c to Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian and Romani (Central Serbia), and about its application outside Vojvodina.
25. Please comment on statements by representatives of the Romanian-speakers that television programmes in Romanian cannot be watched by almost two-thirds of the Romanian-speakers in southern Banat.
26. Please comment on statements by representatives of the Ruthenian-speakers that the television and radio programmes in Ruthenian do not reach all areas in which Ruthenian is used.

27. Are there private television channels broadcasting programmes in Bosnian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian?
28. Please provide more concrete information in regard to the application of Article 11 paragraph 1 a iii, b ii and cii in Central Serbia.
29. Please provide information about the application of Article 12 paragraph 1 b to all Part III languages.
30. Please provide information about the application of Article 12 paragraph 1 c to all Part III languages.
31. Please provide specific information about the application of Article 14 a to Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Romani, Ruthenian, Slovak and Ukrainian.