



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

**Recommendation RecChL(2007)1
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Slovakia**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 February 2007
at the 988th 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 declarations submitted by Slovakia on 9 April 2001;

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

Having taken note of the comments made by the Slovak authorities on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Slovakia in its national report, supplementary information provided by the Slovak authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Slovakia and information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its "on-the-spot" visit;

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

1. improve and complete the legislative framework in the light of the obligations entered into by Slovakia upon its ratification of the Charter, and in particular:
 - review the requirement that regional or minority language speakers should represent at least 20% of the municipal population for the undertakings in the field of administration to be operational;
 - review the restrictions on the use of regional or minority languages arising as a consequence of the State Language Act;
 - remove the restrictions on the right to use regional or minority languages in court;
 - guarantee women the right to adopt or use family names in regional or minority languages;
2. improve the provision of regional or minority language education, in particular concerning teacher-training, and set up a body in charge of monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved;
3. improve the provision of broadcast and print media in all regional or minority languages;

4. promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovakia, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media;

5. concerning the Romany language:

- ensure that Romany language education is provided where there is a demand for it and inform Roma parents about its availability;

- accelerate the implementation of a curriculum for the Romany language;

- abolish without delay the practice of unjustified enrolment of Roma children in schools for children with special needs;

6. take measures to provide Ruthenian language education at all levels.