



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

**Recommendation RecChL(2009)3
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Sweden**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 May 2009
at the 1056th 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 Sweden on 9 February 2000;

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

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

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

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

1. define, in co-operation with the speakers, the areas where Finnish and Sami are covered by Part III of the Charter and apply the relevant provisions of the Charter in these areas;
2. actively strengthen education in regional or minority languages both by adapting "mother-tongue" education to the requirements of Article 8 of the Charter and, where appropriate, by establishing bilingual education as well as by developing appropriate basic and further training of teachers;
3. establish a structured policy to encourage the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Sami, Finnish and Meänkieli;
4. adopt, as a matter of urgency, flexible and innovative measures to maintain the South Sami language;
5. establish a structured policy and take organisational measures to encourage the oral and written use of Sami, Finnish and Meänkieli in dealings with judicial and administrative authorities in the defined administrative areas;
6. facilitate the creation of newspapers in Sami and Meänkieli.