

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Recommendation RecChL(2001)6
of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Switzerland

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers
on 21 November 2001
at the 773rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

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

Bearing in mind the instrument of ratification submitted by the Swiss Confederation on 23 December 1997;

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

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

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

Recommends that Switzerland, whether at federal, cantonal or municipal level as the case may be, take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. enact legislation in application of Article 70.2 of the new Constitution in order to enable the Romansh-speaking community to benefit fully from the protection provided by the Charter;
2. make all possible efforts to remove the legal and practical obstacles to the use of Romansh and Italian in court proceedings in the Canton of Grisons;
3. explore possibilities of improving the use of Romansh and Italian at the level of the federal administration.