

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

### **Recommendation RecChL(2004)5 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 22 September 2004  
at the 896th 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 Switzerland on 23 December 1997;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on 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 second periodical report, supplementary information provided 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 the Swiss authorities take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. accelerate the efforts to adopt legislation implementing in particular paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 70 of the Federal Constitution;
2. take the necessary measures to remove practical obstacles to the use of Romansh in courts;
3. take the necessary measures to strengthen the use of Romansh in dealings with the cantonal administration, in debates in the cantonal parliament and in dealings with the administration of bilingual municipalities in the Canton of Graubünden;
4. take resolute action to improve the provision for Romansh on television and radio in the private sector;
5. officially recognise Yenish as a regional or minority language traditionally spoken in Switzerland and as part of the Swiss cultural and linguistic heritage.