

DECLARATION

The Bridge for Europe - Ethnic Civil Conciliatory Forum (ENCEF)-, considering the proposals of its conference held between 10-12 March 2006 in Pécs, Hungary with the participation of the representatives of Hungarian, German, Roma, Croatian, Serbian, Greek, Slovenian, Polish, Armenian and Csángó¹ ethnic organisations; on the basis of the principles and provisions set out in international documents, especially in

- the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- the Declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the rights of the persons who belongs to an ethnic, religious or language minority (47/135. decision)
- in the declarations, standpoints and recommendations within the process of CSCE and OSCE,
- the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (The European Convention on Human Rights),
- the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe,
- the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe,
- the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union), and
- the European Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin,

with regard to the aims of the European Union and **the Council of Europe**, states the establishments as follows:

1. The terrible experiences of the past century have proved that the peaceful and democratic Europe can't be realised without guaranteeing the minority rights, furthermore their enforcement strengthens the stability and security of Europe.
2. The rights connecting to the minority existence are fundamental human rights, the enforcement of which is the pledge of the continuance of the given minority.
3. The minority problems of Central and Eastern Europe are of historical reasons basically different from the problems of Western Europe, consequently their solving requires different approach and instruments as well.
4. The Central and Eastern European civil organisations are not integrated, the level of the enforcement of minority rights in the European Union is not adequate.
5. The regional borders of the European Union and the administrative borders of the member states do not cover the homogeneous cultural circle, in which the single minorities, in a territorial different region, in mass or dispersedly take up. In aid of the minorities a new approach is necessary.
6. The key for the continuity in the minority existence is to ensure the primary, secondary and university education for the future minority generations.
7. The culture of the national minorities is part of the universal cultural heritage, the exercising and the financial support of the collective rights are essential conditions from the point of view of the continuance of the minority culture.

¹ Hungarian-speaking native of Moldavia

8. The cultural relations between national minorities reinforce the cementing force of the cross border regions and the multicultural character of the European Union.

Relying on the strength of these findings, the ENCEF calls upon the European Parliament to make own this establishments and to support the following recommendations tending to the better enforcement of the minority rights:

1. The collective minority rights should get into the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union.
2. The European Parliament should establish a Nationality Commission and inside this, a Roma sub-commission.
3. The European Union should establish a subsidy allocation to the debit of the budget from 2007 for the maintenance of the cultural heritage of the national minorities and for the support of the minorities' contemporary hand workers and artists.

Pécs, 21. 03. 2006

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Dávid Adamov
President
ENCEF