

**Resolution CM/ResCMN(2016)6
on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
by the Slovak Republic**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 April 2016
at the 1253rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Framework Convention");

Having regard to Resolution Res(97)10 of 17 September 1997 setting out rules adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the monitoring arrangements under Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention;

Having regard to the voting rule adopted in the context of adopting Resolution Res(97)10;¹

Having regard to the instrument of ratification submitted by the Slovak Republic on 14 September 1995;

Recalling that the Government of the Slovak Republic transmitted its state report in respect of the fourth monitoring cycle under the Framework Convention on 28 January 2014;

Having examined the Advisory Committee's fourth opinion on the Slovak Republic adopted on 3 December 2014;

Having also taken note of comments by the Government of the Slovak Republic and other governments,

Adopts the following conclusions in respect of the Slovak Republic:

The authorities are invited to take account of the observations and recommendations contained in Sections I and II of the Advisory Committee's Fourth Opinion. In particular, they should take the following measures to improve further the implementation of the Framework Convention:

Recommendations for immediate action:

- increase attention to minority rights as an integral part of human rights in the government agenda and ensure effective inter-institutional co-ordination on all issues pertaining to human and minority rights protection, in close consultation with national minority and civil society representatives;
- comprehensively address anti-Gypsyism in the education system and put in place the necessary measures to ensure that Roma children are systematically placed in integrated regular classes. Placement in special schools must be reserved for specific and exceptional cases only;
- intensify efforts to effectively protect Roma from discrimination in all spheres of life by raising rights awareness and ensuring that law enforcement officers are adequately trained to properly investigate and follow-up all cases of racial discrimination, including through the initiation of independent investigations of alleged cases of police abuse.

Further recommendations:

- continue to collect regular data on the situation and access to rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in close consultation with minority representatives, to base all related policy development on reliable equality data;

¹ In the context of adopting Resolution Res(97)10 on 17 September 1997, the Committee of Ministers also adopted the following rule: "Decisions pursuant to Articles 24.1 and 25.2 of the Framework Convention shall be considered to be adopted if two-thirds of the representatives of the Contracting Parties casting a vote, including a majority of the representatives of the Contracting Parties entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers, vote in favour".

- provide adequate political and financial support to the Office of the Ombudsperson and speed up the reform of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights;
- maintain regular support to national minority cultural activities and ensure that representatives of all national minorities are effectively consulted in all relevant decision making on allocations;
- systematically and promptly condemn all instances of anti-minority rhetoric in the public discourse and design a comprehensive strategy to promote respect and intercultural understanding among different groups in society, including through the dissemination of positive images of national minorities and their contribution to Slovakian society, among others, in the spheres of education, media and culture;
- establish an independent and specialised body to investigate all alleged cases of police abuse and misconduct, and proactively inform the public about the available legal remedies in such cases;
- increase support to minority language media, particularly in the languages of numerically smaller minorities and Romani;
- ensure that the rights contained in Article 4 of the Minority Language Act are effectively implemented in all designated municipalities and with regard to all relevant languages, including Romani;
- develop a flexible approach towards the implementation of the legislative framework on the use of minority languages, and promote pragmatic solutions to accommodate the demands of the population in line with the principles contained in the Framework Convention;
- ensure that teachers of minority language schools have adequate access to relevant training programmes for teaching in all subjects and ensure that textbooks contain adequate portrayals of all national minority communities and their history in Slovakia;
- increase efforts to maintain high quality minority language education and to pursue a close dialogue with national minority representatives, parents and school administrations to ensure that the eventual closure of small schools does not hinder effective opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities to learn in their minority languages;
- take all necessary measures to implement the Roma Integration Strategy and Decade Action Plan at central, regional and local level in close consultation with Roma representatives and intensify efforts to counter anti-Gypsyism in society to effectively promote access of Roma to socio-economic rights.