

**Resolution CM/ResCMN(2016)8
on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
by Cyprus**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 May 2016
at the 1256th 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 Cyprus on 4 June 1996;

Recalling that the Government of Cyprus transmitted its State report in respect of the fourth monitoring cycle under the Framework Convention on 29 April 2014 on measures taken in the territory of the Republic of Cyprus under the effective control of the government;

Having examined the Advisory Committee's fourth opinion adopted on 18 March 2015;

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

Adopts the following conclusions in respect of Cyprus:

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:²

- ensure the enjoyment of the right to free self-identification, including in respect of multiple affiliations, in all data collection exercises as well as in the broader public debate as a means to overcome ethnic divisions in daily life and to facilitate the formation of an open, multilingual and inclusive society;
- raise awareness of applicable human rights norms and antidiscrimination standards amongst the police force and the judiciary and ensure that all cases of police misconduct are adequately and promptly followed-up;
- enhance the available support for the promotion of minority languages and identities as an integral part of modern Cypriot society rather than primarily as elements of cultural heritage and ensure that the views and concerns of all minority communities, including the Roma, are adequately established through dialogue and taken into account in all relevant decision making.

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”.

² The recommendations below are listed in the order of the corresponding articles of the Framework Convention.

Further recommendations:³

- enhance the political and financial support to the Ombudsman Office to enable it to fulfill its multiple functions effectively and in full independence; in close consultation with civil society representatives increase awareness of and trust in the legal remedies available in case of discriminatory treatment and hate crime, targeting those groups known to be most exposed;
- systematically gather disaggregated equality data in line with international standards to ensure that all policy measures aimed at the promotion of equality, including positive measures, are based on reliable data;
- identify without delay and in close consultation with minority representatives suitable premises that can serve as cultural centres for the relevant groups;
- increase the availability of public television and radio broadcasting featuring minority languages and cultures and raise the capacity of journalists and media professionals to ensure that the specific situation and concerns of minorities are adequately reflected;
- introduce more intercultural elements into the education system and ensure that teachers and school administrators are adequately trained to promote exchange and dialogue across ethnic and linguistic lines, including through the promotion of bilingualism and linguistic diversity;
- enhance the equality of Roma children in the education system, including by making suitable learning materials available and by promoting respect and openness towards diversity among all students;
- provide adequate opportunities for teacher training, in particular regarding language learning methodologies and teaching methods in multilingual environments, and suitable education materials to minority language schools and enhance the opportunities of all students to learn the official languages of Cyprus;
- further strengthen the competences of the Armenian, Latin and Maronite representatives in all decision making affecting their communities and promote the recruitment of members of these communities into public services; ensure the direct representation of Roma interests and concerns in all strategies or programmes aimed at their improved participation in socio-economic life.

³ The recommendations below are listed in the order of the corresponding articles of the Framework Convention.