European Minority Youth Network
E - NEWSLETTER

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(ENG)

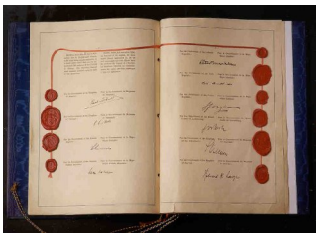
DATES

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY
21 FEBRUARY

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999.
The International Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



Protection of national minorities: 10th anniversary of framework conventio

Ján Kubiš, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and chairman-in-office of the Committee of Ministers, said the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was an important day in the Council of Europe's efforts to protect and promote human rights in Europe, of which the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are part and parcel. The Convention was the first legally-binding multilateral instrument on minority protection.

Minister Kubiš emphasised that the ten year anniversary was a good time to sum up the experience gathered in implementing the Framework Convention and to reflect on its specific influence in increasing the level of minority protection. With this in mind, under the Slovak Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, a conference will be organised on 11 March to discuss the future impact of the Framework Convention.

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities has so far been ratified by 39 European states and signed by four more. In the past decade, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention and the Committee of Ministers have carried out two exercises monitoring countries' compliance with the Framework Convention.

The text of the Convention is available here:

http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/157.htm

EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL NEWS

Photo competition: Cultures on my street

As the Union grows together in its diversity, the European Commission challenges young people to capture their vision of intercultural dialogue and share it with the world in this competition open to all European residents, regardless of age or origins. They will have to take pictures inspired by the themes found in the fields of education, religion, migration, science, culture, minority groups or youth.
There are no borders to imagination and creativity; everyone may feel free to explore the possibility of retouching and editing photos, or making photo collages and montages. The photos could be used in materials that will encourage people from different cultures across Europe to break down the barriers of communication and start a meaningful conversation.
On top of that, fabulous prices can be won!

Deadline for sending entries is 30th June 2008.

http://www.street-cultures.eu

LEARN ABOUT...

Minority Languages

Regional or minority languages are languages traditionally used within a given territory of a state by nationals of that state who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the state's population; they are different from the official language(s) of that state, and they include neither dialects of the official language(s) of the state nor the languages of migrants.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was adopted in 1992 to protect and promote regional and minority languages as a threatened aspect of Europe's cultural heritage and to enable speakers of a regional or minority language to use it in private and public life.
The Charter sets out the main objectives and principles that states undertake to apply to all regional or minority languages existing within their national territory.
The Charter contains a series of concrete measures designed to facilitate and encourage the use of specific regional or minority languages in public life.

The text of the Charter here:

http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=148&CL=ENG