

SOUTHEAST EUROPE: DIVERSITY AND DEMOCRACY

Recognition of Minorities in Southeast Europe
An Interactive Workshop

Minority Rights Group International and Minority Rights Group Greece
Athens, Greece, 30 - 31 March 2001
Preliminary Agenda

THURSDAY, 29 MARCH

Afternoon: Arrival at conference centre, Dinner

FRIDAY, 30 MARCH

Open Morning Session

International Context: Standards and Processes

Chair: Mr Alan Phillips

- 9:30 - 10:15 Welcome, Process Orientation and Introductions
10:15 - 11:30 Expert Contributions to the topic from various organisational perspectives (10 minutes presentations followed by 5 minutes question time)

United Nations (Mr. Youri Reshetov, Vice-President of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Ms. Zdenka Machnyikova, Senior Legal Adviser, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities)

Council of Europe (Mr. Boris Tsilevich, Parliamentary Assembly and Latvian Parliament; Founder and Consultant of MINELRES, Latvia)

European Parliament (Mr. Eurig Wyn, MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance)

Mr. Andreas Takis, Senior Investigator at The Greek Ombudsman's Human Rights Department, Athens, Greece

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 1:00 Discussion

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch break

Afternoon Session

Recognition in Law and in Fact: Identifying Major Issues in Southeast Europe

- 2:00 - 3:00 Introductions. (Participants will be asked to introduce themselves and their organisation, and share with the group their expectations from the workshop.)

- 3:00 – 4:10 Ten-minute presentations surveying each country's constitutional and relevant practical arrangements.
- 4:10 – 4:25 *Coffee break*
- 4:25 – 5:30 Whole group generates ideas about what are the main issues in the recognition in law and fact of minorities, based on their experiences.
- 5:30 – 6:30 Developing the 'conceptual map' - participants analyse the connections between the issues identified earlier and group them into major topics.

SATURDAY, 31 MARCH

Morning Session Selection and Discussion of Three Major Topics

- 9:30 - 10:00 The group decides upon three key topics for focused discussion and strategy development.
- 10:00 - 11:30 **Topic One:** the topic for this session will be determined by the group, based on priorities identified in the Friday afternoon session. The goal is to explore problematic issues in detail and share strategies for addressing them.
- 11:30 - 11:45 *Coffee Break*
- 11:45 - 1:15 **Topic Two:** the topic for this session will be determined by the group, based on priorities identified in the Friday afternoon session. The goal is to explore problematic issues in detail and share strategies for addressing them.
- 1:15 - 2:45 *Lunch*

Afternoon Session Discussion of Major Topics Continued; Closing Session

- 2:45 - 4:15 **Topic Three:** the topic for this session will be determined by the group, based on priorities identified in the Friday afternoon session. The goal is to explore problematic issues in detail and share strategies for addressing them.
- 4:15 - 4:30 *Coffee Break*
- 4:30 – 6:30 Conclusion: Summing up issues and concluding strategies; discussion of follow-up activities.