



## International Conference

# **PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN PUBLIC LIFE: THE ROLE OF CONSULTATIVE BODIES**

## **PROGRAMME**

Tuesday 7 March 2006  
Hotel Aro Palace, Braşov, Romania

### **6 MARCH 2006**

*Arrival of participants at Hotel ARO Palace, Braşov.*

*The organizers will provide transportation of the participants from the Henri Coandă Airport in Bucharest to the hotel (150 km).*

**19.30 Welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant with the representatives of the Braşov local authorities.**

### **7 MARCH 2006**

#### **PLENARY SESSION**

*Chair: State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (name to be confirmed)*

**9:30-10:00 Opening of the conference**

Mr Bela Markó, State Minister in charge of the coordination of the activities in the field of culture, education and European integration; Vice-Prime Minister of Romania

Mr Philippe Boillat, Director, Directorate II, Directorate General of Human Rights, Council of Europe

**10:00-10:45 Consultative bodies and participation of persons belonging to national minorities – challenges and progress from a European comparative perspective**

Ms Lidija Basta-Fleiner, First Vice-President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention - *Participation as an inclusive concept (covering cultural, public, economic and social life)*

Mr Detlev Rein, Chair of the Committee of Experts on Issues Relating to National Minorities (DH-MIN)

10:45-11:00 Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 **Press conference**

Mr. Bela Markó, State Minister- Romanian Government, Secretary of State - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Philippe Boillat, Director, Council of Europe, Mr Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Mr Antti Korkeakivi, Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe

**11:30-12:30 Consultation arrangements: main challenges and issues at the domestic level, including level of consultation, election process, legal status, financing, etc.**

Presentation by Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) of his report on consultation arrangements concerning national minorities

Discussants: Mr Nils Muznieks, Senior Researcher, Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia

Mr David Orlović, Coordination of National Minorities of the City of Zagreb, Croatia,

12:30-13:00 Discussions

**13:00-14:30 Lunch**

**14:30-16:30 WORKSHOPS**

#### **WORKSHOP 1: MEMBERSHIP**

Chairperson: Ms Dimitrina Petrova, European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest

Rapporteur: Mr Steven Wheatley, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

#### Issues to be addressed

- How to secure genuine representation of minorities (elections, appointments, other options)
- Generating umbrella organisation of minorities

Short initial presentations (15 minutes) by:

Ms Sanela Bešić, Council of Roma, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Vera Giricz, Ruthenian National Minority Self-Government, Hungary

Followed by discussions

#### **WORKSHOP 2: STATUS, MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS**

Chairperson: Mr Attila Markó, Secretary of State for Inter-Ethnic Relations, Romania

Rapporteur: Ms Emma Lantschner, European Academy of Bolzano

Short initial presentations (15 minutes) by:

Mr Michael Teilus, Deputy member of the Sami Parliament, Sweden

Mr Marjan Strum, Advisory Council for the Slovene Minority, Austria

Ms Klara Hallik, Presidential Round-table, Estonia

Followed by discussions

Issues to be addressed:

- Key functions of consultative bodies (legislation, programming, minority representation, including in international fora)
- Specific mechanism (areas and groups)

### **WORKSHOP 3: FUNCTIONING IN PRACTICE**

Chairperson: Mr Gunnar Jansson, Chair of the Advisory Council for Roma Affairs, Finland  
Rapporteur: Mr Arie Bloed, Consultant on Minority Issues

Short initial presentations (15 minutes) by:

Mr Romedi Arquint, President, Federal Union of the European Nationalities (FUEN)  
Mr Ilie Dinca, National Council of Minorities, Romania  
Mr Dragan Marcel, Romanian National Minority Council, Serbia and Montenegro

Followed by discussions

Issues to be addressed:

- Working procedure: internal procedures and procedures for multi-level consultation
- Funding
- Relations with other organisations at national level
- Co-operation with international bodies

16:30-17:00 Coffee break

### **PLENARY**

Chairperson: Mr Valentin Platon, Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations, Romania

17:00-18:00 Presentation of the findings of the workshops

- Workshop 1: Mr Steven Wheatley, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- Workshop 2: Ms Emma Lantschner, European Academy of Bolzano
- Workshop 3: Mr Arie Bloed, Consultant on Minority Issues

18:00-18:30 Concluding remarks

Representative of the Council of Europe Secretariat  
Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship

20:00 Reception hosted by Mr Attila Markó, Secretary of State for Inter-Ethnic Relations, Romania

**8 MARCH 2006**

*Departure of the consultative body representatives, transportation to the airport.*