



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**Launching of the Third Thematic Commentary  
on the Language Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities**

**Strasbourg, 15 October 2012**

**(Venue: Council of Europe, Agora building, Room GO1)**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

- 9:00 – 9:30**                    **Registration of participants**
- 9:30 – 9:45**                    **Official Opening**
- Ms Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy - Directorate General II**
- 10:00 – 11:15**                **First Panel: Linguistic rights and effective participation in public life**
- Moderator: Ms Lidija BASTA FLEINER, Member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in respect of Serbia**

**Panellists:**

**Mr Francesco PALERMO, Member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of Italy;**

**Ms Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;**

**Mr Davyth HICKS, Secretariat of Intergroup, European Parliament/European Language Equality Network (ELEN);**

**Mr Vadim POLESHCHUK, Estonian Legal Information Centre for Human Rights;**

***Discussion***

**Coffee break**

- 11:30 – 12:45**                **Second Panel: Linguistic rights and full and effective equality**
- Moderator: Ms Aleksandra BOJADZIEVA, Member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of the “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”**

**Panellists:**

**Ms Athanasia SPILIOPOULOU ÅKERMARK, Member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of Sweden;**

**Ms Barbara JOHN, Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance in respect of Germany;**

**Mr Rudko KAWCZYNSKI, President of the European Roma and Travellers’ Forum;**

**Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;**

***Discussion***

- 13:00 – 14:00**                **Lunch break**
- 14:15 – 15:30**                **Third Panel: Linguistic rights and personal/group identity**
- Moderator: Mr Einar NIEMI, Member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of Norway**

**Panellists:**

**Ms Brigitta BUSCH, Additional member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM in respect of Austria;**

**Mr Stefan OETER, President of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;**

**Ms Antti KORKEAKIVI, Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;**

**Mr Alexander RIEMERSMA, Associate Professor for Frisian Language and Multilingualism at the Leeuwarden University of Applied Sciences;**

***Discussion***

**15:45-16:00 Closure followed by reception**