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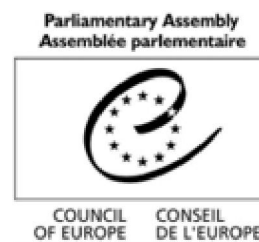
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**Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire**



Doc. 10289

27 September 2004

Ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Council of Europe member states

Motion for a resolution

presented by Mr Cilevičs and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

1. The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, elaborated and adopted within the framework of the Council of Europe, has become the first ever legally binding document on minority rights. The significance of this instrument in the standard-setting in the field of minority protection is really indispensable.
2. Despite cautious expectations, a vast majority of the Council of Europe member states have ratified the Framework Convention soon. This opened the door for the practical implementation of the procedures of monitoring implementation of the Convention's provisions in 1998. Since then, this monitoring mechanism has been recognized to prove its effectiveness.
3. In the meantime, unfortunately, a number of the Council of Europe member states have so far evaded ratification of the Framework Convention. In particular Andorra, France and Turkey have not even signed the Framework Convention, and Belgium, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have signed but still not ratified the Convention.
4. In a number of recommendations – notably [Recommendation 1492](#) (2001) and [Recommendation 1623](#) (2003) – the Assembly urged the member states mentioned above to swiftly ratify the Framework Convention or restrictive declarations. Regrettably, these recommendations have not led to any substantial progress in the field.
5. The Assembly reiterates its view that the ratification and diligent implementation of the Framework Convention is the main prerequisite for ensuring reliable protection of national minorities in Europe. Thus, the Assembly strongly believes that, in order to make the Framework Convention a really universal instrument, all Council of Europe member states who have not yet done so must ratify the Framework Convention without further delay.
6. Therefore, the Assembly decides to study the reasons for the protracted reluctance of some Council of Europe member states to ratify the Framework Convention, with the aim of providing all necessary assistance to these member states so as to speed up ratification of the Convention and thus make it a really universal instrument throughout Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed ¹:

CILEVIČS, Boriss, Latvia, SOC

AGUIAR, Manuela, Portugal, EPP/CD

ATKINSON, David, United Kingdom, EDG

BINDIG, Rudolf, Germany, SOC
BUDIN, Milos, Italy, SOC
de ZULUETA, Tana, Italy, SOC
ELO, Mikko, Finland, SOC
EÖRSI, Mátyás, Hungary, LDR
ERR, Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
FRUNDA, György, Romania, EPP/CD
GROSS, Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HANCOCK, Michael, United Kingdom, LDR
IVANOV, Sergei, Estonia, LDR
IWIŃSKI, Tadeusz, Poland, SOC
JASKIERNIA, Jerzy, Poland, SOC
JURGENS, Erik, Netherlands, SOC
KIRILOV, Evgeni, Bulgaria, SOC
KROLL, Henryk, Poland, EPP/CD
LLOYD, Tony, United Kingdom, SOC
MARGELOV, Mikhail, Russia, EDG
MARTY, Dick, Switzerland, LDR
OLIN, Kalevi, Finland, SOC
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RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, United Kingdom, LDR
SEVERIN, Adrian, Romania, SOC
SØNDERGAARD, Søren, Denmark, UEL
STOISITS, Terezija, Austria, SOC
TKÁČ, Vojtech, Slovakia, EDG
van THIJN, Ed, Netherlands, SOC
WILKINSON, John, United Kingdom, EDG
ZAPFL-HELBLING, Rosmarie, Switzerland, EPP/CD

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- ¹ SOC: Socialist Group
 EPP/CD: Group of the European People’s Party
 LDR : Liberal, Democratic and Reformers’ Group
 EDG: European Democratic Group
 UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
 NR: not registered in a group