



Statement of the Delegation of Hungary

Working Session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination I.

HDIM, 26. September 2016.

Warsaw

In addition to the statement made on behalf of the European Union with which we fully align ourselves, let me make the following points:

Hungary considers the office and the mandate of the High Commissioner on National Minorities to be of the utmost importance not only for the concept of comprehensive security of the OSCE area, but also for the protection and promotion of rights of national minorities. We commend the steps the High Commissioner has taken in furthering the implementation of human dimension commitments concerning minorities and are aware of the important work she was involved in several participating States. During the visit in Hungary earlier this year we had the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, where we expressed our concerns regarding the situation of certain Hungarian communities living in the neighbouring countries, i. e. the restrictions on the use bilingual signs, obstructions and bans against the use of their national symbols, restrictions concerning the freedom of assembly.

One of the basic assumptions of our policy is that Hungarian communities would like to preserve their identity and prosper in their homelands. This is why we and the neighbouring countries have to strive to achieve positive economic developments in these regions, which will motivate both younger and older generations to stay and work in their homelands. We share the view of national minority interest groups who claim that regional identification creates cohesion and a stable basis for the economic development of the population as a whole.

We deem important to tackle the lack of political will and inertia with regard to the protection of national minorities. A comprehensive and strategic approach is needed to promote a greater visibility and effective use of minority languages in public life. Regarding the media, we

endorse ensuring sufficient and stable funding in order to guarantee the viability of media in minority languages and review the impact of privatisation and the introduction of digital television broadcasting on minority media.

Finally, we wish to underline the importance of the central principles set out in thematic recommendations and guidelines of the High Commissioner, especially in the recommendations on linguistic rights, education and recommendation on the effective participation of national minorities in public life. These and various Council of Europe instruments such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages set the minimum standards of European minority protection that can and should be completed by more “generous” measures helping the national minorities to preserve their identity, i.e. Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.