HDIM.IO/472/06 11 October 2006



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, 2-13 October 2006

Recommendations of the Council of Europe

Working session 14: Tolerance and non-discrimination II:

National minorities

- 1. To encourage States that have not yet signed or ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities or the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, to do so.
- 2. To stress the need to raise awareness about minority issues and about regional identity issues not only in Central and Eastern Europe, but also in Western Europe.
- 3. To Stress the importance for States to fully implement the results of the monitoring under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, including through the adoption of relevant legislation and its implementation in practice.
- 4. To encourage States to ensure that there is no arbitrary exclusion of persons potentially concerned by the protection offered by the Framework Convention.
- 5. To stress the importance of dialogue with minorities as a necessary precondition for further realising the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
- 6. To Underline the importance of the successful co-operation that has taken place between the OSCE HCNM and the relevant sectors of the Council of Europe dealing with minority issues, and encouraging the further use of the results of the monitoring under the Framework Convention and the Language Charter by the OSCE and by the field offices of the OSCE in their assessments and their actions.