



**Statement by the Delegation of Hungary at the
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**
Warsaw, 29 September 2014

Working Session 11: Rights of persons belonging to national minorities (continued)

National minorities should be able not only to formulate their interests, but also to decide the methods and ways to formulate and implement them. It is therefore important to introduce special arrangements for the representation and participation of minorities in elected bodies and in the executive as well as in branches of government and the wider public sector at the national, regional and local levels – as enshrined in Ljubljana Guidelines of the High Commissioner.

However, in many states no efforts have been made to promote the opportunities of national minorities to be represented in elected bodies. On the contrary, amendments to the electoral laws or administrative decisions appear to diminish the chances for smaller minority communities to be represented in elected bodies. Similar problems arise in the context of the possible territorial and administrative reform, where it is essential that the composition of the population is taken into account in order to promote their full and effective participation in public life. In particular, participation in public affairs should include not only participation in the elected bodies but also in the executive branch and civil services. The lack of participation in this area is closely related to the lack of participation in socio-economic life and vice-versa – as pointed out in Parliamentary Resolution of the Council of Europe.

National minority councils that were granted wide competences in the fields of culture, education, information in national minority languages and official use of language may have significant positive effects on the protection of national minorities. However, governments should abstain from interfering in the competences and activities of these bodies and should provide adequate administrative and financial resources for their functioning.

We invite the High Commissioner to follow more closely the future developments concerning



the electoral law and obstacles in way of national minorities to be represented in elected bodies. It is also highly important to follow closely the possible territorial/administrative reform in the context of guaranteeing full and effective participation of national minorities in public life.