

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Recommendation RecChL(2006)1 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Germany

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 1 March 2006
at the 957th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification submitted by Germany on 16 September 1998;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Germany;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Germany in its second periodical report, supplementary information given by the German authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Germany and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its "on-the-spot" visit;

Having taken note of the comments made by the German authorities on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Recommends that the German authorities take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. adopt specific legal provisions, where these are still lacking, in order to ensure the practical implementation of the undertakings which Germany has entered into under the Charter;
2. take action to improve provision and allocate adequate resources for regional or minority language teaching and in particular:
 - ensure that the current schools rationalisation programme in Saxony does not jeopardise the provision of education in Upper Sorbian;
 - remedy the existing shortage of Lower-Sorbian-speaking teachers;
 - develop and implement the educational model for North Frisian proposed by the North Frisian speakers;
 - adopt measures to improve teaching in and of Sater Frisian as a matter of urgency and ensure continuity in educational provision in this language;
 - increase the number of hours devoted to, and provide clear guidelines for, Low German teaching in the *Länder* concerned;
 - adopt a structured policy with respect to Romany in the field of education, in co-operation with the speakers;
3. reverse the decline in study and research opportunities for Low German, Sater Frisian and Lower Sorbian and improve facilities for teacher training;
4. ensure that an effective monitoring mechanism exists in the field of education for all regional or minority languages covered under Part III;
5. take resolute action to establish a structured policy for making it practically possible to use regional or minority languages in dealings with the administration and, where relevant, in the courts;

6. create incentives to increase the provision for regional or minority languages in private broadcasting.