



COUNCIL OF EUROPE      CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Ministers  
Comité des Ministres

**Recommendation CM/RecChL(2008)4  
of the Committee of Ministers  
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Netherlands**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 9 July 2008  
at the 1032nd 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 the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 2 May 1996 and to the supplementary declaration submitted on 19 March 1997;

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

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

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by the Netherlands in their national report, supplementary information provided by the Dutch authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in the Netherlands and information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

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

1. strengthen the teaching of and in Frisian at all levels of education;
2. adopt legal and practical measures in order to ensure the use of Frisian in central state administration agencies located in the Province of Friesland;
3. ensure that a national language policy for Limburgish and Low Saxon is developed, particularly in the field of education, in co-operation with the speakers and the provincial authorities;
4. ensure that a structured dialogue is developed with the representatives of the Romanes-speakers and take measures to protect and promote Romanes, in particular in the field of education, in co-operation with the speakers.