

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Recommendation RecChL(2004)2 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Denmark

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 May 2004
at the 884th 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 declarations submitted by Denmark on 8 September 2000, and the Communication dated 25 August 2000;

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

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

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

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

1. adopt a more structured policy for the protection and promotion of German in order to achieve a practical implementation of the provisions of the Charter, especially in the fields of administration, justice and the media;
2. renew consultations with the Home Rule Authorities of the Faroe Islands and Greenland on the possible application of the Charter in the two Home Rule areas;
3. consider the protection of the German language in the context of the possible reform of administrative structures which could affect Southern Jutland County;
4. ensure that German speakers have the possibility to use their language before administrative authorities in practice;
5. implement the undertakings chosen in the field of the broadcasting media.