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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

LEGISLATION ON KIN-MINORITIES

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FEDERAL LAW

**On the State Policy of the Russian Federation
in respect of compatriots abroad**

Adopted
by the State Duma
on 5 March 1999

Approved
by the Federation Council
on 17 March 1999

The present Federal Law takes as its premise that:

the Russian Federation is the successor state and cessionary of the Russian state, the Russian republic, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR);

the institution of Russian citizenship corresponds to the principle of the permanence (continuity) of Russian statehood;

relations with compatriots abroad constitutes an important aspect of the Russian Federation's foreign and domestic policy;

protection of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms promotes political and social stability, and improves co-operation between peoples and states;

compatriots who are resident abroad are entitled to rely on the Russian Federation's support in exercising their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, and in preserving their distinctive identity;

compatriots' councils (committees) shall represent the interests of compatriots abroad within the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

the Russian Federation's activities in respect of relations with compatriots abroad shall be conducted in accordance with the universally recognised principles and standards of international law and the Russian Federation's international treaties, and shall take into account the legislation of the countries in which compatriots are resident.

The present Federal Law establishes the principles and objectives of the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots abroad and the foundations of the activities of the Russian Federation's state authorities in implementing the above-mentioned policy.

Article 1. Basic concepts

1. Compatriots are individuals who were born in a particular state and who live or have lived in it and share a common language, religion, cultural heritage, traditions and customs, as are their direct descendants.

2. The concept of “compatriots abroad” (hereinafter – compatriots) refers to:

citizens of the Russian Federation who are resident on a permanent basis outside the Russian Federation (hereinafter – citizens of the Russian Federation living abroad);

individuals who were citizens of the USSR and live in states that were formerly part of the USSR, who have become citizens of those states or become stateless persons (hereinafter – persons who were citizens of the USSR);

expatriates (emigrants) from the Russian state, the Russian republic, the RSFSR, the USSR and the Russian Federation, who had the corresponding citizenship and have become citizens of a foreign state, have a residence permit in one of these states or have become stateless persons (hereinafter – expatriates (emigrants));

the descendants of individuals belonging to the above-mentioned groups, with the exception of descendants of individuals from the titular nation of the foreign state (hereinafter – compatriots’ descendants).

Article 2. Other concepts used in the present Federal Law

The following concepts are also used in the present Federal Law:

abroad – beyond the borders of the Russian Federation’s territory;

civil identity – the fact of being a subject or citizen, respectively, of the Russian state, the Russian republic, the RSFSR, the USSR, the Russian Federation or a foreign state;

citizen of the Russian Federation resident abroad – an individual who is a citizen of the Russian Federation and is legally resident on the territory of a foreign state;

stateless person – a person who is not a citizen of the Russian Federation and has no supporting documents to prove citizenship or subject status in a foreign state;

participants (parties) in the Russian Federation’s relations with compatriots – the state authorities of the Russian Federation, the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

nationalities of the Russian Federation – nationalities of individuals whose main settlement areas are within the Russian Federation;

titular nation – the section of a state’s population whose nationality defines the given state’s official name;

distinct identity – native language, traditions and customs of compatriots, the specific features of their cultural heritage and religion.

Article 3. Recognition and confirmation of compatriot status

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation and individuals with dual citizenship, one of which is Russian, who are resident on a permanent basis outside the Russian Federation, shall be considered compatriots on the basis of their civil identity. Documents indicating that they are citizens of the Russian Federation shall serve as documents (certificates) confirming their compatriot status.

2. For individuals who were citizens of the USSR, expatriates (emigrants) and compatriots' descendants, acknowledgement of their compatriot status shall be an act of free choice. Compatriot status shall be confirmed by a special document (certificate), on the basis of a model drawn up by the Russian Federation's Government.

3. Documents (certificates) issued outside the Russian Federation shall be issued within one month by the Russian Federation's diplomatic representations or consular posts under the conditions set out in Article 4 of the present Federal Law, following a written application submitted by the individual concerned; within the Russian Federation, they shall be issued by the bodies of the Russian Federation Interior Ministry in the individual's place of residence.

4. The acts (decisions) of state authorities and officials in connection with the issue of documents (certificates) may be appealed, by submitting an appeal to the state body that is immediately superior or by applying directly to the court in the locality of the relevant federal executive body.

Should they so wish, compatriots may submit appeals through a member of the council (committee) of compatriots.

Article 4. The bases for confirming compatriots' membership of the groups provided for in the present Federal Law

Compatriots' identity as citizens of the USSR, expatriates (emigrants) and compatriots' descendants shall be established on the basis of possession of documents or other evidence, confirming respectively:

citizenship of the USSR, civil identity or its absence at the time of submitting the application – for individuals who were citizens of the USSR;

past residence on the territory of the Russian state, Russian republic, RSFSR, USSR or Russian Federation, the corresponding civil identity when leaving this territory and civil identity, or its absence, when submitting the application – for expatriates (emigrants);

linear consanguinity with the persons indicated above – for compatriots' descendants;

residence abroad – for all individuals referred to in this Article.

Article 5. Principles and objectives of the state policy of the Russian Federation in respect of compatriots

1. The Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots is an integral part of the Russian Federation's domestic and foreign policy and constitutes the totality of legal, diplomatic, social, economic, informational, educational, organisational and other measures,

implemented by the President of the Russian Federation, the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution, the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, for applying the principles and objectives established by the present Federal Law.

2. The Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots shall be based on recognition of:

the inalienability of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms, and each individual's entitlement to these from birth;

the obligation on states to observe the universally recognised principles and standards of international law, in full conformity with the principle of non-interference by states in other states' domestic affairs;

co-operation between states in guaranteeing compatriots' rights and freedoms.

The objectives of the Russian Federation's policy in respect of compatriots are the provision of state support and assistance to compatriots, in accordance with universally recognised principles and standards of international law, the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, and taking account of foreign states' legislation in implementing and guaranteeing human and civil rights and freedoms, including the right:

- to freely express, preserve and develop one's distinct identity, and to support and develop one's spiritual and intellectual potential;

- to establish and freely support multifaceted links between compatriots and with the Russian Federation, and to receive information from the Russian Federation;

- to establish national-cultural autonomy, public associations and mass media, and to participate in their activities;

- to participate in the work of non-governmental organisations at national and international level;

- to participate in developing mutually-beneficial relations between the state of residence and the Russian Federation;

- to exercise free choice regarding one's place of residence or the right to return to the Russian Federation.

Article 6. The Russian Federation's legislation in respect of relations with compatriots

The Russian Federation's legislation in respect of relations with compatriots shall be based on the universally recognised principles and standards of international law and comprises the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation's international treaties, the present Federal Law and other federal laws and any standard-setting legal texts of the Russian Federation, as well as laws and other standard-setting legal texts of the subjects of the Russian Federation, adopted in accordance with the Constitution and the present Federal Law.

Article 7. The basis of relations with citizens of the Russian Federation living abroad

1. The Russian Federation guarantees protection and patronage to its citizens abroad.
2. Citizens of the Russian Federation who live abroad enjoy rights and have obligations on an equal footing with citizens of the Russian Federation living on the territory of the Russian Federation, except for those cases established by the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, and in accordance with the legislation of the state of residence.
3. During visits to the territory of the Russian Federation, citizens of the Russian Federation who live abroad shall enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations as citizens of the Russian Federation who are resident on the territory of the Russian Federation, with the exception of cases set out in federal law.
4. Individuals with dual citizenship, one of which is Russian, may not have restrictions placed on their rights and freedoms, and shall not be exempt from the obligations arising from citizenship of the Russian Federation, unless otherwise provided by one of the Russian Federation's international treaties or the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 8. Relations with individuals who were citizens of the USSR

1. Relations with individuals who were citizens of the USSR shall be determined by the specific historical features governing the emergence of the states in which they reside, and shall be of prime importance for the Russian Federation.
2. The Russian Federation shall assist individuals who were citizens of the USSR in exercising their fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms, including the right to citizenship and the right to freely choose that citizenship, and shall provide assistance and support to them on the basis of the present Federal Law and the Russian Federation's international treaties, taking into account the legislation of the states in which they are resident.
3. Relations with persons who were citizens of the USSR and who, in accordance with the legislation of states which were part of the USSR, have acquired citizenship of the Russian Federation, of the state in which they reside or of a third state, or dual citizenship, and relations with stateless persons, shall be determined in accordance with the present Federal Law.

Article 9. Relations with expatriates (emigrants)

1. The Russian Federation favours the preservation by expatriates (emigrants) of links with the Russian Federation in all fields, and the enjoyment of opportunities afforded to compatriots in accordance with the provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the present Federal Law; it shall also intervene to support them in the event of violation of their fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms.
2. The provisions of Article 8 of the present Federal Law shall be extended to expatriates (emigrants) who were citizens of the USSR and are resident abroad and outside countries formerly making up the USSR.

3. Relations between expatriates (emigrants) and the Russian Federation, based on the fact that these expatriates (emigrants) were previously subjects of the Russian state or citizens of the Russian republic, RSFSR, USSR and Russian Federation, shall be governed by the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation.

Article 10. Relations with compatriots' descendants

1. The scope of Article 7 of the present Federal Law shall extend to the descendants of compatriots who are citizens of the Russian Federation or persons with dual citizenship, one of which is Russian.

2. If, in line with the procedure set out in Article 4 of the present Federal Law, direct consanguinity is confirmed with individuals who were citizens of the USSR and expatriates (emigrants) who are participants (parties) in the Russian Federation's relations with compatriots, then compatriots' descendants shall be entitled to support for their interest in the Russian Federation, and links with it, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the present Federal Law.

3. The rights of compatriots' descendants, which may arise from their consanguinity with persons who were citizens of the USSR and expatriates (emigrants), shall be guaranteed in accordance with the Russian Federation's international treaties and the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 11. Issues of citizenship in respect of compatriots

1. The citizenship of a citizen of the Russian Federation shall not be terminated should he or she reside abroad.

2. Individuals who are resident abroad and who were stripped of citizenship of the RSFSR or the Russian Federation or who have lost this citizenship against their will, shall be considered to have had their citizenship of the Russian Federation restored unless they formally object to this decision.

Subjects of the Russian state who found themselves outside its borders and were stripped of RSFSR citizenship, or who lost it against their will, and their direct descendants, shall acquire citizenship of the Russian Federation through the registration process.

Expatriates (emigrants) who voluntarily renounced citizenship of the Russian Federation may be granted citizenship of the Russian Federation further to an application by them in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation.

Persons who were citizens of the USSR, and direct descendants of compatriots who are citizens of a foreign state, may be granted Russian Federation citizenship at their request, subject to the conditions and in line with the procedure set out in the Russian Federation's international treaties and the legislation of the Russian Federation.

3. A citizen of the Russian Federation may be a citizen of a foreign state (dual citizenship) in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation's international treaties or federal law.

The civil status of persons who were citizens of the USSR, of expatriates (emigrants) or of compatriots' direct descendants as citizens of a foreign state, or the absence of such status, shall not be an obstacle to their contacting the state authorities of the Russian

Federation with responsibility for questions of Russian Federation citizenship and for issuing Russian Federation citizenship in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation.

4. Individuals who were citizens of the USSR, and their direct descendants, who do not voluntarily and freely declare their wish to assume citizenship of other states shall be recognised as citizens of the Russian Federation.

5. A person who is resident abroad may renounce his or her citizenship of the Russian Federation on the basis of an application or through the registration procedure, provided the aforementioned individual departed to take up residence in a foreign state in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

6. Indigent persons who were citizens of the USSR and expatriates (emigrants) shall be fully or partially exempt from the payment of state duty when submitting applications and requests in respect of citizenship of the Russian Federation to the state authorities of the Russian Federation responsible for questions of Russian Federation citizenship, in line with the procedure set out in the Russian Federation's legislation.

7. The Russian Federation shall help to reduce the number of stateless persons among compatriots, on the basis of the universally recognised principles and standards of international law.

Article 12. Compatriots' entry to the Russian Federation, movement around the territory of the Russian Federation and exit from the Russian Federation

The procedure governing compatriots' entry to the Russian Federation, movement around the territory of the Russian Federation and exit from the Russian Federation shall be established by the Russian Federation's international treaties and federal laws.

Article 13. The legal status of compatriots who are foreign citizens and of stateless persons within the Russian Federation's territory

During their stay in the territory of the Russian Federation, compatriots who are foreign citizens or stateless persons shall enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations as citizens of the Russian Federation, except as set out in the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation's international treaties, federal constitutional laws and federal laws.

Article 14. The basis for activities for implementing the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots

1. The main directions of the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots shall be determined by the President of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the present Federal Law.

2. Protection of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms as applicable to compatriots is an inalienable part of the Russian Federation's foreign policy activity.

3. The Russian Federation's co-operation programmes with foreign states shall be prepared, adopted and implemented with reference to observance by one or another state of the universally recognised principles and standards of international law in the field of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms.

4. Discrimination against citizens of the Russian Federation living abroad may be grounds for reconsideration of the Russian Federation's policy in respect of the foreign state in which such discrimination takes place.

5. Failure by a foreign state to observe universally recognised principles and standards of international law in the field of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms with regard to compatriots shall be sufficient grounds for the adoption by the Russian Federation's state authorities of those measures provided for in international legal standards to protect compatriots' interests.

Article 15. Support for compatriots in the field of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms

1. Compatriots shall be entitled to rely on the Russian Federation's support:

in guaranteeing their fundamental freedoms and civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights, as provided for by international covenants on human rights;

in their actions against instances of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, language, religion, political or other convictions, national or social origins, status as compatriots, property ownership or any other circumstance;

in guaranteeing their right to equality before the law.

2. The Russian Federation shall provide support for compatriots in the field of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms in accordance with the universally recognised principles and standards of international law, the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, and taking into account the legislation of foreign states and compatriot's membership of the groups provided for in the present Federal Law.

Article 16. Support for compatriots in the economic and social fields

1. In carrying out the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots, the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall encourage co-operation between Russian organisations and compatriots' economic entities and shall assist in setting up joint organisations, partnerships and associations and with compatriots' participation in investment in the Russian economy, and shall encourage links between Russian organisations, regardless of their form of ownership, with foreign enterprises in which compatriots are primarily employed and the development of mutually beneficial co-operation between them in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation and the legislation of foreign states.

2. The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation may provide support in the social field to socially vulnerable categories of compatriots, subject to their membership of the groups of compatriots provided for in the present Federal Law, on the basis of the Russian Federation's international agreements and in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation.

3. Humanitarian assistance may be provided to compatriots in emergency situations, subject to the conditions and in line with the procedure established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Article 17. Support for compatriots in the field of culture, language and education

1. The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall support compatriots in preserving and developing their cultural heritage and language, which are inalienable elements of compatriots' distinct identity, and in their efforts to achieve equal access to education at all levels and education in their native language, and shall take the appropriate action for this purpose, in accordance with the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation and taking into account the legislation of foreign states.

2. The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall engage in comprehensive co-operation with compatriots' national and cultural autonomous units in those foreign states in which the aforementioned autonomous units exist.

3. Use of Russian scientific and cultural centres located in foreign states shall be made available to compatriots, in order to satisfy their cultural, scientific and informational requirements.

4. For the purpose of assisting compatriots in preserving and developing their cultural heritage, the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall:

provide assistance to cultural centres, cultural and educational organisations, libraries, archives, museums, theatres, musical and choreographic ensembles, artistic workshops and other professional and amateur artistic groups of compatriots;

facilitate the study of compatriots' cultural heritage;

assist all forms of cultural exchange between the Russian Federation and compatriots.

5. The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall facilitate compatriots' preservation of knowledge of the native languages of the nationalities of the Russian Federation, the creation of conditions for their study and use in education and for receiving information in these languages, in accordance with the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, and taking account of the legislation of foreign states.

6. The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall, in conformity with the Russian Federation's legislation, help persons who were citizens of the USSR to receive secondary and higher vocational education and in-service training, including doctoral and post-doctoral studies, in educational establishments and research institutes in the Russian Federation, on an equal footing with citizens of the Russian Federation.

Should quotas be established on the intake of foreign citizens for study and in-service training paid for from the federal budget, it is essential that compatriots' interests be taken into account.

The Russian Federation shall assist compatriots in obtaining general education in the native languages of the nationalities of the Russian Federation, including the study of Russian history and Russian cultural heritage.

To this end, measures shall be implemented to train teachers and to develop textbooks, programmes and teaching methodology manuals, with the participation of specialist compatriots, bearing in mind the particular organisational features of the educational system in the states which were part of the USSR, and to supply such textbooks, programmes and manuals to compatriots, to assist in setting up and obtaining official recognition for educational establishments, opening branches of Russian higher educational establishments where teaching is carried out in native languages, and in obtaining recognition of diplomas granted by these educational establishments.

7. For the purpose of developing an educational area in which the rights and interests of compatriots are taken into account, the Russian Federation shall pursue a course of action with respect to states which were part of the USSR aimed at developing an agreed policy in the field of education; shall enter into international treaties on recognition by the Russian Federation of higher vocational diplomas received by compatriots having pursued higher education in participant states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in the Latvian Republic, the Lithuanian Republic and the Estonian Republic.

Article 18. Support for compatriots in the field of information

1. The Russian Federation shall support compatriots in obtaining and disseminating information, using information in the native languages of the nationalities of the Russian Federation within the territories of the states in which they are resident, creating information media, and in supporting and developing information links between the states in which they are resident and between compatriots and the Russian Federation;

The state authorities of the Russian Federation shall take measures to disseminate information concerning the implementation of the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots and about compatriots' situation in the Russian Federation and in the states in which they are resident.

2. The Russian Federation shall create the necessary conditions for transmitting information from the Russian Federation to compatriots, via television and radio broadcasts, the distribution of periodicals and other printed matter, cinematic productions and audio and video materials in compatriots' native languages, and by adopting domestic state measures and concluding international treaties.

The Russian Federation shall provide financial, material and technical resources to the Russian mass media which supply information to compatriots to assist them in fulfilling this task, in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation.

3. The Russian Federation shall provide support for mass media owned by compatriots, in accordance with the Russian Federation's international treaties, the Russian Federation's legislation and the legislation of the states on whose territory those mass media operate.

Article 19. The Russian Federation's authority in the field of relations with compatriots

The Russian Federation's authority in the field of relations with compatriots shall consist in:

establishing the basis of the Russian Federation's state policy and activities to implement it;

adopting and amending federal laws and supervising how these are observed;

adopting federal programmes;

concluding international treaties and supervising the fulfilment of obligations arising from them;

other powers as defined by federal law.

Article 20. Authority of the state authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation in the field of relations with compatriots

The authority of the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation in the field of relations with compatriots shall consist in:

participating in developing the basic principles underlying the Russian Federation's state policy and in activities to implement it, and also in drawing up federal laws;

formulating and adopting laws and other standard-setting legal texts of the subjects of the Russian Federation in accordance with federal laws;

participating in developing and implementing federal programmes;

developing, adopting and executing regional (territorial) programmes.

Article 21. State administration and supervision in the field of relations with compatriots

State administration and supervision in the field of relations with compatriots shall be implemented:

at federal level: by the Government of the Russian Federation and the federal executive bodies that have been specially empowered for this task;

in the subjects of the Russian Federation: by the executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 22. The state's obligations in the field of relations with compatriots

The state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall:

formulate and carry out measures to implement the Russian Federation's state policy in accordance with the present Federal Law;

assist compatriots from all the groups provided for in the present Federal Law in exercising fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms as consolidated in the legislation of the countries in which they are permanently or temporarily resident, the Russian Federation's international treaties and the Russian Federation's legislation, and also take measures to defend and restore them;

be governed by the present Federal Law in resolving questions concerning compatriots.

Article 23. Financing of the Russian Federation's activities in the field of relations with compatriots

1. The Russian Federation's activities in respect of compatriots shall be funded from the federal budget. The procedure for distributing and using state allocations shall be determined by the Government of the Russian Federation, and the Chamber of Auditors shall be responsible for supervising their use.

2. The state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation and local authorities shall determine the scale and procedure of use of own resources channelled towards activities in respect of compatriots.

3. State funds and public foundations may be set up in the Russian Federation, made up of contributions from the state and from legal entities and individuals, to provide financing and material support to compatriots and their organisations. The state authorities of the Russian Federation shall encourage voluntary activities by legal entities and individuals from the Russian Federation in respect of relations with compatriots, in accordance with the Russian Federation's legislation.

Article 24. Granting of benefits and advantages to compatriots and their organisations and to legal entities and individuals in the Russian Federation and foreign individuals and organisations providing support to compatriots

In order to achieve the objectives of the Russian Federation's policy in respect of compatriots abroad, individuals and legal entities from the Russian Federation and foreign individuals and organisations providing material and financial assistance and support to compatriots, may be granted fiscal, customs and other privileges and advantages, on an equal footing with compatriots and their organisations, on the basis of the Russian Federation's legislation.

Article 25. State monitoring of relations with compatriots

State monitoring of relations with compatriots shall be conducted in the Russian Federation, to include the collection, analysis and evaluation of information on compatriots' situation, the creation of a data bank, forecasting of developments and scientific research.

The findings of the state's monitoring shall be brought to the attention of the state authorities of the Russian Federation, the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other participants (parties) in the Russian Federation's relations with compatriots, compatriots' organisations, public associations, and Russian and foreign mass media.

The procedure for conducting state monitoring of relations with compatriots shall be established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Article 26. Representation of compatriots' interests in the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation

Representative public/consultative bodies/councils (committees) of compatriots may be formed within the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation. The procedure for forming such compatriots' councils (committees), and their tasks and functions, shall be established by the state authorities of the Russian Federation and the state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, taking

due account of the Russian Federation's legislation and the legislation of the subjects of the Russian Federation respectively.

Article 27. Entry into force of the present Federal Law

The present Federal Law shall enter into force from the day of its official publication.

President of the Russian Federation
B. Yeltsin

Moscow, Kremlin
24 May 1999
No. 99 – F3

The text of this document has been checked against the "Collected legislation of the Russian Federation", No. 22, 31.05.99