

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

**REPORT OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES
(Venice, 12 May 1994)**

The 11th meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Protection of Minorities was held in Venice on 12 May 1994 with Mr Matscher, Chairman of the Sub-Commission, in the Chair. The participants are listed in the appendix to this report.

1. Consolidated report on the replies to the questionnaire on the rights of minorities

Mr Matscher, Chairman of the Sub-Commission, stated that 23 extremely varied replies had been received to the questionnaire.

A preliminary consolidated report had been prepared by two of Mr Scholsem's assistants, Mr Colla and Mrs Marique, and had been revised by the Secretariat, in particular on the basis of replies which had been received subsequently. However, the replies from Malta and Cyprus had been received too late to be included in the consolidated report, which had also been the subject of specific observations by Mr Suviranta.

The members commented on various aspects of the report.

The Sub-Committee proposed that the Secretariat prepare a new preliminary draft on the basis of members' comments and of the replies that had not yet been taken into account, while those members who had already replied were requested to submit their comments by 20 June. The Sub-Commission also proposed that those members who had not yet replied be invited to do so as soon as possible.

The Sub-Commission will meet on 7 and 8 September in order to prepare a draft report to be adopted at the next meeting of the Commission and transmitted to the CAHDD as the Commission's contribution to a programme.

2. Protection of minorities in federal and regional states

The Sub-Commission held a brief exchange of views on the preliminary report drafted by the Secretariat. It proposed that the Secretariat transmit its preliminary consolidated report, taking particular account of the Belgian contribution, to the members who had provided a national report, so that they could make their comments by 20 June. The revised preliminary draft would then be submitted to the Sub-Commission on 7 and 8 September, so that it might submit to the plenary Commission a definitive text which could serve as a working document for the UNIDEM seminar in Santorini.

3. Proposals for future activities

The preparation of the two consolidated reports (on the protection of minorities in general and on the protection of minorities in federal and regional States) will be finalised with a view to their publication in the series "Science and Technique of Democracy".

4. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will begin on Wednesday, 7 September 1994 at 2 pm.