

# **RESOLUTION ON THE POSITION OF AUTOCHTHONOUS SLOVENE MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND THE RELATED TASKS OF STATE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA (REPASM)**

## **Chapter 1 GENERAL PART**

I) The areas of neighbouring countries inhabited by autochthonous Slovene minorities constitute, together with the Republic of Slovenia, a common Slovene cultural area.

Autochthonous minorities are a constituent part of the societies of neighbouring countries but are linked by numerous ties with the state of the Slovene people. The members of autochthonous minorities, Slovenes living across the borders of Slovenia, are citizens of neighbouring countries with all rights and obligations towards those countries and are a valuable bridge for cooperation and good neighbourly relations between the Republic of Slovenia and its neighbouring countries.

II) Autochthonous Slovene minorities live in the Austrian provinces of Carinthia and Styria, the Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the Raba basin area of Hungary, and in areas on the Croatian side of the Croatian-Slovenian border, particularly Istria, Gorski Kotar and Medmurje.

III) The Republic of Slovenia stresses the validity of existing international legal documents governing the protection of the rights of autochthonous Slovene minorities in neighbouring countries. These include the Austrian national treaties, the Osimo Accords and the Agreement on the Guaranteeing of the Special Rights of the Slovene National Minority in the Republic of Hungary and of the Hungarian National Minority in the Republic of Slovenia. In accordance with the principles of succession the Republic of Slovenia is sole bearer of the rights and obligations deriving from these international agreements. At the same time it is committed to concluding new bilateral agreements which will determine more precisely the obligations of the signatories towards autochthonous national minorities.

In the international community Slovenia is striving for a general raising of the level of protection of autochthonous national minorities.

The Republic of Slovenia draws attention to the harmfulness of the type of inter-country relations which see countries attempt to settle open questions by putting pressure on autochthonous national minorities.

## **Chapter 2 ATTITUDE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF AUTOCHTHONOUS MINORITIES**

I) The successful operation of political, economic, cultural and other organisations is an indispensable expression of the existence of the autochthonous minority as a subject and a condition of its development.

The Republic of Slovenia supports Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries in their efforts for survival and development as national communities.

The Republic of Slovenia acknowledges the autonomy and political subjecthood of autochthonous Slovene minorities in neighbouring countries. The Republic of Slovenia welcomes the efforts of minority political organisations in individual neighbouring countries for democratically elected group representation. It also supports their efforts to achieve guaranteed representation of autochthonous minorities in legislative bodies and other political and administrative bodies.

II) The method and scale of financial support provided by the Republic of Slovenia to minority organisations is defined by statute and other legal documents.

The Republic of Slovenia supports the activities of cultural, educational, sports, research and other institutions and organisations of civil society in Slovenia which cooperate with autochthonous minorities. These institutions are able to include their projects in the annual programmes of work of state bodies of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Republic of Slovenia supports cooperation between appropriate partners at the local level intended to strengthen Slovene autochthonous minorities.

### **Chapter 3**

#### **BODIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA RESPONSIBLE FOR COOPERATION WITH SLOVENE AUTOCHTHONOUS MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

I) The relationship between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries is based on the constitutional principle of care of the mother country for autochthonous minorities and equal partnership cooperation. The criterion for the cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with individuals and organisations in neighbouring countries is their national affiliation and their work for survival and development as an ethnic community.

II) The Republic of Slovenia emphasises the need for the planned and coordinated work of state bodies in cooperation with Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries.

Parliamentary parties will strive to achieve consensus over the fundamental principles of the policy of the Republic of Slovenia towards Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries.

The competent bodies of the Republic of Slovenia should include in cooperation, in an appropriate way, important and representative academic, cultural and economic subjects in Slovenia and from among Slovene autochthonous minorities. To this end a special advisory body is being set up by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

III) The basic policy of the cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries is determined by the National Assembly. For this reason the National Assembly is setting up a special working body charged with dealing with decisions in this field and proposing them to the National Assembly for adoption.

Its competences shall be regulated by the National Assembly by means of a decree.

IV) The implementation of the policy of cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries shall be the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

To this end a minister without portfolio has been appointed with the responsibility of proposing the policy of cooperation with Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries and overseeing its implementation and the coordination of the activities of the competent ministries in this area.

V) The Government of the Republic of Slovenia shall submit to the National Assembly an annual report on the activities of the Republic of Slovenia in the area of cooperation with Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries. The report shall include a policy proposal for the forthcoming year. The proposal must also contain frameworks of the budget funds needed for its implementation.

#### **Chapter 4**

### **BASIC AREAS OF COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA WITH SLOVENE AUTOCHTHONOUS MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

I) The Republic of Slovenia shall ensure the necessary substantive presence of minority issues in the entirety of relations with neighbouring countries and at multilateral, regional and other levels of international cooperation, particularly within the framework of regular diplomatic and state contacts.

It particularly emphasises the importance of the inclusion of the problems of autochthonous minorities into treaty relations with neighbouring countries and at the multilateral level. Priority should go here to bilateral treaty-based regulation of minority protection, as envisaged by the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities.

The minority issue must be included in the general framework of the presentation of the Republic of Slovenia in the world.

Special attention must be devoted to the appropriate activity of diplomatic and consular missions with competence in areas inhabited by minorities.

II) Strengthening the economic position of autochthonous minorities

The permanent and strategic interest of the Republic of Slovenia is the strengthening of the economic position of autochthonous minorities and their members, above all in the areas of their autochthonous settlements. In this sense it is necessary to include a minority economic component in documents on the strategy of economic development of Slovenia, and in projects of interregional and cross-border cooperation co-financed by the European Union or other international institutions or organisations.

The Republic of Slovenia shall achieve these goals by means of various economic policy measures designed to promote business cooperation of minorities with commercial subjects in Slovenia.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia devotes special attention to the position of the banking and savings institutions of Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries and to the preservation of their independent operation.

The employment of members of autochthonous minorities by Slovenian commercial subjects enjoys the special support of the Republic of Slovenia. This also applies to the introduction of a temporary regime for the operations of minority companies in the Republic of Slovenia in the period up to Slovenia's entry into the European Union.

The funds for these activities are provided by the budget of the Republic of Slovenia. The Republic of Slovenia shall set up a special fund for economic cooperation with Slovene autochthonous minorities.

### III) Education

The members of Slovene autochthonous minorities have the right to education in schools of all types and levels in the Republic of Slovenia. For this reason the Ministry of Education and Sport pays special attention to the concluding of bilateral agreements which regulate the recognition of certificates and degrees, grants for members of autochthonous minorities, official use of textbooks published in the Republic of Slovenia for minority education in neighbouring countries, the inclusion of knowledge of the culture of the Slovene nation and neighbouring nations in general education programmes, additional training of teaching staff, etc.

The government also devotes special attention to developing independent grants programmes and to encouraging permanent contacts between schools in the Republic of Slovenia and minority educational institutions, student exchanges, and the development of extra-curricular contacts for pupils and students within the framework of interest activities.

The Republic of Slovenia supports sports and general recreational activities or organisations which cooperate with the kindred organisations of Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries.

The Republic of Slovenia likewise supports secondary school boarding homes, university halls of residence and private educational institutions in minority communities.

The Republic of Slovenia is adopting appropriate measures to enable a higher enrolment of children in the pre-school institutions of Slovene minorities in neighbouring countries and is providing appropriate teachers and mentors for the special educational activities of autochthonous minorities.

### IV) Science

The Republic of Slovenia supports the work of the academic/research institutions of autochthonous minorities. In concluding and implementing general agreements on academic cooperation it includes researchers or research institutions from Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries.

Notwithstanding the position achieved by the academic institutions of Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries, the Republic of Slovenia provides permanent funds for the basic needs of their operation.

The Republic of Slovenia includes the academic and research capabilities of Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries in the research activity of Slovenia. This applies in particular to the inclusion of academic institutions in Slovenia and Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries which study issues of nationality.

#### V) Culture

It is the Republic of Slovenia's desire that the cultural activity of autochthonous minorities and the mother country should interweave organically and enrich each other as much as possible.

Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries are included via their cultural institutions and artists in the cultural programmes of Slovenia and its cultural institutions and are becoming an increasingly important element of the cultural presentation of Slovenia at the international level and a linking factor in the establishing of cultural coexistence in areas where members of Slovene minorities live together with members of the majority nation.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia should guarantee a suitable system of harmonising the programmes of amateur cultural activity, with which cultural institutions in Slovenia and in Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries are involved.

The Republic of Slovenia stresses the importance of the media, particularly the electronic media, for the survival and development of the national consciousness of the members of Slovene autochthonous minorities in neighbouring countries. It is therefore necessary to ensure the reception of television and radio signals from the Republic of Slovenia in areas inhabited by autochthonous minorities. The range and quality of information about the autochthonous minority in the Slovenian media area need to be increased. Special attention needs to be devoted to programmes for children and young people.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia, more specifically the Ministry of Culture, should support within the framework of its regular activities, the publishing activities of minorities and the circulation of Slovene books, periodicals and musical media in the areas inhabited by autochthonous minorities.

#### VI) Transport and telecommunications

Because unimpeded contacts of the members of autochthonous minorities with the mother country are one of the conditions for the preservation and development of autochthonous minorities, the Republic of Slovenia is promoting, by means of international agreements, bilateral transport, postal and telecommunications connections with the areas inhabited by Slovene autochthonous minorities and is striving for a reduction of tariffs to the internal level.

Published 5 July 1996

[Quelle: [www.sigov.si/mzz/eng/foreign-poli/resolution\\_on-the\\_posi.html](http://www.sigov.si/mzz/eng/foreign-poli/resolution_on-the_posi.html)]