



SUBSTANCE AND PRACTICE OF EUROPEAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS

CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS
5 - 7 DECEMBER, 2013 COTTBUS/CHÓŚEBUZ (D)



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Substance und Practice of European Language Rights

Venue

Cottbus/Chóšebuz, Town Hall

Organisers

Prof Dr Stefan Oeter, Hamburg University, Faculty of Law, Institute for international Affairs; Chairman of the independent Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Dr Hauke Bartels, Sorbian Institute, department for Lower Sorbian Studies in Cottbus; FUEN-Representative for Language Issues

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Language of the conference

German, (Englisch)

Brief description

Language rights are a key element of European minority protection. For that reason these rights play an important role both in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and also in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Both treaties of the Council of Europe entered into force in 1998 and for both treaties a monitoring procedure was introduced that monitors and evaluates the implementation of the obligations by the signatory states.

After 15 years of experience we should strike a first balance: in what state are language rights in Europe? What are the weak points that can be noticed, in the treaties and/or in practical implementation? Did monitoring prove its value? How can it be made more effective, how can its impact on national minority legislation be strengthened? Do the (language) minorities have sufficient resources to participate in the procedure? Are the Council of Europe and the EU coordinating their policies? What is the relation between the European level and the national or regional minority- and language policies?

The conference will bring together experts and representatives of the administration, regions and minority organisations, in order to discuss the perspectives for further development of the legal protection for minority and regional languages. Next to the speakers there will be several other persons who are active in this area, and who will participate in the discussions.



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 5 December 2013

individual arrival

first meeting, venue will be announced later

Friday, 6 December 2013

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Opening in the Town Hall of Cottbus, words of welcome
- 9:30-11:00 Block 1: SUBSTANCE OF LANGUAGE RIGHTS
- Moderation: Tbc
 - Keynote speeches:
 - Joseph Marko (Bozen): A critical inventory
 - Ludwig Elle (Bautzen/ Budyšin): Interaction with specific national legislation using the example of the Sorbs
 - Brigitta Busch (Vienna): Language rights from the perspective of the speaker
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30-12:30 Block 1: Discussion
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch (buffet in the Town Hall)
- 13:30-15:00 Guided tour “Lower Sorbian culture and heritage in Cottbus”
- 15:00-16:30 Block 2: MONITORING
- Moderation: Alastair Walker
 - Keynote speeches:
 - Jörg Horn (Straßburg): Monitoring from the perspective of the Committee
 - Linda Pieper (Kiel): Monitoring from the perspective of a regional administration
 - Thede Boysen (Flensburg): On minorities and imprecise focus during the monitoring procedure
 - Bernhard Ziesch (Bautzen/Budyšin): Monitoring – Experiences and expectations
 - Reinhard Goltz (Bremen): Language rights and legal opinion
 - Karl-Peter Schramm (Saterland): Statement EBLUL Germany
 - Statement Jan Diedrichsen (Flensburg/Kopenhagen): What do the minorities



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get out of the monitoring system? A critical view in respect to minority protection in the EU and the Council of Europe

16:30 Coffee break
17:00-18:30 Block 2: Discussion

Saturday, 7 December 2013

9:00-9:15 Jens A. Christiansen (Flensburg): The European Citizens' Initiative and the Minority SafePack – How to continue after rejection?

9:15-10:45 Block 3: INTERLOCKING WITH NATIONAL/REGIONAL MINORITY- AND LANGUAGE POLICY

– Moderation: Jan Diedrichsen

– Keynote speeches:

– Stefan Oeter (Hamburg): The relation between European monitoring and national minority policy, based on the example of the Language Charter

– Rainer Hofmann (Frankfurt a.M.): The relation between monitoring and national minority policy, based on the example of the Framework Convention

– Renate Schnack (Kiel): About developing language policy in Schleswig-Holstein

– Měto Nowak (Cottbus/Chóšebuz): Language Charter unknown – about the difficulty in implementing existing minority law into effective local policy

– Koloman Brenner (Budapest): Language policy in Hungary – the tension between the Language Charter and the Hungarian Minority Acts

10:45-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-12:30 Block 3: Discussion
12:30-13:00 Conclusion and outlook
13:00 Lunch (buffet in the Town Hall)
followed by individual departure



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Local organiser:

Sorbian Institute / Serbski institut / Sorbisches Institut
Cottbus Department / Zweigstelle Cottbus / Wótnožka Chóšebuz
August-Bebel-Straße / droga Augusta Bebela 82
D-03046 Cottbus / Chóšebuz
+49 355 48 576 482

Contact person:

Hauke Bartels: bartels@serbski-institut.de

Conference Website:

www.serbski-institut.de/cms/de/491/Konferenz-Sprachenrechte

Venue:

Town Hall/ Stadthaus-Saal
Erich Kästner Platz 1
D-03046 Cottbus / Chóšebuz

Accommodation:

Lindner Congress Hotel Cottbus
Berliner Platz / Karl-Marx-Straße 68
D-03046 Cottbus / Chóšebuz
+49 355 366 930
www.lindner.de
monika.schulze@lindner.de

Single room: 61,00 € incl. Breakfast

Rooms can be booked directly at the hotel until 28 November 2013. Please mention the keyword „Sprachenrechte / Language Rights“.

Arrival

By car

The fastest journey is via highways A13 and A15. Exit: Cottbus-West. Then continue in the direction of the town centre..

By train

In case you travel via Berlin, you can take the direct regional train Berlin-Cottbus (Regionalbahn). This will take 1.5 to 2 hours. Have a look at www.bahn.de. Cottbus has direct connections to Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Wrocław (Poland).



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By plane

In case you travel by plane, you should take a connecting train to Cottbus. The closest airports are the airports in Berlin.

The Lindner Congress Hotel Cottbus is located directly in the centre, and is part of the modern service and commercial centre “Spreegalerie”, directly opposite the Town Hall. There is a parking garage. (the costs are not included in the accommodation costs) You can also park at the venue. Because of the central location of the hotel you will have an excellent connection to public transportation (tramway stop at a distance of 150 m).

Registration:

We kindly ask you to submit your registration for the conference until 2 December 2013: cottbus@serbski-institut.de

As of 28 November 2013, may be subject to change.