



RESOLUTION:

Minority Safepack - one million signatures for diversity in Europe

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Belgrade, on 02.12.2017

Recognizing that:

- Multiculturalism and diversity are fundamental values of the European Union, and it is in the best interest of Europe and all of its citizens to protect these key principles.
- The EU has committed itself to the protection of the rights of minorities, mainly through the Treaty on the European Union¹
- Thus far, issues relating to the protection of autochthonous minorities have been an exclusive competence of member states. States seeking EU membership have to conform to a set of criteria pertaining to the protection of minorities. However, with the moment of accession to the Union, minority protection is basically reduced to a state competence, legislation and policies on the issue become troublesome to sustain, not to mention their improvement or further development.

Acknowledging that:

- In the European Union, out of the 500 million citizens, 50 million belong to a national, autochthonous minority or a minority language community, according to the statistics of experts, and a number of them are not even recognized by their states.²
- Starting with 2011, there is a new tool at the disposal of the citizens of Europe, a new political participation instrument, through which citizens can now directly propose and affect European legislation, the European Citizens' Initiative.

¹ Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union

² Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), www.fuen.org

- The “Minority SafePack” (MSPI) European Citizens’ Initiative, organized by the Federal Union of European Nationalities aims to obtain EU legislative support for the protection of persons belonging to autochthonous minorities, and to strengthen the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe.
- The MSPI consists of proposals in several areas of EU policy that may have a profound effect on the future of young people belonging to autochthonous and linguistic minorities.
- The European People’s Party also believes that „the European Union can gradually develop a set of legally binding community standards and norms for the protection of persons and communities belonging to minorities, whilst encouraging positive measures and policy tools to be implemented for the purpose of protecting minority persons and groups. The principle of the sharing of best practices underlies a concrete and efficient EU strategy for autochthonous national minorities and traditional minorities”.³

YEPP calls on:

- The institutions of the European Union and the Member States to support the “Minority SafePack Initiative - one million signatures for diversity in Europe” and its objective to foster the debate on the effective promotion of minority rights on an EU level.
- The European Union to be a partner in the fight against marginalization, xenophobia and intolerance in society and to create a more inclusive European Union that takes account of its autochthonous minorities.
- Its member organizations to promote and actively contribute to the collection of signatures for the Minority SafePack Initiative.

³EPP Party Platform, 2012