



To: the secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Mr. Alexey Kozhemyakov and the secretariat of the Framework Convention regarding the Protection of National Minorities, Ms. Michéle Akip
To: Secretariat of the Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages, Mr. Davyth Hicks

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Ljouwert, 27th of September 2010

Dear Mr. Kozhemyakov, Ms. Akip,
Dear Mr. Hicks,

Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention Regarding the Protection of National Minorities in the Netherlands

The Steatekomitee Frysk* of the Province of Fryslân in the Netherlands would like to call your attention to the following matter. The Dutch government has committed itself to the objectives set and agreements lined out in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) and in the Framework Convention Regarding the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) by ratifying these documents in 1996 and 2005.

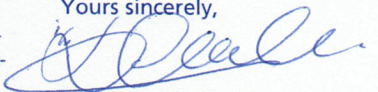
These agreements have not resulted in the desired results; the objectives set in the ECRML and FCNM are not being met. The Committee of Experts of the ECRML has reported in letter in three separate occasions on the shortcomings of the Dutch government in this matter. Advice given by the Committee of Experts has not resulted in significant improvements.

In the enclosed letter, several professional organisations from the Province of Fryslân have assessed the issue described above and share their vision and recommendations on future developments. The Steatekomitee Frysk fully endorses this statement.

Hereby we would like to bring this matter to the attention of the ECRML and FCNM with the goal of a better outcome of the European agreements.

We, from the Steatekomitee Frysk, are gladly willing to further exemplify our perspective during a joint meeting of the Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages.

On behalf of the Steatekomitee Frysk,
Yours sincerely,



Corrie Hartholt – Van der Veen
Chairman

Cc. House of Representatives of the Netherlands
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Hague

* The Steatekomitee Frysk is a committee of the Provincial Council of Fryslân, which pleads for autonomy on the matter of the language and the culture of Fryslân. The committee has seven members. All political parties represented on the Council, have members on the committee. It is therefore a wide political representation of the Frisian society, which wishes to look after the interests of the Frisian language.