

Press Release

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Council of Europe publishes report on minority languages in Sweden

Strasbourg, 28.09.2006 – The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has just made public the second report on the situation of minority languages in Sweden.

The Council of Europe calls on Sweden to extend the existing administrative areas for Finnish and Sami, in accordance with the proposals of the Government Commission for the Finnish and South Sami Languages set up by the Swedish authorities. The authorities should also adopt more specific legislation on minority languages and establish a national agency responsible for supervising its implementation at the municipal level.

This report has been drawn up by a committee of independent experts which evaluates the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Further to the report, the Committee of Ministers has adopted a series of recommendations addressed to Sweden. These include :

- better access to education in minority languages,
- adoption of innovative measures for the maintenance of the highly endangered South Sami language,
- steps to increase awareness and understanding concerning minority languages in Swedish society at large.

Full texts of the [report](#) and of the [Committee of Ministers' Recommendation](#)

Further information can be found on the Charter's website (<http://www.coe.int/minlang>), or by contacting the Charter Secretariat (Directorate of Co-operation for Local and Regional Democracy, DG I - Legal Affairs, Council of Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg, tel: +33 (0)3 90.21 52 77).

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