

**THE EUROPEAN CHARTER  
FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**– Applied to Cypriot Maronite Arabic in Cyprus –**

[...]

**PART II**

**OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES  
PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 1**

*Article 7 – Objectives and principles*

- 1 In respect of Maronite Arabic, within the territories in which Maronite Arabic is used and according to the situation of Maronite Arabic, Cyprus shall base its policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:
  - a the recognition of Maronite Arabic as an expression of cultural wealth;
  - b the respect of the geographical area of Maronite Arabic in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Maronite Arabic;
  - c the need for resolute action to promote Maronite Arabic in order to safeguard it;
  - d the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Maronite Arabic, in speech and writing, in public and private life;
  - e the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using Maronite Arabic and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;
  - f the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of Maronite Arabic at all appropriate stages;
  - g the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of Maronite Arabic living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;
  - h the promotion of study and research on Maronite Arabic at universities or equivalent institutions;
  - i the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for Maronite Arabic used in identical or similar form in two or more States.
- 2 Cyprus undertakes to eliminate, if it has not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Maronite Arabic and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of Maronite Arabic aimed at promoting equality between the users of Maronite Arabic and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.
- 3 Cyprus undertakes to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Maronite Arabic among the objectives of education and training provided within the country and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.
- 4 In determining its policy with regard to Maronite Arabic, Cyprus shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use Maronite Arabic. It is encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Maronite Arabic.
- 5 Cyprus undertakes to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to Maronite Arabic as a non-territorial language. However, as far as Maronite Arabic is concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use Maronite Arabic.

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<sup>1</sup> CETS no. 148. The Charter was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992. Entry into force for Cyprus: 1 December 2002. The provisions of the Charter adopted by Cyprus for Maronite Arabic as a non-territorial language are applicable without territorial restrictions.