

Database for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES¹

– Applied to German in the Czech Republic –

[...]

PART II

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

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

- 1 In respect of German, within the territories in which German is used and according to the situation of German, the Czech Republic shall base its policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:
 - a the recognition of German as an expression of cultural wealth;
 - b the respect of the geographical area of German in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of German;
 - c the need for resolute action to promote German in order to safeguard it;
 - d the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, 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 German 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 German at all appropriate stages;
 - g the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of German living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;
 - h the promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions;
 - i the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for German used in identical or similar form in two or more States.
- 2 The Czech Republic undertakes to eliminate, if it has not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of German aimed at promoting equality between the users of German 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 The Czech Republic 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 German 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 German, the Czech Republic shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use German. It is encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to German.

[...]

¹ 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 the Czech Republic: 1 March 2007. The provisions of the Charter adopted by the Czech Republic for German are applicable without territorial restrictions.