

Database for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES¹

– Applied to Lower Saxon in the Netherlands –

[...]

PART II

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

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

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

[...]

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 Netherlands: 1 March 1998. The provisions of the Charter adopted by the Netherlands for Lower Saxon are applicable without territorial restrictions.