

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

**– Applied to Meänkieli (Tornedal Finnish) in Sweden –**

[...]

**PART II**

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

*Article 7 – Objectives and principles*

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

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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 Sweden: 1 June 2000. The provisions of the Charter adopted by Sweden for Meänkieli are applicable without territorial restrictions.

**PART III**  
**MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF**  
**Meänkieli**  
**IN PUBLIC LIFE**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS**  
**ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2**

*Article 8 – Education*

<b>ACCEPTED</b>	<b>NOT ACCEPTED</b>
<p>1 With regard to education, Sweden undertakes, within the territory in which Meänkieli is used, according to the situation of Meänkieli, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:</p> <p>a iii to apply one of the measures provided for under i and ii above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient; or</p> <p>b iv to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient;</p> <p>c iv to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;</p>	<p>a i to make available pre-school education in Meänkieli; or ii to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Meänkieli; or</p> <p>iv if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, to favour and/or encourage the application of the measures referred to under i to iii above;</p> <p>b i to make available primary education in Meänkieli; or ii to make available a substantial part of primary education in Meänkieli; or iii to provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Meänkieli as an integral part of the curriculum; or</p> <p>c i to make available secondary education in Meänkieli; or ii to make available a substantial part of secondary education in Meänkieli; or iii to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Meänkieli as an integral part of the curriculum; or</p>

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- d iv to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;
  - e iii if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs i and ii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Meänkieli or of facilities for the study of Meänkieli as university or higher education subjects;
  - f iii if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, to favour and/or encourage the offering of Meänkieli as subjects of adult and continuing education;
  - g to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Meänkieli;
  - h to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by Sweden;
  - i to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of Meänkieli and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.
- 2 With regard to education and in respect of territories other than those in which Meänkieli is traditionally used, Sweden undertakes, if the number of users of Meänkieli justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Meänkieli at all the appropriate stages of education.

- d i to make available technical and vocational education in Meänkieli; or
- ii to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Meänkieli; or
- iii to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Meänkieli as an integral part of the curriculum; or
- e i to make available university and other higher education in Meänkieli; or
- ii to provide facilities for the study of Meänkieli as university and higher education subjects; or
- f i to arrange for the provision of adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in Meänkieli; or
- ii to offer Meänkieli as subjects of adult and continuing education; or

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 1 Sweden undertakes, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using Meänkieli justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of Meänkieli and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:
  - a in criminal proceedings:
    - ii to guarantee the accused the right to use Meänkieli; and/or
    - iii to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in Meänkieli; and/or
    - iv to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in Meänkieli, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned;
  - b in civil proceedings:
    - ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Meänkieli without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or
    - iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in Meänkieli, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;
  - c in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:
    - ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Meänkieli without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or
    - iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in Meänkieli, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;
  - d to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs i and iii of paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.
- 2 Sweden undertakes:
  - a not to deny the validity of legal documents drawn up within the State solely because they are drafted in Meänkieli; or

- a i to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in Meänkieli; and/or
- b i to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in Meänkieli; and/or
- c i to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in Meänkieli; and/or

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- b not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Meänkieli, and to provide that they can be invoked against interested third parties who are not users of Meänkieli on condition that the contents of the document are made known to them by the person(s) who invoke(s) it; or
  - c not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Meänkieli.
- 3 Sweden undertakes to make available in Meänkieli the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Meänkieli, unless they are otherwise provided.

*Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services*

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 1 Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of Meänkieli justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of Meänkieli, Sweden undertakes, as far as this is reasonably possible:
- a
    - iii to ensure that users of Meänkieli may submit oral or written applications and receive a reply in Meänkieli; or
    - v to ensure that users of Meänkieli may validly submit a document in Meänkieli;
  - c to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in Meänkieli.
- 2 In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of Meänkieli is such as to justify the measures specified below, Sweden undertakes to allow and/or encourage:

- a
    - i to ensure that the administrative authorities use Meänkieli; or
    - ii to ensure that such of its officers as are in contact with the public use Meänkieli in their relations with persons applying to them in Meänkieli; or
    - iv to ensure that users of Meänkieli may submit oral or written applications in Meänkieli; or
  - b to make available widely used administrative texts and forms for the population in Meänkieli or in bilingual versions;
- a the use of Meänkieli within the framework of the regional or local authority;

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**NOT ACCEPTED**

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| <p>b the possibility for users of Meänkieli to submit oral or written applications in Meänkieli;</p> <p>c the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Meänkieli;</p> <p>d the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Meänkieli;</p> <p>g the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in Meänkieli.</p> <p>4 With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, Sweden undertakes to take one or more of the following measures:</p> <p>a translation or interpretation as may be required;</p> <p>5 Sweden undertakes to allow the use or adoption of family names in Meänkieli, at the request of those concerned.</p> | <p>e the use by regional authorities of Meänkieli in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;</p> <p>f the use by local authorities of Meänkieli in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;</p> <p>3 With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, Sweden undertakes, within the territory in which Meänkieli is used, in accordance with the situation of Meänkieli and as far as this is reasonably possible:</p> <p>a to ensure that Meänkieli is used in the provision of the service; or</p> <p>b to allow users of Meänkieli to submit a request and receive a reply in Meänkieli; or</p> <p>c to allow users of Meänkieli to submit a request in Meänkieli.</p> <p>b recruitment and, where necessary, training of the officials and other public service employees required;</p> <p>c compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Meänkieli to be appointed in the territory in which Meänkieli is used.</p> |
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Article 11 – Media

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 1 Sweden undertakes, for the users of Meänkieli within the territories in which Meänkieli is spoken, according to the situation of Meänkieli, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:
  - a to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:
    - iii to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in Meänkieli;
  - d to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Meänkieli;
  - e i to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in Meänkieli; or
  - f ii to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Meänkieli;

- a i to ensure the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in Meänkieli; or
- ii to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in Meänkieli; or
- b i to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station in Meänkieli; or
- ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in Meänkieli on a regular basis;
- c i to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one television channel in Meänkieli; or
- ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in Meänkieli on a regular basis;
- e ii to encourage and/or facilitate the publication of newspaper articles in Meänkieli on a regular basis;
- f i to cover the additional costs of those media which use Meänkieli, wherever the law provides for financial assistance in general for the media; or
- g to support the training of journalists and other staff for media using Meänkieli.

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 2 Sweden undertakes to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to Meänkieli, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. It further undertakes to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to Meänkieli. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

- 3 Sweden undertakes to ensure that the interests of the users of Meänkieli are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.

*Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities*

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 1 With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – Sweden undertakes, within the territory in which Meänkieli is used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:
- a to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to Meänkieli and foster the different means of access to works produced in Meänkieli;
  - b to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in Meänkieli by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;

- c to foster access in Meänkieli to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;



**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- d to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Meänkieli language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;
  - f to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Meänkieli in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;
  - g to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Meänkieli;
- 2 In respect of territories other than those in which Meänkieli is traditionally used, Sweden undertakes, if the number of users of Meänkieli justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

- e to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Meänkieli, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;
  - h if necessary, to create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in Meänkieli.
- 3 Sweden undertakes to make appropriate provision, in pursuing its cultural policy abroad, for Meänkieli and the culture it reflects.

*Article 13 – Economic and social life*

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- 1 With regard to economic and social activities, Sweden undertakes, within the whole country:
- a to eliminate from its legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Meänkieli in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;

- b to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Meänkieli, at least between users of Meänkieli;
- c to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Meänkieli in connection with economic or social activities;

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- d to facilitate and/or encourage the use of Meänkieli by means other than those specified in the above sub-paragraphs.
- 2 With regard to economic and social activities, Sweden undertakes, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which Meänkieli is used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:
  - a to include in its financial and banking regulations provisions which allow, by means of procedures compatible with commercial practice, the use of Meänkieli in drawing up payment orders (cheques, drafts, etc.) or other financial documents, or, where appropriate, to ensure the implementation of such provisions;
  - b in the economic and social sectors directly under its control (public sector), to organise activities to promote the use of Meänkieli;
  - c to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in Meänkieli persons using Meänkieli who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons;
  - d to ensure by appropriate means that safety instructions are also drawn up in Meänkieli;
  - e to arrange for information provided by the competent public authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in Meänkieli.

*Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges*

**ACCEPTED**

**NOT ACCEPTED**

Sweden undertakes:

- a to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which Meänkieli is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of Meänkieli in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;
- b for the benefit of Meänkieli, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Meänkieli is used in identical or similar form.

[...]