

**THE EUROPEAN CHARTER
FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES¹**

– Applied to Slovak in Austria –

[...]

PART II

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

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

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

[...]

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 Austria: 1 July 2001. The provisions of the Charter adopted by Austria for Slovak are applicable in Vienna.