

Appendix II: Comments by the Danish authorities

With reference to the second report on Denmark the Danish Government is pleased to respond to the invitation of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Minority Languages to comment on the following proposal for recommendation to the Committee of Ministers:

- take steps towards the full implementation of Denmark's undertakings in the field of radio and television, in close co-operation with the German-speakers.

Danish comment:

The Committee of Experts notes in its second report that development in the media sector and the presence of German in the Danish broadcasting media remains very weak. The Committee recommends that the Danish authorities take steps towards the full implementation of Denmark's undertakings in the field of radio and television, in close cooperation with the German-speakers.

The report mentions the support given to a new radio project in Southern Jutland by the Ministry of Culture, and the Committee encourages the Danish authorities to maintain and increase their support for the provision of radio programmes in German.

On this issue the Ministry of Culture is currently in the process of talking with the German minority with a view to a continuation of the support for the radio project after the three-year trial period.

The Committee repeats its recommendation that the Danish authorities encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station. The Ministry of Culture would like to point out that the German minority has indicated that it is not interested in having its own radio station, but prefers to buy airtime on a local Danish radio, which is very popular in the area and therefore offers a much larger audience than a German radio station is likely to get.

Concerning the Committee's conclusions that more decided efforts are needed for Denmark to implement its undertakings in the media field, the Ministry of Culture would like to refer to previous comments by the Danish government in connection with the 2004-report. In these comments the government argues that Denmark's undertakings under the charter are adequately implemented with respect to encouraging and/or facilitating the creation of a radio or a television station in the regional or minority language. With respect to German programmes on national public service channels it points to the public service obligations of the broadcasters as sufficient protection, taking the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media into consideration.