

We, the participants at this conference on Managing Linguistic Diversity in the EU, having studied the language legislation of various countries and in particular the recent amendment to the State Language Act of the Slovak Republic, within the context of the existing instruments such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, have resolved to make the following recommendations:

- Linguistic diversity is something to be nurtured; in designing language legislation, the effective involvement of all parties concerned is necessary. Language laws should be enabling, not restrictive, and avoid unnecessary interference in the personal sphere. Measures adopted should be realistic, proportionate and fair.
- In managing the multilingualism of Europe - in particular in border regions, there is an urgent need to bring all possible expertise to bear on the matter. We suggest identifying principles of best practise from Europe and beyond. By best practise we mean measures to increase the linguistic options of both individuals and language communities, in public administration services, education, and the media.
- These examples of best practise could serve as a basis for information and an inspiration to a constructive dialogue. We suggest that the collection and dissemination of recent best practise would be a most useful initiative in furthering the principles of multilingualism.

Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, 19/09/2009.

Send to EU commissioner for Multilingualism, Mr. Leonard Orban;
OSCE, to Mr. Knut Vollebaek
Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Charter and the Language Policy
Division)