

Draft Resolution

1 **On the Collective Rights of Minorities**

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3 The fundamental values of the European Union must not be taken for granted, they must be reaffirmed
4 and re-examined continuously. One of the founding values of the European Union is that rights are not
5 only granted to the individual, but to communities. The collective rights of ethnic and national minorities
6 are, however, unequally granted throughout the continent.
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- 8 1. The European Union is home to some exemplary instances of minority rights. The way of granting
9 the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland the right to their own language and culture could serve
10 as a model all over Europe. The Finnish Language Act has allowed for that minority to prosper as
11 a political community and for the majority and the minority population to live together on a
12 respectful basis.
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- 14 2. Romania, which elected a president of German ethnic origin, has disregarded the rights of national
15 minorities to assemble freely or to display their symbols and flags of national identification. The
16 Romanian state tries to penalise all public statements on autonomy, thereby violating freedom of
17 speech and fundamental European values. Many legal provisions regarding the right for individuals
18 to use their mother tongue in public administration and education are not enforced. Romania
19 constantly disregards the proposal advanced by the 19 national minorities recognised by the state
20 to adopt a minority law that would grant cultural autonomy to the different ethnic communities.
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- 22 3. For 15 years now Bulgaria, an EU Member State, has denied its Macedonian and Turkish
23 minorities the right to self-determination. Bulgaria has not only defied the rulings of the European
24 Court of Human Rights, which convicted the country of discrimination, but also continuously
25 violates Article 2 of the EU Treaty as well as Articles 21 and 22 of the EU Charter of
26 Fundamental Rights, which safeguard the right to self-determination and the protection of
27 minorities.
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- 29 4. Countries currently in the accession process to the European Union must also stand up to the
30 violation of human rights, in particular the rights of national minorities. The Kurds in Turkey have
31 been subject to increasing violence and deprivation, issues which have been exacerbated by the
32 Erdogan government. Kurdish journalists and human rights defenders are also facing prosecution
33 under counter-terrorism laws. Moreover, due to Turkey's constitutional framework, no language
34 other than Turkish may be taught as a mother tongue, which is a violation of minority rights.
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36 The European Green Party calls

- 37 1. on Member State governments, through looking at EU best practices, to help create political,
38 cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use
39 of the languages and symbols of communities.
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- 41 2. on the EU to expressly include in their treaties the protection of minorities and thus to create an
42 unambiguous competence for the EU. Furthermore, a set of legal acts shall be enacted that aims
43 to create a comprehensive and legally binding protection system and legislative framework for
44 national minorities, which is to be complemented by a functioning monitoring mechanism.
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