

Amendments submitted to the draft resolution
"On the collective rights of minorities"

Nr.	Party	Lines	Action	Current Text	Proposed Amendment	Explanation/Comment
1	GGEP	1	delete	Collective		
2	German Greens	1	replace	"On the Collective Rights of Minorities"	" On Fundamental Rights of Minorities"	
3	Vihreät, Finland	1	replace	On the Collective Rights of Minorities	On the Rights of Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities	"On the Collective Rights of Minorities" is a far too general headline for such an after all specific resolution.
4	Vihreät, Finland + GGEP	4-5	replace	One of the founding values of the European Union is that rights are not only granted to the individual, but to communities.	One of the founding values of the European Union is that rights can be exercised not only individually, but also in community with others.	People do not live and act in blocks as communities, but as individuals in communities.
5	German Greens	4-5	delete	"One of the founding principles of the European Union is that rights are not only granted to the individual, but to communities."		
6	German Greens	5	add		"Despite the explicit mentioning of minority rights in Article 2 of the EU Treaty as well as Articles 21 and 22 of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, the collective rights..."	
7	German Greens	5	delete	"ethnic and national"		
8	EELV, France	5-6	delete	The collective rights of ethnic and national minorities are, however, unequally granted throughout the continent.	The collective rights are, however, unequally granted throughout the continent.	The use & misuse of these concepts may have violent consequences
9	Vihreät, Finland	5-6	replace	The collective rights of ethnic and national minorities are, however, unequally granted throughout the continent.	The rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities are, however, unequally granted throughout the continent.	We exercise minority rights in community with others, not in collectives. And as nationalism is spreading all over Europe we shouldn't encourage it in any form (not even micro-nationalism of probably subjugated sub-groups). The formulation "ethnic and linguistic minorities" is also in line with the title of the resolution.
10	German Greens	6	delete	"however"		

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11	German Greens	8-34	replace	"The European Union is home ... is a violation of minority rights."	<p>"Inside and outside the EU there are various examples of dealing with minority rights.</p> <p>- While Finland constitutes a positive example of granting rights for example to the Swedish-speaking minority, the situation in countries such as Romania or Bulgaria is more deplorable. Very basic proposals such as the adoption of a minority law or respect for the right of self-determination are not undertaken to improve the situation. Also in candidate countries such as Turkey, where the Kurdish minority is subject to increasing violence and deprivation, the situation of minorities is devastating.</p> <p>- In all EU member states the situation of the Roma minority needs to be tackled. Very often Roma live in dire socio-economic circumstances. They are excluded from participating in the education and health care system and do not have any access to employment or housing.</p> <p>As rights of minorities are essential to the functioning of the EU, all member states have to safeguard the rights of minorities to use their mother tongue and to grant cultural autonomy."</p>	

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12	GGEP	8-12	replace	1. The European Union is home to some exemplary instances of minority rights. The way of granting the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland the right to their own language and culture could serve as a model all over Europe. The Finnish Language Act has allowed for that minority to prosper as a political community and for the majority and the minority population to live together on a respectful basis.	1. The European Union is home to some exemplary instances of minority rights such as the rights of Swedish speaking minority in Finland, German speaking minority in Italy, Denmark and Poland, or Danish minority in Germany.	
13	Vihreät, Finland	8-12	replace	The way of granting the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland the right to their own language and culture could serve as a model all over Europe.	, such as the rights of Swedish-speaking minority in Finland, German-speaking minority in Italy and Denmark or Danish minority in Germany. They could serve as models for a just implementation of minority rights in the EU.	The Swedish-speaking minority in Finland is but just one good example of the implementation of minority rights in the EU.

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14	EELV, France	13	add new bullet point		The Sámi people of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden have no right to land, water and natural resources over their land. None of these countries guarantee a sufficient access to education in any of the Sámi languages. Though Parliaments have been granted in Finland, Norway and Sweden, these institutions have no self-determination power. Moreover Finland, Russia and Sweden have not ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO C-169). Plus little is done by the states to stop the recent outburst of racist attacks against Sámi reindeer herders, especially in Sweden. It is also high time to allow Sámi reindeer herders to pasture across state borders within Sápmi.	The Sámis are the indigenous people of northern Scandinavia and the Kola peninsula in Russia. They are today the last indigenous people of Europe. Though once prosperous reindeer herders and merchants, they have been subject to a harsh colonisation by Finns, Norwegians, Russians and Swedes, leading to an near extinction. Since 1974 some efforts have been made to ensure Sámis rights and to preserve their rich culture but the situation is far from satisfactory in any of the four countries. The United Nations have criticised many times the lack of action by the four governments on this matter. Recently various racist attacks against Sámi owned reindeer herds but also school mobbing against Sámi children have been reported by Swedish national radio without much reaction from Swedish police. The current Swedish minister of Sámi affairs is the Green Alice Bah Kuhnke from Miljöpartiet de Gröna. It is good to see that she has already done more than her predecessors for the Sámis but many communes still wait to be placed under bilingual status, the ILO C-169 has not been ratified and mining is an increasing concern in Sápmi. Alice Bah Kuhnke should hence receive greater international support to be able to achieve more for the Sámis of Sweden. The many mining projects in Sápmi threaten the traditional way of life of Sámis and could mean their final eradication.

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15	Vihreät, Finland	13	add		At the same time, a lot of problems persist. Many minorities, such as Hungarian minority in Romania and Slovakia, Russian-speaking minority in the Baltic States, Turkish minority in Bulgaria and Greece experience serious disadvantages. Sometimes even the existence of the minority is denied, like in the case of Macedonians in Bulgaria or Silesians in Poland. The Roma minority across Europe is subjected to discrimination and violence.	In such a broad resolution we have to more examples of problems than just Romania and Bulgaria. Especially we find it disturbing that the Roma minority is not mentioned in the resolution, as they are confronted with discrimination all over Europe.
16	GGEP	14-20	replace	2. Romania, which elected a president of German ethnic origin, has disregarded the rights of national minorities to assemble freely or to display their symbols and flags of national identification. The Romanian state tries to penalise all public statements on autonomy, thereby violating freedom of speech and fundamental European values. Many legal provisions regarding the right for individuals to use their mother tongue in public administration and education are not enforced. Romania constantly disregards the proposal advanced by the 19 national minorities recognised by the state to adopt a minority law that would grant cultural autonomy to the different ethnic communities.	2. At the same time a lot of problems persist. Many minorities such as Hungarian minority in Romania and Slovakia, Russian speaking minorities in the Baltic states, Turkish minority in Bulgaria and Greece experience serious discriminations. Sometimes even the existence of the minority is denied like in the case of Macedonians in Bulgaria or Silesians in Poland. Roma minority across Europe is subjected to discrimination and violence	
17	GGEP	22-27	delete	all §3		

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18	Die Grünen, Austria	29	add paragraph		4. "The so called Roma-community, including eg. Roma, Sinti and Lovara, are still targets of outright social, educational and economical discrimination in several European States, such as the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, but also in France. Not only are they often driven to the margins of society and ostracized into „ghettos“, they are also targets of political hate speech and right wing parties and groups. Those countries need to urgently step up their efforts to overcome their discriminatory practises. At the same time, the EU needs to closely monitor their progress made within their „National Roma Strategies“ and exert more pressure on the states to take effective steps to end discrimination of Roma minorities in their countries."	One should, especially in the so called „Roma decade“, also mention the Roma as a discriminated minority in several of the European Member States - this is why we suggest to add one extra paragraph (as paragraph nr 4, the current nr 4 will then become nr 5)
19	GGEP	29-34	replace	Countries currently in the accession process to the European Union must also stand up to the violation of human rights, in particular the rights of national minorities. The Kurds in Turkey have been subject to increasing violence and deprivation, issues which have been exacerbated by the Erdogan government. Kurdish journalists and human rights defenders are also facing prosecution under counter-terrorism laws. Moreover, due to Turkey's constitutional framework, no language other than Turkish may be taught as a mother tongue, which is a violation of minority rights.	Countries currently in the accession process to the European Union must also stand up to the violation of human rights, in particular the rights of national minorities. Minority rights are under threat in Turkey where the Kurds have been subject to increasing violence and deprivation, but also in the Western Balkans	

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20	German Greens	38-39	replace	"to help create political, cultural and territorial autonomy"	"to help create diverse societies based on fundamental rights"	
21	Vihreät, Finland	38-40	replace	on Member State governments, through looking at EU best practices, to help create political, cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use of the languages and symbols of communities.	on Member State governments, through looking at EU best practices and provisions of international law, such as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, as well as the OSCE and UN standards, to help create political, cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use of the languages, minority rights and symbols of communities and protection from violence and discrimination.	We find it useful to explicate some concrete legal groundwork that has already been done to protect minority rights.
22	EELV, France	39-40	Needs clarification	and legal groundwork for the free use of the languages and symbols of communities.	???	What is meant by " symbols of communities" ? This needs a clarification which cannot be written as it is impossible to know what is implied.
23	Estonian Greens	39	delete	cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use	and cultural autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use	We do not support territorial autonomy for nationalities who have their motherland. Territorial autonomy is a step before dividing a state. We support the Kurds to have their independent state but we see that creating territorial autonomy for nationalities who have their own state are bringing us to results like Transnistria in Moldova.

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24	GGEP	38-40	replace	on Member State governments, through looking at EU best practices, to help create political, cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use of the languages and symbols of communities.	on Member State governments, through looking at EU best practices, and provisions of international law, such as the Framework convention for the protection of national minorities, European charter for regional and minority languages as well as the OSCE and UN standards , to help create political, cultural and territorial autonomy and to lay the institutional and legal groundwork for the free use of the minority rights and symbols, and protection from violence and discrimination	
25	German Greens	42-43	delete	“to expressly include in their Treaties the protection of minorities and thus to create an unambiguous competence for the EU. Furthermore, to enact a set of legal acts that aims“	on the EU to create a comprehensive and legally binding protection system and legislative framework for national minorities, which is to be complemented by a functioning monitoring mechanism.	
26	Vihreät, Finland + GGEP	42-45	replace	on the EU to expressly include in their treaties the protection of minorities and thus to create an unambiguous competence for the EU. Furthermore, a set of legal acts shall be enacted that aims to create a comprehensive and legally binding protection system and legislative framework for national minorities, which is to be complemented by a functioning monitoring mechanism.	on the EU to develop an unambiguous competence for the EU to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as mentioned in Article 2 TEU . Furthermore, a set of legal acts shall be enacted that aims to create a comprehensive and legally binding protection system and legislative framework for ethnic national minorities, which is to be complemented by a functioning monitoring mechanism.	As rights of persons belonging to minorities are already mentioned in Article 2 TEU, we find it worth adding, instead of the plea “to include them in treaties for the protection of minorities”.
27	German Greens	45	delete	“national”		

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28	EELV, France	45	add new bullet point		on its members and on the Committee to establish contacts with the political parties present in the Sámi parliaments of Finland, Norway and Sweden to discuss the opportunity of an associate or candidate membership to the European Green Party. This would be in conformity with what the EGP stands for, which is recognition of the rights of the minorities and would give more weight to the demands of the Sami	In Norway, many Sámi parties are affiliated or associated to a Norwegian party but none of them to Miljøpartiet de Grøne. In Finland and Sweden the parties running for the Sámi parliaments are not officially affiliated to any National party however recent struggles against mining (Rönnbäck, Gallók, Utsjoki...) and recent stands against climate change show that some of the Sámi parties share many values with the Green family. Also, this would be a great way to offer them the means to be present at European level.
29	German Greens	45	add		<p>“3. on the EU that in the accession process the rights of minorities have to be highlighted – be it towards the countries of the Westerns Balkans or Turkey.</p> <p>4. on the EU and the member states that – also after the end of the Roma decade – the especially challenging exclusion of Roma and anti-gypsyism will be tackled.”</p>	