

PRESS RELEASE

FUEN-Congress 2008 in Hungary: Media as particular challenge for Europe's minorities

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) will be hosting the largest congress of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe again this year. The 53. FUEN-Congress will take place from the 22.-24. May in Pécs, Hungary. More than 200 guests and delegates from around 30 different countries are expected in the European Culture Capital of 2010. (Technical and organizational congress details can be found on www.fuen.org)

According to FUEN-President Hans Heinrich Hansen, Denmark, it is necessary to keep an eye on the importance of the minority question: „The topic seems to keep disappearing from the scope of the decision makers on national level as well as on European level. If you look at the situation in Kosovo/Kosova and their Serbian minority and the threatening situation of the Roma, the importance of the minority question as security-political factor presently appears in all clarity and also how short-sighted a policy is which excludes the questions of the autochthonous minorities on the European level,“ says Hansen.

With the Charter of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe, which was adopted in Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany, in 2006 and the 13 fundamental rights laid down in it, the FUEN has created a content-guideline. Every year one of the fundamental rights of this charter is introduced. This year the Congress will be dealing with the Right to Media. In workshops, lectures and presentations the very complex topic will be illuminated, and the written, qualified fundamental right will be brought to election by the delegates.

With a strategic working programme in hand the FUEN-Delegates will discuss the content of the future goals and the main focus of the work – the establishment of a „dialogue forum“ at the European Parliament and the establishment of a language network for the small- and smallest languages in Europe will be discussed in detail.

The delegates and guests will also be getting an insight into the minority highlight of the summer – the soccer championship of the autochthonous minorities – the Europeada 2008 – in Grisons, Switzerland.

„We are looking forward to a constructive exchange with our member organisations. We want to develop the FUEN further and make it even more forceful – the Congress is a good opportunity for this and we hope that many delegates and friends of the European minorities will find their way to Pécs,“ says Hans Heinrich Hansen, who expressly thanks the local organizers of the state government of the Hungarian Germans and their chairman Otto Heinek for the good cooperation.

For further questions on the congress, please don't hesitate to contact FUEN-representative Jan Diedrichsen jan.diedrichsen@fuen.org / phone +45 22308876.

You will find photos at your free disposal here:

<http://www.living-diversity.eu/Gallery.html>

Further information

Main page of the Federal Union of European Nationalities

www.fuen.org

Newsportal of the FUEN and the Youth of European Nationalities

www.living-diversity.eu

Europeade – the soccer championship of the European minorities

www.europeada.net

Charter of the autochthonous, national minorities

<http://www.living-diversity.eu/Charter.html>

Fundamental Right to Education - Adopted 2007 in Tallinn

http://www.living-diversity.eu/Fundamental_Rights.html

Overview Language policy

http://living-diversity.eu/2008/080123_uebersichtSprachenpolitik.pdf

Language resolution

http://www.living-diversity.eu/Tallinn%202007/Resolution_EU-Sprachf%F6rderung_Kongress%202007.pdf

Commentary of the FUEN on the situation in Kosovo / Kosova

http://living-diversity.eu/News/Eintrage/2008/3/3_FUEV-Stellungnahme_zum_Kosova_Kosovo.html

Pécs – Culture Capital of Europe 2010

<http://www.pecs2010.hu/ger/>

State government of the Hungarian Germans

<http://www.ldu.hu/>