

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Recommendation RecChL(2005)1 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Austria

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 January 2005
at the 912th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Austria on 28 June 2001;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Austria;

Having taken note of the comments made by the Austrian authorities on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Austria in its national report, supplementary information provided by the Austrian authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Austria and information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its "on-the-spot" visit;

Recommends that the authorities of Austria take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. adopt a structural policy for the protection and promotion of all Part II languages and create conditions for their use in public life;
2. ensure that the ruling of the Constitutional Court relating to the use of the Slovene language before administrative authorities in Carinthia is implemented without delay;
3. ensure that bilingual teaching takes place in practice in all relevant schools in Burgenland;
4. ensure that changes to the status of schools or to the rules regarding the appointment of staff of schools in the Slovene language area do not negatively affect Slovene-language education in Carinthia;
5. ensure that the Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian languages can be used before the relevant judicial and administrative authorities in practice;
6. increase radio broadcasting in Burgenland-Croatian and Hungarian, and television broadcasting in Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian.