

**THE EUROPEAN CHARTER
FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES¹**

– Applied to Kven/Finnish in Norway –

[...]

PART II

**OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES
PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 1**

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

- 1 In respect of Kven/Finnish, within the territories in which Kven/Finnish is used and according to the situation of Kven/Finnish, Norway shall base its policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:
 - a the recognition of Kven/Finnish as an expression of cultural wealth;
 - b the respect of the geographical area of Kven/Finnish in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Kven/Finnish;
 - c the need for resolute action to promote Kven/Finnish in order to safeguard it;
 - d the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Kven/Finnish, in speech and writing, in public and private life;
 - e the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using Kven/Finnish and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;
 - f the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of Kven/Finnish at all appropriate stages;
 - g the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of Kven/Finnish living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;
 - h the promotion of study and research on Kven/Finnish at universities or equivalent institutions;
 - i the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for Kven/Finnish used in identical or similar form in two or more States.
- 2 Norway undertakes to eliminate, if it has not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Kven/Finnish and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of Kven/Finnish aimed at promoting equality between the users of Kven/Finnish and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.
- 3 Norway undertakes to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Kven/Finnish among the objectives of education and training provided within the country and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.
- 4 In determining its policy with regard to Kven/Finnish, Norway shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use Kven/Finnish. It is encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Kven/Finnish.

[...]

¹ CETS no. 148. The Charter was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992. Entry into force for Norway: 1 March 1998.