

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

– Applied to Romanes in the Netherlands –

[...]

PART II

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

Article 7 – Objectives and principles

- 1 In respect of Romanes, within the territories in which Romanes is used and according to the situation of Romanes, the Netherlands shall base its policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:
 - a the recognition of Romanes as an expression of cultural wealth;
 - b the respect of the geographical area of Romanes in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romanes;
 - c the need for resolute action to promote Romanes in order to safeguard it;
 - d the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romanes, 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 Romanes 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 Romanes at all appropriate stages;
 - g the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of Romanes living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;
 - h the promotion of study and research on Romanes at universities or equivalent institutions;
 - i the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for Romanes used in identical or similar form in two or more States.
- 2 The Netherlands undertakes to eliminate, if it has not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romanes and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of Romanes aimed at promoting equality between the users of Romanes 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 The Netherlands 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 Romanes 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 Romanes, the Netherlands shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use Romanes. It is encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romanes.
- 5 The Netherlands undertakes to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to Romanes as a non-territorial language. However, as far as Romanes is concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use Romanes.

[...]

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 the Netherlands: 1 March 1998. The provisions of the Charter adopted by the Netherlands for Romanes as a non-territorial language are applicable without territorial restrictions.