

# THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES<sup>1</sup>

## – Applied to Russian in Finland –

[...]

### PART II

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

##### *Article 7 – Objectives and principles*

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Finland: 1 March 1998. The provisions of the Charter adopted by Finland for Russian as a non-territorial language are applicable without territorial restrictions.