



COUNCIL OF EUROPE      CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Ministers  
Comité des Ministres

**Recommendation RecChL(2011)2  
of the Committee of Ministers  
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages  
by Germany**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 May 2011  
at the 1114th 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 submitted by Germany on 16 September 1998;

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

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Germany in its fourth periodical report, supplementary information given by the German authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Germany and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit,

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

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

1. adopt specific legal provisions, where their absence hinders practical implementation of the undertakings which Germany has entered into under the Charter;
2. ensure that the reduction of subsidies for private schools and cuts of the transport allowances will not jeopardize the continued functioning of the Danish-language education at the current level;
3. adopt and implement a structured policy for the promotion and preservation of North Frisian, Sater Frisian and Lower Sorbian, including in particular measures which ensure as a matter of urgency that primary and secondary education is systematically available in these languages;
4. ensure that the provision of education in Upper Sorbian is not jeopardized by the changes in the educational system concerning this language;
5. upgrade the teaching of Low German to the status of a regular school subject being taught as an integral part of the curriculum and increase the number of hours devoted to Low German, in the *Länder* concerned;
6. ensure that an effective monitoring mechanism in the sense of the Charter exists in the field of education for all regional or minority languages covered under Part III;
7. take resolute action to establish a structured policy for making it possible in practice to use regional or minority languages in dealings with the administration and, where relevant, in the courts;
8. take measures so that adequate radio and television broadcasting is available in Danish, Low German, Lower Sorbian, North Frisian, Romani, Sater Frisian.