



Declaration nr. 2

Name of the person introducing the declaration: Gabriel Hribar

On behalf of the party: Enotna lista Carinthia-Austria

Declaration: Minority protection without bureaucratic obstacles and cuts of financial aid.

After reaching a compromise concerning the establishment of bilingual signs in Carinthia in 2011 the general atmosphere towards the Slovenian minority has changed very positively.

Although it still requires many measures of protection of minorities, the Austrian Government considers all obligations agreed upon in article 7 of the State Treaty to be fulfilled. Claims of officially recognized minorities are taken less and less seriously.

Associations and organizations of recognized minorities in Austria must file every year requests for government funding requests at the Federal Chancellor's Office. Unfortunately, many cultural associations and other organizations are not notified until November whether their projects will receive funding or not, which makes planning impossible and prevents many important language support projects from being realized.

The total funds for the aid of minorities living in Austria have not been increased since 1995, which means in real terms that the support of the minority has been reduced by 50%!

The European Free Alliance

declares that:

- the Austrian Government should announce their decisions concerning grants to minority Associations at least by the end of march each year.
- the Austrian Government should compensate the devaluation for the aid to the Austrian minorities.

The EFA urges the Republic of Austria to fulfil its obligations under the Austrian State Treaty in relation to the minorities in Austria without bureaucratic obstacles and without hidden cuts of financial aid.

ENDS