

**Draft Recommendation RecChL(2004)6
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
by Finland**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 October 2004
at the 900th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Bearing in mind the instrument of acceptance submitted by Finland on 9 November 1994;

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

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

Having taken note of the comments submitted by the Finnish authorities on the content of the report of the Committee of Experts;

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

1. vigorously pursue the current efforts to improve education in the Sami language and in particular take immediate measures to ensure the survival/viability of the Inari and Skolt Sami languages, which are in grave danger of extinction;
2. encourage and/or facilitate a positive development regarding the availability of a newspaper in Sami;
3. ensure the availability of health and social care services in Swedish and Sami;
4. further implement measures for the protection and promotion of the Romani language and provide favourable conditions in particular in education, teacher training, radio and television.