



Statement by the Slovenian Delegation

Permanent Council 26 March 2009

Round Table

"Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations and Their Implementation in South-Eastern Europe"

The Slovenian delegation is pleased to inform the Permanent Council that the first expert Round Table on the "Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations" took place in Ljubljana (Brdo), Slovenia, on 23 March 2009. The event was convened by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia.

The representatives and experts from 11 countries (Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia) met in order to discuss the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations and their implementation and practical relevance in the region of South-Eastern Europe. The deliberations once again underscored the importance of mutually acceptable standards to uphold the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and at the same time contribute to friendly inter-State relations.

The meeting was opened by the High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek, the Minister for Slovenes Abroad Boštjan Žekš, the Secretary-General of the OSCE Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and the representative of the Chairperson-in-office of the OSCE.

For more information about the event, please refer to the "Chairman's Summary" of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (document HCNM.GAL/2/09 dated 24 March 2009).

Thank you.