



НАЦИОНАЛНИ САВЕТ АЛБАНСКЕ НАЦИОНАЛНЕ МАЊИНЕ  
KËSHILLI KOMBËTAR I PAKICËS KOMBËTARE SHQIPTARE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL MINORITY



## **National Council of Albanian National Minority in the Republic of Serbia**

### **Report of the National Council of Albanian National Minority in Monitoring of the Implementation of European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

**Bujanovac, December 2013**



## REPORT OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL MINORITY COUNCIL IN MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

---

December 2013

### **Establishment of Albanian National Minority Council**

Albanian National Minority Council (hereinafter: the Council) was established on 3 June 2010 in a very difficult context, thanks to foreign Embassies, OSCE Mission and other relevant international institutions.

The Council has 29 members, 6 commissions with 15 members each and other sub-commissions. The executive body has 9 members, whilst 7 persons are employed in the Council's administration.

### **Education**

Certainly the issue of providing textbooks in Albanian language for pre-school, elementary and secondary education has been the biggest challenge in the work of the Council.

As a result of work of the Council, 63 books in total, 45 textbooks and 18 workbooks, for elementary education have been approved and published in the past period. 18 textbooks and workbooks were imported from Albania, 10 textbooks and workbooks were written by local authors and 35 textbooks and workbooks were translated by the Council.

The textbooks of foreign languages are not included in this list because these same textbooks are being used by all national minorities in Serbia.

The Council has sent a number of requests to Ministry of Education of Republic of Serbia for permitting the use of following textbooks from Albania: biology, chemistry, history, fine arts, music culture and geography.

The Ministry of Education is not respecting the law, which stipulates inclusion of Albanian culture, identity and history (up to 30%) in the school curricula for the subjects of history, geography, fine arts and music culture.

There is no coherent state strategy for advancement of the teaching process in minority languages, but the Council has taken an obligation to professionally advance quality of the teachers.



Also there is no state practice to engage school supervisors for minority language education schools.

The members of Albanian national minority are obliged to continue their university education in Albania and Kosovo because it is impossible for them to get this education in Serbia. The Albanian-speaking graduates from the above-mentioned universities have no possibility to establish working relations in Serbia due to an overlong process of validation of their diplomas in respective institutions in Serbia. This is an additional difficulty, especially for educational institutions and schools, to fully implement their curricula with qualified staff.

Disregard of the Council by some entities in the core fields it covers, according to the Law on National Minority Council, represents a serious obstacle for the full implementation of the Council's competencies as stipulated by the law<sup>1</sup>.

Until the moment this report is made all the register books of pupils, diaries, pupils' certificates etc. in the schools in Albanian language in Serbia are written only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script even though there is a legal obligation to have these documents written in Albanian language too.

We consider that it's important to mention the case of "Music School" in Bujanovac where the teaching is taking place only in Serbian language. The Council has requested in February 2013 from the municipality of Bujanovac to initiate a procedure for changing and amending the statute of this school in order to enable teaching in Albanian language for Albanian-speaking pupils too. The same request has been made for other municipal cultural institutions and libraries in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja. The municipal assemblies of these three municipalities have held several meetings so far but the Council's proposals have never been discussed. This presents a direct obstacle to the realisation of rights guaranteed for national minorities in the Constitution of Republic of Serbia.

There are 15 elementary schools in Albanian language in Republic of Serbia. 7 of them are in Presevo, 6 in Bujanovac and 2 in Medvedja. There are 4 secondary schools in total, 2 in Presevo, 1 in Bujanovac and 1 in Medvedja that provide teaching in Albanian language. The total number of Albanian pupils in elementary and secondary schools is over 10.000.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision of Administrative Court, nr.II-2 U.779/13 on 23.05.2013 and decision of Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, nr. 119-01-00008/2013-03/23/3 date. 22.04.2013, 119-01-00008/2013-03/15/2 date. 22.04.2013 and others as well as the inspection supervision by the republican inspector for education, nr. 614-02-00988/2012-12 date. 08.02.2013., 424-614-00024/2013-07 date 11.03.2013.



It is worth to mention that the Council in cooperation with Ministry of education, science and technological development of Republic of Serbia, OSCE Mission, Coordination Body of Serbian government for municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja and University of Novi Sad have managed to open a department of Economic Faculty of Subotica in Bujanovac. This presents the first step in the process of realisation of collective rights of Albanians for higher education, but certainly there is a need for opening new branches as well.

## **Culture**

After the Council's constitution, we as an institution have taken responsibility for advancing the national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the Albanian national minority by creating necessary conditions for their progress.

We have invested a lot of potential in these fields, but unfortunately due to lack of financial resources and lack of cooperation of local authorities and some relevant state institutions with the Council, we have not managed to achieve our goals so far in an institutional way, foreseen in the strategy to achieving the so-called cultural autonomy.

As we have mentioned earlier in this report, the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja have their towns' libraries, but the number of titles in Albanian language is very low. Ministry of Culture and Information of Republic of Serbia has not provided books so far in Albanian language for the above-mentioned libraries. In addition, the border barriers for the import of books from other states and the lack of existence of any publishing houses that would print books in Albanian language have produced this result of libraries with small fund of books.

- Opening of "Ethnographic Museum" of Albanian community in Republic of Serbia is under procedure;
- There is a need for establishment and affirmation of "Amateur Theatre" in the cultural institutions in Bujanovac and Presevo municipalities;
- Cultural institutions established by municipal administration cooperate very little with the Council even though the Council has declared them with a special Decision as institutions of special importance for preservation, advancing and development of characteristics of national and cultural identity of Albanian community<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Decision on determination of public institutions of special importance for preservation, advancing and development of the national and cultural identity of the Albanian community, published in the "Official Gazette of RS" nr.118/2012 dt. 15.12.2012.



- Due to lack of bilateral agreements between Republic of Serbia and Republic of Albania and Republic of Kosovo, we as the Council have no possibility to realise the cultural exchange with organisations from our native country.

## Information

Regarding the Article 11 of European Convention for regional or minority languages, the National Council considers the media situation in the local level as good, taking into consideration that a number of local media are functioning in the region, such as Radio television Presevo, RT Bujanovac and Radio Presevo and Radio Bujanovac. Also there is one private TV Aldi operating in Presevo, which broadcasts programmes in Albanian language, and RTV Spektri in Bujanovac, which also broadcasts programmes in Albanian language.

The only magazine in Albanian language “Nacionali” is in a very difficult situation. It is at the brink to cease publishing because of lack of financial resources. It is worth to mention that at the beginning this weekly magazine was supported by Ministry of Culture of Republic of Serbia, but after the completion of the project the Council had to finance with its own resources further publication of this magazine. Unfortunately these funds are insufficient.

Ministry of Culture of Republic of Serbia has not created legal security for application of European Convention for regional or minority languages. It is not applying any measures for affirmative protection and implementation of the right for information of Albanian national minority in their own language. Ways of co-financing the only weekly magazine in Albanian language “Nacionali” in Serbia have changed several times from 2009 until 2011. The decision of Ministry of Culture in 2012 to entirely stop the funds for financing and preservation of the only magazine in Albanian language has violated constitutional and legal principles in the country, which is supposed to guarantee equal legal protection for Albanian national minority as well<sup>3</sup>.

The Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities<sup>4</sup> („Official Gazette SRY“, nr 11/02, “Official Gazette of SCG”, nr 1/03 – Constitutional Chart and “Official Gazette of RS”, nr 72/09 – other law and 97/2013 – decision of Constitutional Court) stipulates that the state is obliged to provide informative, cultural and educational programmes in languages of national minorities in the public radio and television broadcasters.

---

<sup>3</sup> Recommendation of Ombudsperson of RS, nr: 16-2568/11 date 18.06.2012.

<sup>4</sup> „Official Gazette SRY“, nr 11/02, “Official Gazette SCG”, nr 1/03 – Constitutional Chart and “the Official Gazette RS”, nr 72/09 – other laws and 97/2013 – decision of the Constitutional Court nr. 97/2013.

---

Albanian National Minority Council, Karadjordje Petrovic 237, 17520 Bujanovac, Republic of Serbia

Tel/fax: +381 17 653 264, e-mail: [keshillikombetarshqiptar@gmail.com](mailto:keshillikombetarshqiptar@gmail.com)



The Law on Broadcasting<sup>5</sup> foresees, amongst others, the programmes that are produced and broadcast by the public broadcaster should provide variety and balanced content that support modern democratic values, especially the respect for human, cultural, national, ethnic rights and pluralism of ideas and opinion. The Public Broadcaster, Radio Television of Serbia, is obliged to broadcast programmes on culture, language, tradition, history and other characteristics of Albanian national minority that lives in Serbia in order the members of this national minority achieve their right for information in their mother tongue<sup>6</sup>.

### **Official use of Albanian language and script**

Until the moment of presentation of this report the republican institutions have not started to translate and publish the most important laws in Albanian language. The competent republican institutions, in a spirit with the Chart, should consider the publication of the Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia in Albanian language, in particular the most important editions, which have important legislation materials for minorities.

There have been some cases of translation of certain laws, for example the Law on National Minorities Council, which was translated by the Ministry for human and minority rights. Based on what we said above we consider that competent republican institutions have no systematic approach in translating the legal acts in Albanian language. It is very difficult to imagine the use of Albanian language and script in the state administration and courts without the official translation of the laws.

Based on Article 3 of the Law on National Minority Councils, the line Ministry for human and minority rights (currently the Ministry of justice and state administration) is entitled to keep the Register of national minorities. The registration in the register is done based on a request for registration made by President of a National Minority Council in a period of 30 days from the day of the constitution of the Council. After registration the Council achieves the status of a legal entity.

The Law on National Minority Councils and the Book of Rules on content and way of keeping the Register of National Minorities<sup>7</sup> do not stipulate that designations of National Councils can be written in the Register in languages and scripts of national minorities.

---

<sup>5</sup> „Official Gazette of RS“, nr. 42/2002, 97/2004, 76/2005, 79/20 05, 62/2006, 85/2006 and 86/2006.

<sup>6</sup> Recommendations of Commissioner for protection of equality of RS, nr. 306/2001 date 01.12.2011.

<sup>7</sup> „Official Gazette of RS“, nr. 91/2009.



We as the Council consider that these legal acts are not in accordance and in spirit with the European Chart on regional or minority languages. The relevant state institutions should amend and change these acts in order to enable the National Minority Councils to register themselves in the Register in the language of their national minority as well.

After the adoption of the Law on National Minority Council<sup>8</sup> the Albanian NMC has taken important competencies in the field of official use of Albanian language and script. Based on the law, the National Council decides on traditional designations of the units of local self-governments, settlements, toponyms and other geographic designations in the language of Albanian national minority, because the Albanian language is in official use in the territory of a certain unit of local self-government or other settlements. The designation set by the Council get into official use alongside with the designations written in Serbian language<sup>9</sup>.

Since the number of Albanians in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja is very high the official use of Albanian language and script as an equal language alongside with the Serbian language and Cyrillic script has been resolved in the Statutes of the municipality of Bujanovac<sup>10</sup>, municipality of Presevo<sup>11</sup>, and municipality of Medvedja<sup>12</sup>. In spite of this legal obligation the institutions of municipal administrations in the above-mentioned municipalities do not conduct their official communication with Albanian citizens in Albanian language and do not approve the bylaws in Albanian language.

In order to overcome this problem the administrations in Presevo and Bujanovac need to establish a special service for translators (because the Albanian citizens make majority of the population in these two municipalities), whilst in Medvedja this can be achieved by hiring more translators, which can be done based on a regulation for systematisation and organisation of working positions in the municipal administration. We consider that the above-mentioned services could be a solution for implementation of the Law on official use of languages and scripts<sup>13</sup> and would realise other guaranteed rights<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>8</sup> “Official Gazette of RS”, nr. 72/2009.

<sup>9</sup> Decision on determination the designation of settlements in Albanian language and script in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, published in the “Official Gazette of RS”, nr. 118/2012 date 15.12.2012.

<sup>10</sup> “Official Gazette of Pcinje District”, nr. 24/ 2008.

<sup>11</sup> “Official Gazette of Pcinje District”, nr. 26/2008.

<sup>12</sup> “Official Gazette of city of Leskovac”, nr. 18/2008, 38/2012.

<sup>13</sup> “Official Gazette of RS“ nr. 45/91, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 101/2005-and other laws, 30/2010.

<sup>14</sup> **Examples:** acts written only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script: the decision issued by the municipal administration nr. 08-465-378 date 19.01.2012; the decision issued by municipal administration in Bujanovac nr. 08-351-35 date. 27.05.2013; the decision issued by municipal administration in Presevo. 05.501-04/13 date. 19.02.2013.; the decision issued by municipal administration in Presevo, nr. 04.351-56/13 date. 29.07.213.





Taking into consideration that the closest maternity hospital for municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac is in Vranje and for the municipality of Medvedja in Leskovac, the Albanian mothers deliver their babies mainly in Vranje and Leskovac hospitals. The health centres in these two cities are obliged to report and register the new-borns in the registrar service in the municipal administration of these two cities. Even though the right of national minorities to use their personal names in original is a constitutional right nowadays in Serbia and regulated in more details with a law, implementation of this right is problematic. Many persons have complaints about the work of registrar services in the cities of Vranje and Leskovac where many problems regarding the spelling of the names and family names of the Albanian new-borns have been noticed.

In the registrar services in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac, Medvedja, Vranje, Leskovac and other municipalities in Republic of Serbia, the registration of personal names of members of Albanian national minority in birth registers is not being done properly. In the cases when the personal names of Albanians are written in Serbian language and Cyrillic script and when requests are made for correction and registration of these names in original then different procedures are used – sometimes they go with a proposal for changing the names and sometimes with a request for correction of the register.

The Ombudsman of Republic of Serbia, in his Recommendations nr 16-166/11 on date 16.03.2011, has recommended to the Ministry of State administration and Local Self-Administration of RS to take necessary measures in order to make registrar services fully respect the laws and procedures when registering the names of Albanian national minority members. Until the moment of presentation of this report the old practices are still being implemented in all these municipal administrations without exceptions<sup>15</sup>.

Members of Albanian national minority who are born in the above mentioned municipalities get their birth, marriage, death certificates and other documents only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script. The Ministry of Interior Affairs writes the names of Albanian minority members in their identification cards based on birth certificates and certificates of citizenship<sup>16</sup>. As a result of this a number of spelling mistakes are made when the names of Albanian national minority

---

<sup>15</sup> Recommendations of Ombudsman of RS, nr. 16-166/11 date 16.03.2011; **Examples:** Birth certificate issued by municipal administration in Vranje, nr. 200-1-0/2011-3-09 on 22.08.2011; Birth certificate issued by municipal administration in Medvedja, nr. 200-00-4/2013-31/81278 on 16.08.2013; Birth certificate issued by the municipality of Savski Venac, personal number 817, on 15.04.2011; Birth certificate issued by municipal administration in Bujanovac, nr. 05-200/573 on 04.09.2013; Certificate of citizenship issued by municipal administration in Bujanovac, nr. 204-1277/11 on 01.07.2011; decision made by municipal administration in Bujanovac, nr. 201-124/11 dt. 03.10.2011; decision for change of personal name made by municipal administration in Presevo, nr. 01.201-35/13 on 29.04.2013.

<sup>16</sup> **Examples:** Certificate of citizenship issued by municipal administration of Bujanovac, nr. 05-204/478 dt.05.09.2013.





members are written. This represents a violation of the personal identity of the members of Albanian community in Republic of Serbia<sup>17</sup>.

The right for a personal name is one of the fundamental constitutional and human rights and freedoms. Constitution of Serbia<sup>18</sup>, in the article 37, paragraph 3, proclaims that selection and use of personal names and names of children is a free choice. Constitution's article 79, paragraph 1, provides additional guarantees for the rights of national minorities to use their names and family names in their mother tongue.

The law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities in article 9 stipulates that the members of national minorities have a right for a free choice and use of personal name of their children; and a right to write their personal names in all public documents, official evidences and databases in the languages and scripts of national minorities.

The signs of state institutions based in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja are written only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script, including the police station, the republican institute for geodesy-cadastre, the republican institute for health insurance, tax administration, branches of the national bureau for employment and the republican fund for pensions.

The republican institute for geodesy and the cadastre services in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja issue the possession lists on real estates and other documents only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

The law on official use of languages and scripts in article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2 foresees that a language and a script of a national minority can be used in a territory of a unit of local administration where a traditional minority community lives. The unit of local self-administration is obliged to regulate with a statute the equal official use of language of a national minority if the number of minority population reaches 15% of the total population in that territory.

The paragraph 3 of this article of the law stipulates that the official use of languages of national minorities also implies and includes the issuance of public documents and the official evidences and other forms of personal databases in languages of national minorities; and recognition of these official documents as valid.

The law on protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities in article 11, paragraph 4, expressively stipulates that official use of languages and scripts of national minorities also implies the issuance of public documents in the languages and scripts of national minorities, but

---

<sup>17</sup> Recommendation of Ombudsperson of RS, nr. 16-166/11 on 16.03.2011.

<sup>18</sup> "Official Gazette of RS", nr. 98/2006.



also keeping of official records and recognition of all these documents in these languages as valid.

It is worth to mention that even though the Albanian language is in official use in the municipality of Medvedja not a single Albanian is employed in municipal administration service of registrar, which is a precondition for issuing certificates in Albanian language too. However, one of the gravest violations of the legal provisions done by Medvedja municipality is the lack of publication of municipal decisions in Albanian language as well<sup>19</sup>.

Also police stations in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja keep forms and conduct all their communication and procedures against members of Albanian community in Serbian language and Cyrillic script, because there are no Albanian employees in the administration of police stations. Also the Book of Rules of police stations on systematisation and organisation of working positions doesn't foresee employment of translators. The article 18, paragraph 3, of the Law on official use of languages and scripts stipulates that forms and evidences for the needs of a territory, where a language of a national minority is in official use, are published in both languages, in Serbian language and the language of a national minority. In this sense, administrations of police station in Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja have legal obligations to issue decisions and certificates in both languages.

The Council has submitted a request to Ombudsperson of Republic of Serbia to start procedures against Ministry of Interior Affairs<sup>20</sup>.

The law on official use of languages and scripts is not being implemented in any public company in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja. Also the health centres in these three municipalities do not respect the law and do not issue the medical reports in both languages. On the other hand, all republican institutions and other republican public companies, which operate in these municipalities, have never used Albanian language as an equal language during their communication with Albanian minority members<sup>21</sup>.

---

<sup>19</sup> Statute of municipality of Presevo published in the ("Official Gazette of city of Leskovac", nr. 18/2008, 38/2012).  
**Examples:** Birth certificate issued by municipal administration in Medvedja, nr. 200-00-4/2013-31/81278 date 16.08.2013.

<sup>20</sup> The number of this case at Ombudsperson office is 16-1813/13; **Examples:** the decision issued by PS in Bujanovac only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script, nr. 27-2609/12-103 on 26.12.2012; decision issued by PS in Bujanovac in Serbian language and Cyrillic script, nr. 205-99/11 on 05.05.2011; the decision issued by PS in Bujanovac in Serbian language and Cyrillic script, nr. 205-384/12 on 20.02.2013; 205-27/13p on 30.05.2013; the decision issued by PS Bujanovac only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script 205-98/13 on 27.05.2013.

<sup>21</sup> Recommendation of Ombudsman of RS, nr. 16-998/12 from 13.07.2012.



After the Law on Courts of 2008 came into effect on 1 January 2010 together with the Law on seats and territories of the courts and public prosecution offices, serious problems were created in functioning and realisation of the rights of citizens of Albanian descent from municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja with regards to the official use of Albanian language and script during court procedures and processes. The Basic Court in Vranje, which according to the Law of 2008 covers municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac, hired 5 judges of Albanian origin (11.62%) out of 43 judges in total. The Basic Court in Vranje covered 7 municipalities in the Pcinjski District and the Albanian population, based on 2002 census, makes around 25% of the total population of the district.

The number of Albanian judges in the Basic Court in Vranje was insufficient and disproportional with the structure of district's population and in this way it was impossible to implement the law on official use of Albanian language in the court procedures. Until the moment of presentation of this report, only one court process has been conducted in Albanian language in the Basic Court in Vranje – Presevo Unit and all the rest of processes have been held in Serbian language and Cyrillic script. The same situation is prevailing in the prosecution office.

The new legal package on the reform of judiciary approved in the Republican Parliament of Serbia on 20 November 2013, including the Law on changing and amending the Law on public prosecution, Law on changes and amendments of the Law on judges, the Law on changing and amending the Law on regulation of the courts and the Law on seats and territories of the courts and public prosecutions, which, amongst others, foresees the networks of basic courts and misdemeanour courts in municipalities where Albanian language is in official use, the article 2, paragraph 1, point 6, does not foresee establishment of a Misdemeanour court in Bujanovac, but only a unit of the Vranje Misdemeanour Court.

On the other hand, the same article and paragraph of the law in the point 30 foresees establishment of a Misdemeanour Court in Presevo. According to article 3, paragraph 1, point 10, Basic Bujanovac Court will cover the territories of municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo. These legal solutions have left municipality of Presevo without a basic court, which is a precondition for the official use of Albanian language and script in judiciary institutions. The same situation is in Medvedja where the new law has not stipulated establishment of a basic court in this municipality.

According to the above-mentioned law, article 9, paragraph 1, point 14, the Public prosecution office in Vranje, with its unit in Bujanovac, will cover the territories of municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo. This new network of courts and public prosecutions undercuts the



chances for full realisation of the right for official use of Albanian language and script in the judiciary.

Due to lack of implementation of the Law on official use of languages and scripts by the Agency for economic registers and due to serious deficiencies in the Law on procedures for registration in the Agency for economic registers<sup>22</sup>, the economic entities have no possibilities to write their designations in languages of national minorities. As a consequence of this, some minor offences processes were raised against certain economic entities in municipalities, where Albanian language is in official use, because these economic entities wrote their designations in Albanian language next to Serbian language. Examples: court procedures in Misdemeanour Court in Presevo and Misdemeanour Court in Vranje – the court unit in Bujanovac.

Serious problems have been noticed with the implementation of the Law on Association in practice and during procedures of registration of associations of national minorities<sup>23</sup> as well as during publication of notifications in the web portal of Agency for economic registers (which is entitled to keep the records on associations). In official web presentation of the Agency there is no single notice or form for submission of requests in the languages of national minorities, which are in the official use in a territory of a municipality covered by organisational units of the Agency for economic registers.

The Law on associations in article 13 stipulates that only “the name of the association, if this is foreseen by the statute, can be written in the language and the script of a national minority. The name in the language and script of national minority can be written in the register only after writing it in Serbian language and Cyrillic script”. However, neither the Law nor the following bylaws of the Ministry for state administration on content, way of writing and keeping of the Register of the Associations, contain legal solutions, which regulate procedures with regards to requests that are made in languages of national minorities. In this way, the right of members of national minorities to present documents in their language and script has been disabled.

Last but not the least it is important to mention that during local and parliamentary elections held on 6 May 2012 in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja, where the Albanian language is in official use, all election materials and voters’ registers were written only in Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

The Council, in accordance with the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of the national minorities, has approved proposals for determination of the official holidays of Albanian

---

<sup>22</sup> “Official Gazette of RS“, nr. 99/2011.

<sup>23</sup> “Official Gazette of RS”, nr. 51/2009 and 99/2011 – other laws.



minority in Serbia. The proposal has been sent in August to the Council for National Minorities established by the Decision<sup>24</sup>, but the Albanian National Minority Council has not yet received any reply with regards to its request for determination of national holidays of Albanian minority in Serbia. As a result of this neglect, the official holidays of Albanian minority in Serbia have still remained undetermined.

The Albanian National Minority Council will be committed together with relevant institutions to fully implement the right for official use of Albanian language and script in the future in the country. It is a priority for the Council to put in place mechanisms within state administration which would make it possible the full implementation of individual and collective rights of Albanian minority in Serbia.

Albanian National Minority Council has in its agenda the solution of a delicate issue of the use of Albanian national symbols. This issue is regulated with the article 16 of the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities. Albanian national minority in Serbia is dissatisfied with this legal solution because it is considered restrictive. This article of the law stipulates that symbols of a national minority cannot be identical with symbols of other states.

Albanian national minority finds this legal solution as unacceptable and the Council has continuously requested that legal provisions, which regulate the use of national symbols, ought to be unrestrictive. The Council will request from National Assembly of Republic of Serbia to amend this legal solution as soon as possible. The Council would also seek support and assistance from international community in order to overcome the delicate issue of national symbols of national minorities in Serbia.

P R E S I D E N T

Galip Beqiri

---

<sup>24</sup> “Official Gazette of RS”, nr 46/2013