

RESOLUTION 2026-02

The Macedonian Association “Ilinden”-Tirana

Recognising that the Republic of Albania is bound by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), and noting the continued relevance of the situation of the Macedonian minority as discussed at the FUEN AGSM Seminar in Tirana in June 2026, the Delegates of the Member Organisations of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) adopted the following resolution at their Assembly of Delegates on 19 September 2026 in Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland

Macedonian national minority in the Republic of Albania

1. The Government of the Republic of Albania¹ to sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
2. The Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure – in accordance with Article 3 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – that persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority may freely choose to be treated as such, and to take effective measures against any external political pressure aimed at denying or assimilating the Macedonian identity in Albania.
3. The Macedonian Association “Ilinden”-Tirana and the Macedonian National Minority in the Republic of Albania request from the Special Parliamentary Commission for Administrative-Territorial Reform of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania that the Municipality of Pustec remain a separate unit of local self-government and within the framework of the new reform not to undergo any territorial change, i.e. not to merge with other administrative units. The Macedonian Association “Ilinden”-Tirana bases this request on the Constitution² of the Republic of Albania, as well as on Article 16 of the Law on the Protection of National Minorities³ (No. 96/2017), which expressly states:

“It is prohibited to take measures that change the composition of the population in the units of local self-government where persons belonging to national minorities live, with the aim of limiting the rights and freedoms provided for by this Law.” The Municipality of Pustec is the only local unit in the Republic of Albania where the Macedonian national minority constitutes the majority of the population, therefore its preservation is of fundamental importance for the survival and protection of identity.
4. The Macedonian Association “Ilinden”-Tirana and the Macedonian National Minority in the Republic of Albania request that the Municipality of Pustec be renamed the Municipality of Prespa. This proposal is based on the fact that Pustec is only one of the nine villages in the municipality, while the name “Prespa” more fully

1 <https://ilinden-tirana.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/fifth-opinion-on-republic-of-albania-advisory-committee-on-the-framework-convention-for-the-protection-of-national-minorities-2023.pdf> https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2014-04/coe_upr19_alb_e_an-nexe2_2.pdf

2 Kushtetuta e Shqipërisë / Устав на Албанија

3 Ligji Nr. 96/2017 Për mbrojtjen e pakicave kombëtare në Republikën e Shqipërisë/ Law No. 96/2017 On the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Albania