

INTERNATIONAL NORMS
AND STANDARDS FOR THE
PROTECTION **OF**
NATIONAL MINORITIES

Bilateral and Multilateral Texts
with Commentary

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17. **Treaty between the Italian Republic and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Osimo on 10 November 1975.**¹⁸

The Contracting Parties,

Convinced that peaceful co-operation and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries and their peoples serve the basic interests of the two States,

Considering that the agreements which they have heretofore concluded have created conditions favourable to the further development and strengthening of mutual relations,

Convinced that equality among States, renunciation of the use of force and consequent respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and respect for freedoms and basic rights are, together with the

¹⁸ This treaty came into force on 03.04.1977 through exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Belgrade, in accordance with article 9. Italy ratified this treaty by Law No. 73, of 14.03.1977, published in *Supplemento ordinario della Gazzetta Ufficiale* No. 77, from 21.03.1977; and the *Medjunarodni ugovori*, supplement to the *Službeni list*, No. 1, from 11.03.1977. The French and English texts are published in *UNTS*, vol. 1466, No. 1-24848. The French text is also published in *Rivista*, vol. LX (1977), 674–691.

On 15.11.1994 Slovenia adopted the following Declaration on the relations with Italy and the European Union (*Deklaracija o odnosih Slovenije z Italijo in Evropsko Unijo*):

The autochthonous minorities—the Slovenian in Italy and the Italian in Slovenia—shall become a bridge between the two peoples, and their rights and status shall be protected at the highest and best attainable level.

5. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia requests Italy to follow it in its good example of protection of the Italian minority in its country and to regulate justly and effectively the legal protection of the Slovenian minority in Italy. In this context the Parliamentary Assembly recalls that the obligations arising out of the Treaty of Osimo for the comprehensive protection of the Slovenian minority in Italy have not yet been fulfilled.

For this reason, the Parliamentary Assembly points out:

- The principle, that all international treaties, from the Peace Treaty with Italy to the Treaty of Osimo, which regulate the situation of the Slovenian and Italian minorities, remain in force in their entirety;

For the original Slovenian text, see *Uradl.* 71/94; German translation in Marko, 193–194. English translation from the German text by the compiler.

fulfilment in good faith of all international obligations, the foundation for safeguarding peace and international security and developing friendly relations and co-operation among States,

Confirming their adherence to the principle of the broadest protection of citizens belonging to ethnic groups (minorities) which derives from their Constitutions and their domestic law and which each Party applied independently and drawing also upon the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Desiring by this Treaty to demonstrate their shared intention to expand, in the interests of the two countries, their existing ties of good-neighbourliness and peaceful co-operation,

Convinced also that this will contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

[...]

Art. 7: On the date of the entry into force of this Treaty, the Memorandum of Understanding signed at London on 5 October 1954 and its annexes shall cease to have effect in relations between the Italian Republic and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Each Party shall so notify the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of the United States of America and the United Nations Security Council within 30 days from the entry into force of this Treaty.

Art. 8: Each Party declares that, when the Special Statute annexed to the Memorandum of Understanding signed at London on 5 October 1954 ceases to have effect, it shall maintain in force the internal measures already taken in application of the aforesaid Statute and shall ensure under its domestic law that the level of protection stipulated for members of the respective ethnic groups (of the respective minorities) in the expired Statute is maintained.