



Motion nr. 7

Name of the person introducing the motion: Christian Kollman

On behalf of the party: Süd-Tiroler Freiheit (STF)

Motion: Dual citizenship for historic, autochthonous, ethnic minorities living abroad from their mother state

In 26 out of 28 member states of the European Union dual citizenship is, in one form or another, a common model. Examples of states providing a second citizenship to their autochthonous ethnic minorities abroad are, amongst others: Germany to the Germans in Poland, Hungary to the Hungarians in Romania, Italy to the Italians in Slovenia and Croatia, Slovenia to the Slovenians in Italy, Austria to the descendants of the Tyrolean immigrants in Dreizehnlinden, Brazil.

With a second citizenship, the holders enjoy some additional rights, such as, in most cases, the right to take part in parliamentary elections in their mother state. In some cases dual citizenship is primarily a symbolic gesture. In all cases dual citizenship has turned out to be a peaceful means of strengthening the historical link of an ethnic minority to its mother state.

However, dual citizenship is not granted to all ethnic minorities living abroad from their mother state. South Tyrol is an example of this. Both the Austrian and the South Tyrolean parliament have made only few efforts to implement dual citizenship for the South Tyroleans – despite the fact that polls show that a clear majority of the Austrian population is ready to support dual citizenship for South Tyroleans because, particularly in times of Italy's increasing nationalistic policy and thus hostile to minorities, it would ensure to the South Tyroleans a better protection.

The European Free Alliance

1. welcomes and supports initiatives for dual citizenships for historic, autochthonous, ethnic minorities living abroad from their mother state.
2. calls on the European Union to declare dual citizenships a fundamental European right for all historic, autochthonous, ethnic minorities.

ENDS.