



Committee proposal

A 1577/medborgar

Submitted by:
Citizens' and Consumer
Rights Committee

J.nr. 12-00276-1

Committee proposal on Autonomy in the Nordic Region

1. The Committee's proposal

The Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee propose that

The Nordic Council recommends to the Nordic Council of Ministers

to commission a comparative publication on Autonomy in the Nordic Region which gathers the experiences from Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland in a comparison on forms of self-government in the Nordic Region. The purpose of the publication would be to highlight self-government in the Region

to organise a conference around Autonomy in the Nordic Region where the publication would be presented and forms of self-government could be discussed

2. Background

The Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee has studied autonomy in the Nordic Region through visits to Greenland in 2010, the Faroe Islands in 2011 and Åland in 2012.

Autonomy in the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland gives them the right to legislate on internal affairs and to determine their own budget.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland, which are part of the Kingdom of Denmark, have had a large degree of autonomy since 1948 and 1979 respectively. Greenland's autonomy was expanded most recently in 2009 when the police force, courts and coastguard came under the control of Greenland self-rule. It does not, however, cover matters of the realm including foreign and defence policy and foreign exchange policy. The Faroe Islands' legislative rights cover all areas except constitution, citizenship, the Supreme Court, foreign, security and defence and foreign exchange and monetary policies.

Åland is part of the Republic of Finland but has its own legislative assembly. In devolved policy areas Åland acts as a nation in practice. Åland celebrated 90 years of self-government in 2012, is now governed by the third Act on the Autonomy of Åland and drafting a new act on autonomy.

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3. Submission for consideration

No formal submission for consideration has been held but the committee's dialogue with the Faroese, Greenlandic and Ålandic representatives' interest for self-government has been favourably received.

The Nordic Council

4. Committee's views

The Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee notes with interest the various forms of autonomy in the Nordic Region and considers the matter of highlighting self-government as a good model for conflict resolution with respect for minorities and local decisions.

5. Conclusion

Based on the above, the Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee proposes that

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to organise a conference around Autonomy in the Nordic Region where the publication would be presented and forms of self-government could be discussed

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Helsinki 30th. October 2012

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