



THE PRIME MINISTER

Copenhagen, 06 JAN 2014

Mr Hans Heinrich Hansen  
Representative of the Minority SafePack Initiative  
President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities

Mr Hunor Kelemen  
Substitute Representative of the Minority SafePack Initiative  
President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania

### **Minority SafePack Initiative**

Dear Mr Hans Heinrich Hansen and Mr Hunor Kelemen,

Thank you for your letter dated October 15, 2013 regarding the strengthening of protection of minorities within the Union.

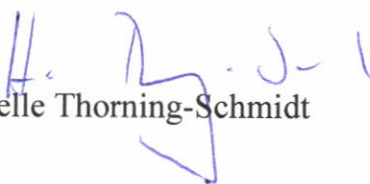
Protection of minorities is indeed one of the values on which the European Union is based. As stated in article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty, the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

In Denmark, the borderland has for many years been perceived as an example of the good relationship between Denmark and our German neighbor. Rather than dividing, the borderland has brought us together. The basis of the close cooperation across the border is the 1955 Copenhagen-Bonn declarations about minority rights. Based on these declarations, both our countries have taken crucial steps to secure the existence and well-being of our minorities on both sides of the border, culturally

as well as politically. It is the sum of that which gives the Danish-German minority model its unique character.

On that background I commend your efforts towards ensuring cultural and linguistic diversity throughout Europe and protecting its national minorities. I wish you all the best in your continued work.

Yours sincerely,



Helle Thorning-Schmidt