



## Declaration nr. 9

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On behalf of the party: Kaszëbskô Jednota

Declaration: Acknowledging the Kashubians the status of an ethnic minority in Poland

The Polish *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional language* protects Kashubian language, but it does not acknowledge the Kashubians as a separate nation.

Article 20.2 states:

"Public authorities shall be obligated to take appropriate measures in order to support the activity aimed at preservation and development of the language referred to in Article 19 [Kashubian]. The provisions of Article 18 paras 2, 3 and 5 shall apply accordingly.",

As the Article 18.1 does not apply to the Kashubians, this fact excludes the Kashubians from the national / ethnic minorities:

Art. 18.1. "Public authorities shall be obligated to take appropriate measures in order to support the activity aimed at protection, maintenance and development of cultural identity of the minority."

The European Free Alliance  
declares that:

- The Polish Government should **Acknowledge the Kashubians the status of an ethnic minority.**

It is in accordance with the Polish law. In *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional language*, there is a notion of the "national minority" - a nation which owns its own state, and the notion of the "ethnic minority" - a nation which does not possess such a state.

The EFA is strongly opposed to a current policy of the Polish government towards the Kashubians. In reality it means that Kashubian language has been truncated from the culture of the Kashubians. Both of them - the language and the culture - are not treated as a whole, thus the Kashubians are refused the right to their own national identity.