



## Council of Europe support for Cornish culture ignites the big TV Kernow debate

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10am Trelawny Room, Lys Kernow TR1 3AY*

On February 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 the Council of Ministers at the Council of Europe resolved its recommendations to the UK Government following submission of the UK's 4<sup>th</sup> Compliance Report, having ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in 2001.

This is the first Compliance Report which included the Cornish as a national minority. Previous Council of Ministers' recommendations had encouraged the UK Government to accede to the prolonged campaign to recognise the Cornish for the purposes of the Convention as a national minority. A delegation from the Convention's Committee of Experts visited the UK in 2017 and came to Cornwall.

The recommendations relating specifically to the Cornish cover several matters. One of the specifics is:

*'Take resolute action to ensure that the revision of the BBC Charter improves access to mass media for persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities; increase funding and ensure a variety of programmes for minority languages, in particular for the Irish language, and introduce such support for the Cornish language.'*<sup>1</sup>

**The Cornish Constitutional Convention will hold its AGM on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Trelawny Room, New County Hall (Lys Kernow, Truro TR1 3AY, at 10am). The guest speaker will be Denzil Monk who will be describing his thinking about utilising and inspiring the creative communities of Cornwall by developing a case to present to the Director General and Trustees of the BBC calling for parity through the establishment of a BBC iPlayer based BBC Kernow channel.**

This is a long-held ambition of film producer Mr Monk, who is a leading figure in the burgeoning Cornish film industry, having served as Chairman of the Cornwall Film Festival and as Cornwall's delegate to the Celtic Media Festival. Prior to settlement of the new BBC Charter preliminary talks were held with Cornwall Council and Falmouth University about this project, and some early developmental work has occurred. The resolution of the Council of Ministers clearly offers a golden opportunity to bring this major project to the fore and to gather a consensus of support.

Anybody who is interested is welcome to attend the Constitutional Convention's AGM to hear Mr Monk speak. The boring bits will take about half an hour, so he will be on his feet by 10.30am. The meeting will close at midday.

*ENDS*

### **Further information:**

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<sup>1</sup>Resolution CM/ResCMN(2018)1 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the United Kingdom  
(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 February 2018 at the 1306th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)  
<https://www.coe.int/en/>