



Agenda Item Number: Agenda item 13

Agenda Item Title: Exonyms

Title of paper/report: GEGN.2/2021/54/CRP.54, Decline in the number of Danish exonyms in use for European cities

Statement/intervention provided by:

Finland

Statement/intervention:

Finland would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Denmark for this interesting working paper which demonstrates both the versatility and change of exonym usage.

In the paper the delicate discussions in Denmark on whether the Swedish or Finnish place names should be used for the cities of Finland in the Danish language was mentioned. These discussions were in fact not familiar to us in Finland. We would like to emphasize that according to the constitution, Finnish and Swedish are, on an equal basis, Finland's national languages and official state languages. All inherited place names in Finnish and Swedish are considered endonyms. Therefore we would like to mention that from Finland's point of view it is appropriate – even natural out of language related reasons – to use Swedish endonyms of the Finnish cities in the Danish language. Furthermore, it is recommended in Finland, that Swedish names are used in current documentary texts translated into Danish.



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STATEMENT/INTERVENTION