

**Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities,
Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages**

European Parliament
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Declaration of support for speaking Catalan in plenary interventions

(adopted in Strasbourg, on the 14th of April, 2005)

- A. Proven that Catalan is a European language, alive, with centuries of history, normally used by 9 million people of different regions of different European states.
- B. Bearing in mind that in the Spanish Constitution (Article 3) Catalan is considered to be one of the four co-official languages of the Spanish State
- C. Bearing in mind that Catalan has an official language condition in the Public Services (state, autonomous and local) in their relations amongst the services as well as with private individuals, having full value for all legal effects
- D. Recalling that the Catalan is the language in use in education in Catalan schools and universities, that it has likewise an immense literary tradition that is recently enjoying times of great splendor, and that is usually used in the media, such as the radio, television or written press
- E. Recalling that the respect for linguistic diversity is one of the democratic and cultural bases of the Union, as precised in Article 22 of the Charter of the Fundamental Laws of the European Union ("The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity"), thus in accordance with the values of the European Union, it would be unjust to discriminate a language due to the fact that it is not spoken in the whole of a State
- F. Recalling that the question of the official nature of Catalan has been vindicated in the Euro chamber for many years by various Members of the European Parliament, not only Catalan Members.
- G. Bearing in mind that at least 11 among the Members of the European Parliament of the present legislature use Catalan as their daily language
- H. Bearing in mind that the Spanish Government presented in December 2004 a Memorandum asking the Council to modify the linguistic regime of the Union institutions in order that the European Union recognizes as official those languages different from the Spanish that are co-official in Spain
- I. Bearing in mind that around 40% of the Spanish interpreters of the European Parliament normally speak Catalan, or at least have some knowledge and understanding of it
- J. Recalling that given the large multitude of languages currently used in the Euro chamber, there is no direct interpretation between all languages, but in some cases an intermediate or transit language is used

The Members of the European Parliament signing this declaration request:

1. That the Catalan language can be used in the plenary by the European Parliamentarians that wish it. In order to facilitate the task of interpretation, however, the parliamentarians who wish speak in Catalan at plenary will warn the interpreters services the day before of its wish of intervening in that language so as to guarantee that there is an interpreter in the cabin of Spanish interpretation who can translate Catalan to Spanish or any other official language.
2. That this possibility is also considered for the other two co-official languages of the Spanish State that are the Euskera and Gallego, eventually requiring the previous delivery of the intervention in writing in any official EU language.
3. That the Presidency and the Conference of Presidents takes the necessary steps requested in the current Declaration.

Signed,

Dr. Csaba Tabajdi
Chairman

On behalf of the Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities,
Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages