

Submission by the *Europa Diversa* group to  
the Convention on the Future of the European Union  
“Linguistic Proposals For The Future Of Europe”

Last amendment: Barcelona, September 19th 2002

The [Fundació Jaume Bofill](#), the Department of Humanities and Philology of the [Universitat Oberta de Catalunya](#), the [Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània](#), [Intercultura – Centre pel Diàleg Intercultural de Catalunya](#), and [Linguapax Institute of Centre Unesco de Catalunya](#) share a concern about the future of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe, and have pooled together resources to work on this issue, under the title of *Europa Diversa*.

On May 31st and June 1st 2002, in the framework of the [Eurocongrés 2000](#), and with the support of the [Patronat Català pro Europa](#), they invited a group of experts, drawn from many different countries in Europe, to a meeting held at the seat of the Fundació Jaume Bofill<sup>1</sup> in Barcelona, at which the topic was “**Linguistic Proposals For The Future Of Europe**”.

Three papers, distributed beforehand, were amply discussed and debated at the meeting.

1. *"The regime of official and working languages of the institutions of the European Union and perspectives in view of the enlargement"* by Isidor Mari and Miquel Strubell;
2. *"The lesser-used European languages and their participation in the programmes of the European Union"* by Dónall Ó Riagáin<sup>2</sup>; and
3. *"The EC, the distribution of powers and the determination of language policy: Unwrapping a multi-layered paradigm"* by Niamh Nic Shuibhne.

The convening organisations have drawn together the wide range of opinions and proposals made at the meeting, and hereby present this document to the **Convention on the Future of the European Union**.

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The [Fundació Jaume Bofill](#), the [Department of Humanities and Philology of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya](#), [Eurocongrés 2000](#) and the [Linguapax Institute of Centre Unesco de Catalunya](#), pooled together under the title of *Europa Diversa*,

- welcoming the opportunity being afforded by the Convention on the Future of Europe to advance ideas on European Community language policy;
- welcoming the coming enlargement of the Union;
- concerned about the need to address the overall language regime of the Union, which was designed by and for the six founding Member States;
- deeply aware of the threat to linguistic and cultural diversity being posed by globalisation throughout the world;
- sensitive to the fact that linguistic rights form an integral part of human rights;
- proud of Europe's valuable linguistic and cultural heritage;
- conscious of our obligation to future generations to conserve this intrinsic part of our common patrimony;
- having regard to Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>3</sup>, which commits the Union to respect linguistic diversity;
- recalling recent statements relating to various aspects of linguistic diversity made by the Council<sup>4</sup>, the Committee of the Regions<sup>5</sup>, the Parliament<sup>6</sup> and Unesco<sup>7</sup>;
- recalling EBLUL's "Ljouwert Declaration on Linguistic Diversity and the Future of the European Union";<sup>8</sup>

**Propose** the following to the Convention on the Future of Europe, the institutions of the European Community and the governments of its member states:

1. Including in the Treaty establishing the European Community an article on the safeguarding and promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe. This might be either an entirely new article or a revised and expanded form of Article 151<sup>9</sup> (Culture). It would make more explicit both the commitment to linguistic as well as cultural diversity, and the need for an active policy in this area. [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)
2. Amending Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to include discrimination based on language. [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)
3. Putting into place a multiannual Community action programme to support and promote linguistic diversity. This programme would give practical effect to the principles enshrined in the proposed article (see point 1 above). [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)
4. Extending all current EC language programmes, or actions that are language-specific, to cover all autochthonous European languages. [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)
5. Establishing a public debate to reform the rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community and enshrining the general provisions in an Article of the Treaty, (while empowering each to lay down its own language rules), so as to ensure efficiency and a substantial redistribution of the very large budget of the present arrangement. [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)
6. Ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is reflected in matters of language policy, so that all tiers of government work together, with sufficient resources, in order to safeguard linguistic diversity. [\(go to explanatory note\)](#)

## Explanatory text for proposals

**1. Including in the Treaty establishing the European Community an article on the safeguarding and promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe. This might be either an entirely new article or a revised and expanded form of Article 151<sup>10</sup> (Culture). It would make more explicit both the commitment to linguistic as well as cultural diversity, and the need for an active policy in this area.**

The linguistic and cultural environment of the world is under even greater threat than is the physical environment. Many scientists believe that 50%, and perhaps as many as 90%, of the world's current c. 6,000 languages might cease to be spoken before the end of the 21st century. Only a small fraction of the world's languages are European. They include both languages used worldwide for international communication and also many lesser-used<sup>11</sup> languages. The latter include some of the oldest living vernaculars in the western world, and many have rich literary and folk traditions. While respecting the rights and obligations of the Member States in this regard, the European Community has a duty to take a clear position in its own right, and to support the efforts of Member State governments and regional authorities to conserve and promote Europe's linguistic patrimony.

Such an Article would make real the commitment to respect cultural and linguistic diversity, expressed in Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. ([return to proposal](#))

**2. Amending Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to include discrimination based on language.**

Under the present provisions of Article 13<sup>12</sup>, the Council may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. No mention is made of language.

However, Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union refers to the European Convention for the Protection of Human rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Its Article 14 states that the rights and freedoms laid down in the Convention should *"be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status"*.<sup>13</sup> The article has been ratified by all EU Member States.

Likewise, Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, on Non-discrimination, lays down that *"Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority<sup>14</sup>, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited."*

As language rights form an integral part of human rights<sup>15</sup>, it is only fitting that discrimination based on language should be included in this Article. Indeed, we propose that Article 13 be so amended as to include all the features listed in Article 14 of the European Convention and in Article 21 of the European Charter, and, furthermore, that the word *"may"* in the current text be replaced by *"shall"* in the new text of the Treaty, so as to commit the Union to a proactive stance in this field. ([return to proposal](#))

**3. Putting into place a multiannual Community action programme to support and promote linguistic diversity. This programme would give practical effect to the principles enshrined in the proposed article [see point 1 above].**

This programme would contain a number of actions aimed at fostering an understanding of and respect for linguistic diversity in Europe, as well as practical measures to support linguistic diversity and language learning.

Some of these actions would be specifically aimed at lesser used languages, many of which are in urgent need of support if they are to survive and prosper. Actions might include pilot projects, the promotion of information exchanges, transfrontier cooperation and the fostering of 'best practice' in language teaching, education in general, media and public administration. Such actions would also ensure the reinstatement of support provided in this field for almost 20 years by the Commission, at the behest of the European Parliament, amounting to as much as €4 million a year.

Such a programme would also provide for support for initiatives at the Member state, regional and local levels aimed at facilitating the learning of the appropriate languages of the territories in which migrants and refugees reside, and to the maintenance of their languages and cultures. ([return to proposal](#))

**4. Extending all current EC language programmes, or actions that are language-specific, to cover all autochthonous European languages.**

The 2391st Council meeting held in Brussels on 29 November 2001<sup>16</sup> emphasised that "*all European languages are equal in value and dignity from the cultural point of view and form an integral part of European culture and civilisation*". Practical effect needs to be given to this concept.

A number of EC programmes or actions, though language specific, are currently drafted so as to exclude some European languages. The Lingua action of the Socrates programme is the most obvious, but not the only, instance of this. The fact that Article 290 (ex Article 217)<sup>17</sup> of the consolidated versions of the Treaty Establishing the European Community states that "*the rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community shall [...] be determined by the Council [...]*" does not in our view have any bearing upon language-specific programmes and actions, being solely concerned with the internal administration of the institutions.

All programmes and actions, relating to language, should be open to all European languages. Furthermore, where appropriate, actions and/or projects should be included to specifically meet the needs of lesser used languages when more general provisions cannot adequately cater for such needs.

This recommendation should extend to programmes intended to assist new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe (e.g. Phare & Tacis). Although the European Council in its Copenhagen meeting of 21 & 22 June 1993 insisted on applicant states guaranteeing "*human rights and respect for and protection of minorities*", this is not adequately reflected in support available through programmes such as Phare and Tacis. ([return to proposal](#))

**5. Establishing a public debate to reform the rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community and enshrining the general provisions in an Article of the Treaty, (while empowering each to lay down its own language rules), so as to ensure efficiency and a substantial redistribution of the massive budget of the present arrangement.**

The rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community were defined by the Council in 1958, and have not been changed since then. In the interim the number of Member States has increased from 6 to 15, and will soon grow to well over 20. The EC now has a much higher number of working languages than any other international organisation (e.g. Council of Europe, NATO, UN and OSCE). The linguistic complexity that such an increase in membership entails can no longer be swept aside, and must be addressed. Competing objectives and considerations such as openness and inclusiveness, the efficient working of EC institutions, the cost-effective use of scarce resources, and, above all, the democratic principles which underpin the European Community, all have to be borne in mind and reconciled.

Nor is the issue of legal certainty adequately covered by the wording of the Treaties, for the only reference to it is in article 53 of the TEU<sup>18</sup> and article 314 of the EC Treaty<sup>19</sup>, where the references are just to the texts of the Treaties themselves.

Furthermore, the enlargement of the Community will undoubtedly entail additional interpretation and translation costs but the savings, resulting from the use of a restricted number of internal working languages, should cover the additional costs of increasing inclusiveness in language matters. The overall effect of this proposal should result in a more efficient, yet more inclusive and democratic, Community.

In our opinion, the issue of the rules governing the languages of the institutions can no longer be adequately resolved by simply granting all of them<sup>20</sup> the equivalent status of "official and working languages" in a Council Regulation.

We believe that each of the Community's institutions should be entitled to draw up its own rules governing its use of languages, instead of the present situation in which the rules, in accordance with Article 290 EC (ex Article 217)<sup>21</sup> are to be laid down by the Council. This Article should be accordingly amended.

The linguistic functions in the institutions of the European Union are varied in nature and consequence. Each will need to be performed, or performable, in as many languages as are appropriate in each case. This merits a public debate, led by a committee consisting of specialists, functionaries and politicians, to work out a feasible, working solution for each function.

These are issues of fundamental importance, so they would be more appropriately dealt with in the text of the Treaty, rather than leaving them to a Council regulation.

The criteria to be considered include the following:

- a. **Legal certainty.** Important documents reflecting decisions that can be contested or quoted in courts in any Member state will be published in as many languages as required by the institutions of each Member State.
- b. **Accessibility to the citizen.** Community documents and other actions (such as advertising campaigns) informing European citizens, or affecting their everyday lives, will be available in at least all European languages in which citizens have the legal right to correspond with their regional and/or national authorities, and preferably all European languages which have speakers literate in them. Documents presented in any of these languages by European citizens should be admissible and should receive a reply in the

same language (in the spirit of the present Article 21, para. 3 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community<sup>22</sup>).

- c. **Democratic representativeness.** Politically elected or appointed representatives of the citizens of Europe, and especially MEPs, should have at their disposal whatever technical support they require to ensure that they can adequately perform their tasks, both expressing themselves freely in whichever is their own European language (regardless of its status within the European Union) and having access, in a limited number of languages to the interventions of their colleagues from elsewhere.
- d. **Internal drafting.** Drafts of documents drawn up by Community officials will be in a limited range of languages as is feasible (but not less than three), in the interest of expediency and efficiency. Job vacancies within the institutions will require adequate proficiency in at least two of these, apart from the candidate's own language; and will also ensure that there are sufficient staff competent to cover most if not all the linguistic needs regarding relations with external institutions and citizens in all EU Member States. Where officials of a Member State having dealings with Community institutions do not have a satisfactory command of any of these languages, it will be for the Member State to find and fund solutions, so as not to add to the workload of the Community's language services.
- e. **Territorial respect.** Community institutions will always include among its internal languages the official language(s) of the place where they have their seat. Similarly, meetings of Community bodies will always ensure that participants from the place hosting them can freely express themselves in the language(s) of that place.
- f. **Institutional support.** In the spirit of the Community's repeated declarations that all European languages are equal in dignity<sup>23</sup>, it will bear in mind the level of internal support being given in practice, directly or indirectly, to the small number of languages of internal drafting, when it comes to safeguarding linguistic diversity and/or promoting multilingualism and linguistic diversity. These languages of internal drafting, having been selected on the bases of being widely spoken and of having a privileged position in the market, would not therefore need to be included among the European languages receiving special support measures in the form of compensatory programmes designed to promote and safeguard linguistic diversity in Europe.

The application of such criteria would arguably lead to different linguistic requirements in each of the three main areas of language use:

1. **The internal working languages of the Institutions of the Union.** In all cases a small number of languages would be established, as laid down in criterion 4 above ("Internal drafting"). Efficiency would be the key aim. There would be no need for anyone outside these administrative circles to know in which language(s) they work. In practice, this is approximately already the case, though without there having been any formal, public acceptance of the state of affairs.
2. **Binding documents and political representation.** As many languages will be used as needed in order to establish texts which are legally binding in every Member State (e.g. Council regulations, Community Decisions, and also European Court judgments, the latter on account of the effect of EC law in national courts). Nothing would prevent Member States from translating and publishing such documents into other languages, at their own initiative and expense.

Other official documents such as European Parliament resolutions, the Annual Report of the European Commission, information notes and application forms, and other relevant documents would be translated into these languages, but would not be legally binding. The language(s) of the original draft would be stated in the translated versions.

Secondly, all political appointees must have at their disposal a service to translate their own oral and/or written texts into a limited number of other languages, and to receive oral and/or written texts translated into one of a limited number of other languages. Flexibility and practicability are to be the guiding principles. Interpreting facilities would be provided on demand for the use of these languages to be possible in the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee, especially as input languages. Oral interventions at plenary sessions could be governed by the same principle as that used in the United Nations General Assembly, interpreting being into a limited number of languages only. If such a criterion were to be adopted, the use of any "language of service" (see below) could be contemplated.

3. **Languages of service to the citizens of Europe.** The institutions must have in place a system which guarantees that citizens of whatever European language can write to them in any of the languages which can be used for similar purposes to correspond with local and/or regional authorities, and can receive a reply in the same language without undue delays. Similarly, information of use to the general public and to specialists, including Commission Green Papers and Council Conclusions for instance, would also be made available on request in as large a number of languages as possible. Many so-called "regional" or "minority" languages could thus be used.

The current list in Article 21, paragraph 3 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community<sup>24</sup>, would be expanded so as to include the languages referred to in the last paragraph, that is, lesser-used languages recognised by EU member states in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages or elsewhere, in the spirit of the wording of the Decision on the European Year of Languages.<sup>25</sup>

The necessary translation services might best be provided by regionally based agencies, officially appointed by the EC in association with the relevant Member State authorities.

[\(return to proposal\)](#)

## **6. Ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is reflected in matters of language policy, so that all tiers of government work together, with sufficient resources, in order to safeguard linguistic diversity.**

In a general distribution of powers and competencies informed by subsidiarity, sub-state regional or local authorities, very often corresponding to language communities, should have powers of language self-regulation. The regulatory model for subsidiarity enshrined in the EC Treaty stops at the threshold of the state, although many member states have devolved important competencies to regional authorities. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 151, par. 4 of the EC Treaty, the European Community seems to disregard the linguistic implications that certain EC measures will inevitably have at regional level.

This problem might be addressed by amending Article 5 and/or by reflecting linguistic considerations more comprehensively in potentially relevant Council decisions and regulations.

Furthermore, a clear distinction has to be made, between language-related directives - which the Union is only empowered to lay down within its sectoral competencies - and language-related incentive and support programmes which have in the past been put into place by the Community and which should continue to be promoted in the future. [\(return to proposal\)](#)

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### Annex

#### EUROPA DIVERSA

*Europa Diversa* was created in the spring of 2001 as a group formed by institutions with a special interest in the study, discussion and analysis of the way in which the issue of **cultural diversity** is treated in Europe. Its main goal is to explore the model of cultural diversity that the construction of the new Europe requires. *Europa Diversa* tries to explore new means of communication and to create a climate of open debate among European societies that, in one way or another, face the challenge of cultural diversity. One of the most important immediate aims of *Europa Diversa* is to consolidate a working network at the European level.

#### WHO ARE WE?

*Founder members:*

- [Fundació Jaume Bofill](mailto:jsanchez@fbofill.org) (email: [jsanchez@fbofill.org](mailto:jsanchez@fbofill.org))
- Universitat Oberta de Catalunya ([Department of Humanities and Philology](#); Department of Psychology and Education) (email: [imari@uoc.edu](mailto:imari@uoc.edu))
- [Centre Unesco de Catalunya](mailto:j.cru@unesco.cat) (email: [j.cru@unesco.cat](mailto:j.cru@unesco.cat))
- [Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània](#)
- [Intercultura - Centre pel diàleg intercultural de Catalunya](#)

With the support of:

- [Patronat Català Pro-Europa](#)

#### PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Round table with Canadian philosopher Will Kymlicka and presentation of the Catalan edition of his book *Multicultural Citizenship* (2000)
- Working sessions (1998-1999) and drafting of working papers
- Symposium "Cultural Diversity and the Construction of Europe" (December, 2000) (<http://www.uoc.es/web/cat/promocio/simposium/home2.html>)  
Symposium Proceedings: Agustí Nicolau, (ed). *Europa Diversa*.  
Barcelona: Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, 2001.

#### THE FUTURE OF EUROPA DIVERSA

- Group website: the design and implementation of this site, with E. Commission support, will make available not only better information on different aspects of cultural diversity but also an interactive site for the community.
- Monographic sessions on different themes that *Europa Diversa* considers of priority interest, i.e. migration, language and political organization (2002-2003). These sessions will be preparatory meetings for the international conference.
- European Conference: Towards a Model of European Diversity (2003)

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Carrer de Provença, 234, principal, 08037 Barcelona (Tel. 00 34 93 458 87 00 / Fax 00 34 93 458 87 08)

<sup>2</sup> See also Dónall Ó Riagáin, The European Union and Lesser Used Languages, *MOST Journal on Multicultural Societies*, vol. 3, no. 1, Lesser Used Languages and the Law in Europe, ISSN 1564-4901, © UNESCO, 2001 <http://www.unesco.org/most/vl3n1ria.htm>

<sup>3</sup> European Charter of Fundamental Rights: <http://db.consilium.eu.int/df/default.asp?lang=en>. Full text: [http://db.consilium.eu.int/df/docs/en/EN\\_2001\\_1023.pdf](http://db.consilium.eu.int/df/docs/en/EN_2001_1023.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Council Resolution of 14 February 2002 on the promotion of linguistic diversity and language learning in the framework of the implementation of the objectives of the European Year of Languages 2001. Ref. 32002G0223(01). OJ C 050 , 23/02/2002 P. 1-2. [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/c\\_050/c\\_05020020223en00010002.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/c_050/c_05020020223en00010002.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Doc. COM-7/030. Brussels, 27 June 2001. OPINION of the Committee of the Regions of 13 June 2001 on the Promotion and Protection of Regional and Minority Languages. Ref. CdR 86/2001 fin EN/o. [http://www.toad.cor.eu.int/cdropinions/scripts/viewdoc.asp?doc=\\cdr86-2001\\_fin\\_ac.doc&lang=EN&terms](http://www.toad.cor.eu.int/cdropinions/scripts/viewdoc.asp?doc=\\cdr86-2001_fin_ac.doc&lang=EN&terms)

<sup>6</sup> European Parliament resolution on regional and lesser-used European languages, adopted on 13/12/2001 (Provisional Edition). Refs. B5-0770, 0811, 0812, 0814 and 0815/2001. [http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?PRG=CALDOC&FILE=011213&LANGUE=EN&TPV=DEF&SDOCTA=31&TXLST=1&Type\\_Doc=FIRST&POS=1](http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?PRG=CALDOC&FILE=011213&LANGUE=EN&TPV=DEF&SDOCTA=31&TXLST=1&Type_Doc=FIRST&POS=1)

<sup>7</sup> Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the 31st UNESCO General Conference (November 2001). [http://www.unesco.org/culture/pluralism/diversity/html\\_eng/index\\_en.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/culture/pluralism/diversity/html_eng/index_en.shtml)

<sup>8</sup> June 15 2002. <http://www.eblul.org/pajenn.asp?ID=80&yezh=saozneg>

<sup>9</sup> Article 151 of the consolidated version of the Treaty Establishing the European Community. <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre234.html>

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 9.

<sup>11</sup> Regional/Minority/Minorised

<sup>12</sup> <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre202.html>

<sup>13</sup> Highlighting is ours. <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/WhatYouWant.asp?NT=005>.

A new Protocol (No. 12) to the ECHR, which provides for a general prohibition on non-discrimination independently of the rights guaranteed under the ECHR itself, was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in June 2000, and was opened for signature in November of the same year. Article 1 of the text provides as follows:

1. The enjoyment of any right set forth by law shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, **language**, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, **association with a national minority**, property, birth or other status.

2. No one shall be discriminated against by any public authority on any ground such as those mentioned in paragraph 1. [Highlighting is ours]

<sup>14</sup> Highlighting is ours. [http://www.europarl.eu.int/charter/pdf/text\\_da.pdf](http://www.europarl.eu.int/charter/pdf/text_da.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> This point is clearly explained by Dr. Fernand de Varennes in 'Language Rights as an Integral Part of Human Rights' in the UNESCO MOST Journal on Multicultural Societies Vol.3, No.1. <http://www.alltheweb.com/go/1/H/web/http/www.unesco.org/most/vl3n1var.htm>

<sup>16</sup> Education and Youth Affairs.

<http://db.consilium.eu.int/newsroom/LoadDoc.asp?MAX=1&BID=92&DID=69170&LANG=1>

<sup>17</sup> <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre257.html>

<sup>18</sup> "This Treaty, drawn up in a single original in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish languages, the texts in each of these languages being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the government of the Italian Republic, which will transmit a certified copy to each of the governments of the other signatory States.

"Pursuant to the Accession Treaty of 1994, the Finnish and Swedish versions of this Treaty shall also be authentic."

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre109.html>

<sup>19</sup> <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre258.html>

<sup>20</sup> Except for Irish, which has a special status: as a “Treaty language” it is included in the Community’s language promotion programmes (such as the Lingua Action in Socrates), and though it is not official or working language, citizens are entitled under Article 21, para. 3 EC Treaty to correspond in Irish with Community institutions .

<sup>21</sup> “The rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community shall, without prejudice to the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice, be determined by the Council, acting unanimously.”

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre257.html>

<sup>22</sup> Article 21:

“Every citizen of the Union may write to any of the institutions or bodies referred to in this Article or in Article 7 in one of the languages mentioned in Article 314 and have an answer in the same language”. <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/selected/livre203.html>

<sup>23</sup> See footnote 14. Also, for instance, Recital 4 of the EYL Decision, “All the European languages, in their spoken and written forms, are equal in value and dignity from the cultural point of view and form an integral part of European cultures and civilisation”. Decision No 1934/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 on the European Year of Languages 2001. *OJ L* 232, 14/09/2000 p. 1–5.

[http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=32000D1934&model=guichett](http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=32000D1934&model=guichett)

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2000/l\\_232/l\\_23220000914en00010005.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2000/l_232/l_23220000914en00010005.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> See footnote 21.

<sup>25</sup> See footnote 22. Article 1.2:

“2. [...] These measures will cover the official languages of the Community, together with Irish, Lëtzebuergesch, **and other languages in line with those identified by the Member States for the purposes of implementing this Decision.**” [Highlighting is ours]