

**Question for written answer E-000447/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Preserving languages, dialects, and vernaculars in the EU

The EU has a wealth of languages, dialects, and vernaculars, which for the most part do not have official status in Member States. The diversity of its languages, dialects, and vernaculars is a great cultural asset to Europe and embodies the identity of its inhabitants, one that we have to preserve. To take a single example, Istria County in Croatia, with a total population of 208 000: Croatian and Italian are used for official purposes, and there are a number of dialects, namely Chakavian, Istro-Venetian, Istriot, and Istro-Romanian, each of which has several variants, depending on the local media in which they are used. As a result of social integration, migration, and technological development some vernaculars and dialects in EU countries are being used less and less frequently and are in danger of dying out. A particularly serious problem arises when there are very few written traces, or none at all; it often takes the work of enthusiasts to make these a subject of specialist study.

1. Is there a comprehensive Europe-wide register of the languages, dialects, and vernaculars used in EU countries?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to support the preservation and specialist study of such languages, dialects, and vernaculars? Does the EU have financial instruments that could be used at regional or local level to finance specialist works and thereby safeguard the identity of the European population?