

**Question for written answer E-000913/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Spain's breach of the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

On 20 January 2016, the Council of Europe issued a set of recommendations on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Spain, which became a party to the Charter on 9 April 2001.

These recommendations were based on a report drawn up by the Committee of Experts on the Charter – its fourth report on Spain – which found that the restrictions on multilingualism in Galicia's schools imposed by Decree 79/2010 are in breach of commitments made under the Charter.

Specifically, the reduced number of teaching hours in Galician is at odds with the commitment made under the Charter for education to be provided predominantly in this language.

Given the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and the Council of Europe, and the other texts which define the relationship between the two organisations:

How will the Commission encourage EU Member States to comply with the agreements to which they are party through their membership of the Council of Europe?