WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on promoting multilingualism

Lapse date: 4.12.2006
Written declaration on promoting multilingualism

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,


– having regard to the Commission Communication on the 'European Indicator of Linguistic Competence' (COM(2005)0356),

A. whereas the adoption of an indicator of linguistic competence is required in order to resolve the problem of the lack of real data on the linguistic competence of EU citizens,

B. whereas the European Indicator of Linguistic Competence will, in the first instance, only measure linguistic competence in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian,

C. whereas multilingualism is not restricted to these five languages, and the highlighting of Europe's other languages outwith Europe is an issue of the greatest importance, which the European Union must not fail to take into account within its policy of openness to and cooperation with the rest of the world,

D. whereas the European Indicator of Linguistic Competence should not send out wrong, counter-productive signals which might possibly encourage widespread learning only of these five languages,

1. Calls on the Commission to submit, within the deadline of one year, a specific and executable timetable for extending the European Indicator of Linguistic Competence to all the official languages of the European Union;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the governments of the Member States, the Council and Commission.