Question for written answer E-004408/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Discriminatory decision by the French Constitutional Council against speakers of regional
and minority languages

On 8 April 2021, the French National Assembly approved, by a large majority, the Molac Law on the
protection and promotion of regional languages¹. On 21 May, the French Constitutional Council
decided to censor part of this law², finding the teaching of regional languages through immersion to be
unconstitutional, even though this is the only really effective way of passing them on.

This ‘linguicidal’ attitude of the French State towards regional languages is a matter of concern for
defenders of minorities. France is one of the Member States that refuses to ratify the European
Charter for Regional or Minority Languages³, one of the Copenhagen criteria. This constitutes
discrimination against speakers of regional languages and goes against Article 2 of the Treaty on
European Union⁴.

1. Given that the ratification of the charter could help to prevent similar actions, what steps does the
Commission plan to take to promote its ratification and implementation by all Member States?

2. Is the French Constitutional Council decision in line with the EU treaties and values?

3. What actions does the Commission intend to take to defend EU values, enhance linguistic
diversity in France and live up to its motto: ‘united in diversity’?

Supporters⁵

¹ Law No 2021-641 of 21 May 2021 on the protection of regional languages as aspects of cultural heritage and
their promotion: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043524722
² Decision No 2021-818 DC of 21 May 2021 on the law on the protection of regional languages as aspects of
cultural heritage and their promotion: https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2021/2021818DC.htm
³ https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/0900001680695175?module=treaty-
detail&treatynum=148
⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-
f71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF
⁵ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Antoni
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