

**Question for written answer E-005455/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Use of French in the institutions after Brexit

Post-Brexit, English has become only the 17th most spoken mother tongue of EU citizens¹.

Moreover, English only has official language status in Malta, where Maltese is the 'national' language (Chapter 1, Article 5(1) of the Maltese Constitution)², and in Ireland, where the Constitution defines Irish as the national language³ (Article 8(1) of the Irish Constitution) and English as the second official language (Article 8(2)).

However, even though the Commission has three working languages (English, French and German), around 90% of European Council and Commission documents are drafted in English⁴.

In a petition addressed to the President of the Commission in September 2019, European officials demanded the right to use French⁵.

1. Reflecting the importance they attach to the French language, 19 Member States have joined the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. How will the Commission strengthen the position of French in the wake of Brexit?
2. Will it set quantified targets for the use of the working languages in the drafting of internal and external documents?

¹ <https://www.lalibre.be/international/europe/2020/01/28/brexit-quel-avenir-pour-langlais-qui-ne-sera-plus-que-la-17e-langue-maternelle-dans-lue-HZLMTTPUSJCF7KSVAOKPE76VKU/>

² <https://legislation.mt/eli/const/eng/pdf>

³ <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/cons/en/html#part2>

⁴ https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2020/02/06/apres-le-brexit-la-primaute-de-l-anglais-peut-elle-perdurer-alors-qu-il-ne-figure-plus-parmi-les-langues-officielles-de-l-union_6028573_3232.html

⁵ <https://www.franceculture.fr/sciences-du-langage/la-langue-francaise-en-perte-de-vitesse-dans-les-institutions-europeennes>