

**Question for written answer E-000980/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Niclas Herbst (PPE), Loránt Vincze (PPE)**

Subject: Protection of minority languages by the EU trade mark regulation

Öömrang is a dialect of the North Frisian language spoken on the island of Amrum in the district of North Frisia.

There are now trade mark registrations for terms and even whole sentences in the Frisian language and Öömrang. This development, understandably, is generating great uncertainty among the Frisian community concerned. In principle, it is welcome that business operators recognise the marketing value of the regional specificities of North Frisia and its islands. However, Frisians are beginning to feel that their language is being sold out, something against which they are unable to defend themselves owing to the small size of their ethnic group.

The current legal situation discriminates against minority languages and the federal government and the EU as the politically responsible bodies must take action.

1. What does the Commission intend to do together with the EUIPO to better protect the Frisian language, and is there a way to do this in an international context - e.g. together with the USA?
2. Should the EUIPO ensure that the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles contained therein, in particular Articles 21 and 22, are respected when an EU trade mark is filed?
3. How can a provision be established under the EU Trade Mark Regulation – which bases the protection of any given term on the familiarity of the commercially relevant public with that term, which in the case of minority languages is naturally not great – to better ensure the protection of regional and minority languages by lowering this threshold?

Submitted: 2.4.2024