

ORAL QUESTION H-0748/07
for Question Time at the part-session in October 2007
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański
to the Commission

Subject: Protection of languages

Ever greater globalisation is causing huge social, political, economic and cultural changes. The winners at globalisation are economically powerful and culturally dominant nations. Weaker and less populous nations are gradually losing their sovereignty and national identity. One worrying phenomenon is the dying-out of languages, which are the basis of national culture. Of the roughly 7 000 languages currently used around the world, some 3 000 will die out over the next 100 years. Those disappearing the fastest are languages in Australia, the central part of South America, the south-east Pacific and Siberia. As the languages die out, so too does a wealth of knowledge, particularly in the fields of nature and medicine. The extinction of languages is also affecting Europe and the European Union. We should therefore take steps to protect and document languages. It is essential for a report on languages to be drawn up. Does the Commission anticipate the compiling of such a report and, if so, when?

Tabled: 04.10.2007

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