

ORAL QUESTION O-0117/01

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Eurig Wyn, Raina Echerer, Luckas Vander Taelen, Miquel Mayol i Raynal, Camilo Nogueira Román and Josu Ortuondo Larrea, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group  
to the Commission

Subject: Language diversity

Languages are part of the richness of Europe. Beyond the official recognition of some national languages in the European institutions, it is also vital that the Union and its Member States attend to the protection of the diversity of the languages and cultures of Europe, especially the lesser-used languages. Several international charters recognise the right of citizens to maintain and develop their own languages. On 16 March 2000, the European Parliament adopted such a provision in its report on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In its written answer to written question E-3702/00<sup>1</sup>, the Commission agreed to look into the possibility of presenting a draft programme for safeguarding and promoting regional and lesser-used languages as a follow-up to the European Year of Languages, so that the lessons drawn from the activities and debates engendered by this great European event and the specific preparatory activities might be fully utilised.

Following the successful inclusion of projects involving lesser-used languages during the European Year of Languages, is it not now crucial that we build on this momentum? What specific measures will the Commission be proposing as a result thereof?

Does not the Commission consider that a People's Europe as described in the White Paper on Governance should promote the protection and development of all languages to achieve its goal of linguistic and cultural diversity? When is the Commission planning to propose a solid legal basis for the establishment of a specific programme to promote lesser-used languages at European level?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 174 E, 19.6.2001, p. 119.