

Conference on Language Diversity: A Challenge for Europe

Programme: 4th march 2010

- 9.00-9.30 Registration
- 9.30 - 11.00 Welcome Speech: Jill Evans MEP
Part 1: Languages without a State: multilingualism policy in the European Institutions
Chair: Oriol Junqueras MEP
 Spanish presidency representative
 Commission representative
Jaume Duch director for the Media and European Parliament Spokesman
"Languages with a special status in the European Parliament, legislation, rules of interpretation and use of different languages"
Kolja Bienert member of the association Horitzo.eu. *"Monitoring the Agreement between the Spanish government and the EU institutions about the use of Catalan."*
Bernat Joan former EFA MEP, specialist in sociolinguistics. *"Technical and political problems concerning the use of languages in the European Parliament"*
 30' Debate
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break / (Press Point, time for media interviews)
- 11.30-13.00 **Part 2: Minority Languages** in their Member States
Chair: François Alfonsi MEP
David Grosclaude Former Director of the Institute of Occitan studies.
"Situation of minority languages in Europe and in France"
Alain Di Meglio Professor of Corsican language and researcher in the field of linguistics. *"Corsican: situation and current debates"*
Alex Riemersma *"Frisian: Culture and Language protection"*
Cefin Cambell Managing Director of bectrwm language consultancy.
Meirion Prys Jones Chair for Network to Promote Language Diversity
 30' Debate
- 13.00-15.00 Lunch // Lunch hosted for media, speakers and MEPs
- 15.00-16.30 **Part 3: Protecting linguistic diversity against oppressions**
Chair: Tatyana Zdanoka MEP
Bill Bowring professor Birkbeck Bollege University of London. *"Missed opportunities? Linguistic diversity, EU enlargement conditionality, and minority languages in accession states".*
Vadim Poleshchuk Legal analyst of the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights in Estonia *"Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Latvia".*
Dirk Rohtus Professor Lessius University College in Antwerp. *"German minority in Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia".*
 Representant of the platform "**Queremos Galego**".
 30' Debate
- 17.00-18.30 **Closing Remarks:** Oriol Junqueras MEP
 followed by **Cultural Event & Reception**
LAN(D)GUAGE: Cultural performance featuring Maria Mercè Marçal (Catalonia), Alfonso Daniel Rodríguez Castelao (Galicia) and Joseba Sarrionandia Uribelarrea (Basque Country). **Three languages, three views, three realities.**
Reception