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7. Proposes that a new budget item be established under Article B3-100 in the course of the annual budgetary procedure and that the corresponding appropriations be entered in the budget;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, and the accompanying detailed recommendations, to the Commission, the Council, the intergovernmental conference, the Council of Europe and the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages.

ANNEX

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONTENT OF THE REQUESTED PROPOSAL

A. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL

After the success of the European Year of Languages 2001, the Commission planned to publish in the summer of 2003 an Action Plan on Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity, based on resources available under current Community programmes and measures.

The European Parliament regards this initiative as an important step towards a global approach to encouraging language learning and creating greater awareness of our linguistic and cultural heritage.

The European Parliament calls for more measures in this area. Following the same approach used for the European Year against Racism 1997, which led to the setting-up of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and the launching of an action programme to combat discrimination, the EP calls for the setting-up of a European Agency on Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning and a multi-annual programme on linguistic diversity and language learning, building on the success of the European Year of Languages 2001.

The Agency on Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning should keep constant track of developments in this area and the implementation of the action plan and also introduce concrete measures, *inter alia* to help promote a multilingual Europe and a language-friendly environment, and develop a network to promote linguistic diversity, to include European regional and minority languages.

At the same time, suitable arrangements should be made to ensure that part of the financial appropriations are specifically earmarked for concrete measures and for regional and less-widely used languages. The aim of these measures is to reinforce the European dimension with a view to promoting and protecting regional and minority languages and cultures. It is important to stress that this aim cannot be effectively pursued without proper coordination with the machinery existing within the Council of Europe, avoiding overlapping or encroachment in terms of responsibilities and/or operations. In particular, because monitoring is carried out under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the key Europe-wide legal frame of reference applying in this sphere, and above all through the work of the independent committee responsible for supervising implementation of the Charter as well as the two-yearly reports submitted by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, it is possible to identify problem areas, often horizontal by nature to the extent that several countries are affected, in which action needs to be taken as a matter of priority. In their activities, therefore, the agency and the Commission should take account of the findings of this monitoring when determining aims, financial guidelines, and priorities so as to enable the right measures to be taken at the right time as regards the problem areas (similar considerations apply to the monitoring carried out under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, in so far as it also relates to linguistic profiles).

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The proposed initiatives are justified by the fact that our linguistic and cultural heritage will play a particularly significant role, and one which should not be underestimated, in an enlarged Union.

B. PROPOSED MEASURES

Recommendation 1

European Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning

- I. Legal act: Proposal for a legal act setting up a European Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning, taking due account of regional and minority European languages;
- II. Content: Taking into account the results of the feasibility study to be made by the European Commission on a European Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning, implementation of the measures proposed in the Commission's action plan; promotion of a multilingual Europe and a climate of acceptance of multilingualism; development of a network to promote linguistic diversity, with the inclusion of European regional and minority languages; collection and collation of data, without undermining data protection, on the situation of the minority languages in an enlarged EU, fully respecting Member State provision for educational instruction in the official language or languages.

Recommendation 2

Programme for linguistic diversity (to include regional and minority languages) and language learning

- I. Legal act: Proposal for a legal act to establish a multi-annual programme for linguistic diversity (to include regional, minority and sign languages) and language learning;
- II. Content: The establishment of concrete financial measures to promote projects relating to the creation of a climate of acceptance of multilingualism, especially as an exchange of experience between multilingual municipalities and regions, highlighting the benefits of language learning and supporting the European networks active in this field, also taking into account, when determining aims and priorities regarding regional or minority languages, the findings of the monitoring carried out under the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In addition to these two central measures, the European Parliament considers that a global approach to promoting linguistic diversity and language learning, and to preserving our linguistic and cultural heritage, including that of Europe's regional and minority languages, requires the following measures.

The European Parliament considers, therefore, that

— the Commission should:

1. on the basis of Article 3(1)(q) TEC, include the promotion of linguistic diversity, to include regional or minority languages, and language learning, among the objectives of the EU's cultural and educational programmes;
2. on the basis of Article 3(1) (q) TEC, ensure that the promotion of linguistic diversity, to include regional or minority languages, is also taken into account in other EU programmes, and for example is clearly identified as a target area in the action programme to combat discrimination or in the Structural Funds;

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3. on the basis of Article 149 TEC, make all programmes accessible for proposals for all projects dealing with all languages, whether they are widely spoken or not;
4. if the languages in question have official status and are used in universities, bring them within the scope of implementation of the Socrates programme;
5. take the necessary measures to ensure that, in future, the interpretation of Articles 149, 150 and 151 TEC is based on an inclusive approach to linguistic diversity;
6. on the basis of Articles 149(3) TEC and 151(3) TEC, ensure that it is regularly and officially informed by the secretariat of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages concerning the state of ratification, and developments in relation to the implementation, of the Charter in the EU Member States,
7. on the basis of Articles 149(3) TEC and 151(3) TEC, ensure that it is regularly and officially informed by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities concerning the state of ratification, and developments in relation to the implementation, of the Framework Convention in the EU Member States;
8. on the basis of Article 149 TEC, and with a view to encouraging teacher mobility, encourage the training of teachers of regional or minority languages;
9. report regularly to its Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport on developments relating to the Action Plan on Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity and its implementation;
10. on the basis of Article 6 TEU, pay particular attention to the protection of human rights in general and the protection of minorities in particular, not only in relation to external policy, but also in the Member States;
11. on the basis of Article 6 TEU, establish regular monitoring of human rights protection, including the protection of minorities;
12. continue to support the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (EBLUL), a network representing lesser-used language communities in all 15 Member States, and the three Mercator academic research centres, all as organisations of general European interest and networks for regional and minority languages, increase its financial support in order to create the conditions for expanding the Bureau's spheres of competence, and make use of its resources;
13. promote the mutual cooperation of regional or minority language communities, provided this has a European dimension and involves cross-border cooperation (for example MIDAS, EEBA, etc.);
14. when conducting campaigns to publicise EU policies, take newspapers published in a regional or minority language properly into account, following a politically balanced approach;
15. promote cultural activities — such as cultural networks, cultural events, translations, etc. — in which regional or minority languages are involved;

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16. support the development of networks for the promotion of linguistic diversity and language learning, involving representative political, academic and other bodies, especially those engaged in using new language-learning techniques such as the so-called language baths, and organise an annual information seminar on calls for tenders or proposals targeted at language communities; the European Bureau for Lesser-used Languages could function as a secretariat for such networks;
 17. when determining aims, financial guidelines, and priorities, take into account the findings of the monitoring carried out under both the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and, in so far as it also relates to linguistic profiles, its Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; to that end, cooperation should be established on a regular basis between the appropriate Commission and Council of Europe departments;
 18. support forums of local and regional authorities involved in language planning in order to exchange information regarding most effective methods for the implementation of language policies;
 19. apply the principles and objectives of the Charter as a benchmark in assessing compliance of the applicant countries with the obligations regarding the protection of their minorities as outlined in the conclusions of the 1993 European Council in Copenhagen;
- the Intergovernmental Conference should:
20. include in the provisions concerning action by the EU in the field of culture an explicit reference to the promotion of linguistic diversity including regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural and linguistic diversity.
1. The Community shall, within its spheres of competence, respect and promote linguistic diversity in Europe, including regional or minority languages as an expression of that diversity, by encouraging cooperation among Member States and utilising other appropriate instruments in furtherance of this objective.
 2. Community action shall particularly include:
 - Promoting exchange of experiences and good practices;
 - Facilitating cooperation and joint projects between state, regional and local authorities;
 - Promoting, where appropriate, trans-border cooperation;
 - Supporting cooperation among the organisations of civil society.
 3. The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with competent international organisations in the promotion of linguistic diversity, in particular the Council of Europe.
 4. The European Union shall endeavour to ensure that no EU policies or measures are adopted or applied in ways that are detrimental to the linguistic diversity of Europe.
 5. In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this point, the Council:
 - acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the EC Treaty, after consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, shall adopt appropriate measures, excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States;
 - acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.

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21. ensure that Article 13 TEC also covers discrimination on the grounds of language;
 22. ensure that, for cultural matters (Article 151 TEC), the principle of qualified majority is introduced;
 23. draw up an annual report on compliance with the provisions on diversity contained in Article 151(4) TEC. This report should examine the effects of secondary legislation and the extent to which it takes into account the linguistic diversity, specific national and regional features and cultural heritage of the Member States;
 24. ensure that the following new Article 151a is inserted in the EC Treaty: 'The Community shall, within its spheres of competence, respect and promote linguistic diversity in Europe, including regional or minority languages as an expression of that diversity, by encouraging cooperation between Member States and utilising other appropriate instruments in the furtherance of this objective';
- the European Parliament itself should see that:
25. a specific section of the EP's reports on human rights, or its own specific reports, deal with the protection of minorities;
 26. its Committee on Culture is regularly and officially informed by the secretariat of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages concerning the state of ratification, and developments in relation to the implementation of, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Member States;
 27. its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy is regularly and officially informed by the secretariat of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities on the state of ratification, and developments in the implementation, of the Framework Convention in the EU Member States;
- the Member States and candidate countries should:
28. if they have not already done so, ratify, as soon as possible, the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and its Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
 29. compile, as a basis for further measures, reliable data on ethnic, linguistic and religious minority groups, including immigrants and refugees, on their economic and social isolation/exclusion, and on the legal and practical status of regional and minority languages, and send such data to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in Vienna;
- the Council should:
30. in agreement with the Commission, and as requested in the opinion on the Council report on human rights for 1999, include in its annual report on the human rights situation an analysis of the development of human rights, including the rights of national minorities, in the individual Member States, taking into account also the outcome of Council of Europe activities in this field, to make it possible to formulate strategies to ensure that national and European policies in this area are more consistent.
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