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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture,
Education, Information and Sport

on the use of languages in the Community

Part A: Motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: Mr L. BEYER DE RYKE

PE 86.480/fin. **A**

Or. FR.

The European Parliament

- at its sitting of 19 September 1980 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr HABSBURG and others on the use of European languages in air transport (Doc. 1-412/80) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Transport for an opinion,

- at its sitting of 9 March 1981 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr HABSBURG and others on the use of European languages within the Community (Doc. 1-930/80) to the Legal Affairs Committee as the committee responsible together with Petition No. 75/80 on the study of at least two languages as part of the general curriculum,

- at its sitting of 6 July 1981 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr PATTERSON on the provision and training of interpreters for special settings (Doc. 1-331/81) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment for an opinion,

- at its sitting of 14 September 1981 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr TURCAT and others on data processing and telematics in Europe (Doc. 1-446/81) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs for their opinion,

- at its sitting of 12 October 1982 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr SARRE and others on the use of national languages in publicity and trade (Doc. 1-514/81) to the committee and to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for an opinion,

- at its sitting of 13 December 1982 referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr GLINNE and others on the advisability of including the international language Esperanto as an optional subject on secondary and higher education syllabuses in the member countries of the European Community (Doc. 1-920/82) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible.

On 21 October 1981, the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport appointed Mrs PRUVOT rapporteur; she was replaced by Mr BEYER DE RYKE on 25 February 1982.

The committee also decided to include in this report on the use of languages in the Community resolutions Docs. 1-930/80, 1-446/81, 1-514/81, Petition No. 75/80 at its meeting of 11 November 1981, resolution Doc. 1-331/81 at its meeting of 18 May 1982 and resolution Doc. 1-920/82 at its meeting of 20 January 1983.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 4 November 1983, 29 February and 1 March 1984 and 20-21 March 1984. At the latter meeting, the motion for a resolution was adopted unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Beumer, chairman; Mr Fajardie, vice-chairman; Mr Beyer de Ryke, rapporteur; Mr Alexiadis; Mr Bocklett (deputizing for Mr Pedini); Mr Bord (deputizing for Mr Geronimi); Mrs Buchan; Mrs Cinciari Rodano (deputizing for Mr Fanti); Mr Cottrell; Mr Fernandez (deputizing for Mr Bucchini, Mrs Gaiotti de Biase; Mr Gerokostopoulos; Mr Patterson (deputizing for Miss Brookes); Mrs Péry; Mr Rolland; Mr Simmonds; Mr Vandemeulebroucke and Mrs Viehoff.

On 16 December 1981 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs decided not to deliver an opinion.

On 29 September 1982 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection decided not to deliver an opinion.

On 7 April 1983 the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment decided not to deliver an opinion.

The Committee on Budgets has decided not to deliver an opinion.

The opinion of the Committee on Transport is attached.

The report was tabled on 26 March 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the use of languages in the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Title III of the Treaty of Rome on the free movement of workers and the right of establishment,
- having regard to Council Regulation No. 1 of 15 April 1958 on the official languages of the Community as amended by the Acts of Accession of 1972,
- having regard to the Council Resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education¹,
- having regard to the Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of the children of migrant workers²,
- having regard to the communication by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on an 'Education action programme at Community level - the teaching of languages in the Community' (COM(78) 222 final),
- having regard to the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament:
 - . on the meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Education³
 - . on a forthcoming meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Education⁴
 - . on a Community programme in the field of education⁵
 - . on multilingualism in the European Community⁶

¹ OJ No. C of 19 February 1976

² OJ No. L 199 of 6 August 1977

³ OJ No. C 309 of 12 October 1979

⁴ OJ No. C 175 of 14 July 1980

⁵ OJ No. C 87 of 5 April 1982

⁶ OJ No. C 292 of 8 November 1982

- . on the teaching of foreign languages in the Community¹
- . on the schooling of the children of migrant workers²
- . on measures to combat illiteracy³
- . on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and on a charter of rights of ethnic minorities⁴

- having regard to the following motions for resolutions:

- . by Mr HABSBURG and others on the use of European languages in air transport
(Doc. 1-412/80)
- . by Mr HABSBURG and others on the use of European languages within the Community
(Doc. 1-930/80)
- . by Mr PATTERSON and others on the provision and training of interpreters
for special settings (Doc. 1-331/81)
- . by Mr TURCAT and others on data processing and telematics in Europe
(Doc. 1-446/81)
- . by Mr SARRE and others on the use of national languages in publicity and
trade (Doc. 1-514/81)
- . by Mr GLINNE and others on the advisability of including the international
language Esperanto as an optional subject on secondary and higher education
syllabuses in the member countries of the European Community (Doc. 1-920/80),

- having regard to the Petition No. 75/80 on the study of at least two languages as part of
the general curriculum,

- having regard to the agreement establishing the European Foundation and the potential of the
latter in the field of education,

- having regard to the report by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport
and the opinion of the Committee on Transport (Doc. 1-83/84).

A - whereas the cultural wealth of Europe is based on the diversity of European
cultures as expressed notably by the various languages,

B - having regard to the decision of the Member States of the Community to
respect linguistic pluralism in the construction of Europe,

¹ OJ No. C 68 of 14 March 1983

² OJ No. C 260 of 12 October 1981

³ OJ No. C 149 of 14 June 1982

⁴ OJ No. C 287 of 9 November 1981

C - whereas a knowledge of foreign languages enriches the individual and facilitates understanding among peoples,

D - whereas the development of tourism, trade and economic relations within the Community and the implementation of freedom of movement of persons and the right of establishment as provided for in the Treaties must be accompanied by an equivalent development of cultural exchanges,

E - firmly believing that what frequently lies behind difficulties in learning a second language is an inadequate level of literacy in the first language,

F - mindful of the consequences the development of the new technologies and means of communication will have on the structure of language, modes of expression and thought,

G - recognizing the potential of 'town-twinning' organizations to arrange exchanges of young people in different Member States,'

1 - Reaffirms the principle that all languages and the cultures which they express have an intrinsic value;

2 - Reaffirms the right of each individual to express himself freely in his own language or in the language of his choice;

3 - Stresses the importance of combating illiteracy;

4 - Asks for all measures at Community and Member State level aimed at encouraging the use of Community languages to be encouraged and notably:

in the field of language teaching

5 - Calls on the Member States:

- . to recognize language learning and the teaching of one or more Community languages as important subjects in school teaching from primary school onwards;
- . to take such measures as are appropriate to allow children and adults alike to learn the language of their choice;

. to facilitate training and refresher courses for language teachers in the countries of the language they teach;

- 6 - Calls on the Commission to take all available measures to achieve the objectives set out in the chapter on foreign language teaching in the 1976 action programme and to report back at regular intervals to Parliament and to the committee responsible on progress in implementing this programme;
- 7 - Calls on the Commission and the Preparatory Committee of the European Foundation to examine ways in which voluntary organizations can be encouraged to exchange young people between Member States to stimulate the speaking of another language;
- 8 - Urges the Council to convert into an action programme the report by the Education Committee on which an agreement was reached on 27 June 1980;
- 9 - Calls on the Commission, on the basis of this report, to submit new initiatives with particular reference to cooperation and exchanges for initial and continuous teacher training, taking into account new teaching methods and experiments now being conducted in language learning and language teaching;
- 10 - Emphasizes once again the importance of the existing directive on the education of the children of migrant workers; asks the Commission to use all the resources at its command to ensure that the directive is applied in full and in all the Member States;
- 11 - Draws attention to the possibility of assigning an important place in the exchange programme for young people to the learning of a 'foreign' language;

Professional linguists

- 12 - Draws the attention of Member States to the fact that a retrenchment over too long a period of time in the recruitment of language teachers has adverse effects notably the lowering of teaching standards and unemployment among young teachers;

- 13 - Calls on Member States to agree to take such action as is necessary to improve initial and continuous training of language teachers, as a means of helping to spread the use of languages;
- 14 - Calls on the Commission to submit a study on the social and professional position of translators and interpreters;

Language dissemination media

- 15 - Calls on Member States to promote the distribution of cultural works (theatre, cinema and books) in Community countries by facilitating cultural exchanges;
- 16 - Reiterates the call for cooperation at Community level to finance the use of the new means of communication (satellite and cable television, etc.) and to set up a European television channel;
- 17 - Desires harmonization at Community level of regulations governing the financing, advertising and royalties in respect of audiovisual productions;
- 18 - Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Member States, the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.