



ADOPTED TEXT N° 697
Provisional Act

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTION OF 4 OCTOBER 1958

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

2021-2022 ORDINARY SESSION

21 November 2021

EUROPEAN RESOLUTION

*on the promotion of multilingualism and the use of the French language
within the European institutions, in particular during the French
Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2022.*

*Is considered as final, pursuant to Article 151-7 of the Rules
of Procedure, the resolution which reads as follows:*

See numbers: 4077, 4223, 4520 and 4630.

Single Article

The National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 88-4 of the Constitution,

Having regard to Articles 151-4 and 151-5 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union,

Having regard to Article 342 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation N° 1/1958 of 15 April 1958 establishing the languages to be used by the European Economic Community, as amended by Council Regulations N° 920/2005 of 13 June 2005, N° 1791/2006 of 20 November 2006, and N° 517/2013 of 13 May 2013,

Having regard to the motion for European resolution N° 4077 aimed at making French the sole working language of the European Union, presented by Mr. Julien Aubert and several of his colleagues, and the motion for European resolution N° 4223 aimed at promoting the use of the French language within the context of the French Presidency of the European Union from January to June 2022, presented by Mr. Fabrice Brun and several of his colleagues,

Considering that the treaties make multilingualism one of the founding values of the European Union;

Considering that, in this respect, the twenty-four official languages of the European Union must be used by the European institutions in order to communicate effectively within them, between them and with European citizens;

Considering that French is one of the three most widely taught languages in the European Union and that it enjoys a specific status ensuring its use in many international organisations;

Considering that the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union means that European citizens whose mother tongue is English now account for only about 1.1% of the total population of the European Union;

Considering that, since the 1990s, English has been the language most used by the European institutions (to a lesser extent by the European Parliament and excluding the Court of Justice of the European Union), in particular for the drafting of the various European documents, and that this phenomenon continues to worsen each year;

Considering that language is not a neutral vehicle and that, therefore, the promotion of multilingualism is a necessity;

Considering that European budgets for interpretation and translation are decreasing, especially within the European Commission and the Council, making it increasingly difficult to have timely translations and interpretation services for all European meetings;

Considering that the various enlargements have led to a certain reduction in the mastery and practice of the French language;

Considering that the number of French nationals as staff of the European institutions will be affected by retirements, particularly in middle and senior management;

Considering that the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2022 should be a major opportunity to promote multilingualism and take strong action to stop the trend towards monolingualism;

To renovate and promote European competitive examinations:

1. Proposes to diversify the recruitment of EU officials by paying particular attention to candidates with a command of at least two languages other than English;

2. Calls on the Government and the European institutions to promote European civil service competitive examinations more widely among the French public, in order to remedy the retirement in the next few years of a large proportion of civil servants who are fluent in French;

3. Suggests that a medium-term internship in the European institutions should be encouraged for all French civil servant students;

4. Calls on the Government to improve the tracking of the careers of French nationals within the European institutions;

To encourage the learning of French and other European languages:

5. Proposes to encourage a strong increase in French language training for staff of the European institutions;

6. Warns of the need to sustain public investment in French lycées, particularly those in cities hosting European institutions, as they are important vehicles for promoting the French language;

7. Suggests that the European Commission should propose a plan to strengthen and diversify foreign language learning within the European Union;

To seize the opportunity of the French Presidency of the Council:

8. Asks that, during the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, all documents emanating from this institution be drafted initially in French, before being translated;

9. Considers that the website of the future French Presidency of the Council should be designed to facilitate initial reading in French;

10. Considers it essential that informal meetings during the French presidency be held in French, with translation services available;

11. Proposes French-speaking European Commissioners speak French during Council meetings under the French Presidency;

To ensure effective translation and interpretation:

12. Asks for a gradual increase in the budget allocated by each European institution to the translation and interpretation service;

13. Considers it essential that the European institutions increase their investment in the development and support of technological innovations in translation and interpreting;

To ensure compliance with the rules on multilingualism:

14. Recommends that, in their relations with the press and the public, European Commissioners should preferably speak their own language;

15. Asks that the multilingual signage of buildings and meetings be ensured, so that the linguistic landscape also reflects this European diversity;

16. Remains vigilant as regards the continuing intensive mobilisation of State services to ensure respect for multilingualism within the European institutions;

17. Calls for the creation of a team of French civil servants responsible for monitoring, alerting and acting in favour of the French language within the European institutions;

18. Considers it essential to set up a European observatory for multilingualism to ensure compliance with the aforementioned Regulation N° 1/1958 of 15 April 1958.

Paris, 21 November 2021

The President,
Signed: RICHARD FERRAND



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