



Liadh Ní Riada MEP / ELEN Hearing

Respecting linguistic diversity? Language Discrimination in the European Union.

Date: Wednesday June 1st 2016.

Hosts: GUE-NGL and EFA-Greens in partnership with ELEN.

Location: European Parliament, JAN 2Q2, Brussels, Belgium.

Interpretation. Irish, Welsh, Catalan, Spanish, French, English.

8.30 -9.20 Registration and Signing In.

9.20 Opening session.

Welcome speech

Liadh Ní Riada MEP, Davyth Hicks (ELEN Secretary-General).

Introductory Remarks

Jill Evans MEP, Jordi Sebastià MEP, Josep-Maria Terricabras MEP, Josu Juaristi MEP, Marina Albiol MEP, Ramon Tremosa MEP (Moderator Davyth Hicks).

10.10 The international development of linguistic rights

Keynote: “Overcoming language discrimination, the global development of language rights.” Mr Rob Dunbar, Roinn na Ceiltis is Eòlas na h-Alba, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada).

10.25 Language Rights and Discrimination in Europe (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada)

“Respecting linguistic diversity? Language discrimination in Europe.” Mr Davyth Hicks (ELEN)

- “Irish in the Six Counties,” Ms Carál Ní Chuilín, Minister for Culture.*
- “Language speakers’ rights, revisiting the 1998 OSCE Recommendations,” Mr Miquel Strubell, Linguapax International.
- “Protecting Irish language rights,” Mr Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Coimisinéir Teanga / Irish Language Commissioner.
- “Linguistic supremacism,” Mr Ferran Suay (Acció Cultural del País Valencià (ACPV) / Universitat de València).
- “Invisibilising the language minority in policy,” Mr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin (Soillse, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean).

11.50 COFFEE

12.0 Case studies on language discrimination (Moderator Marina Albiol)

- **Breton:** Mr Tangi Louarn (President, Kevre Breizh and ELEN-EBLUL France).
- **Catalan:** Ms Neus Mestres (Director, Plataforma per la Llengua)
- **Irish:** Mr Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin (Advocacy Manager, Conradh na Gaeilge)
- **Welsh:** Ms Tamsin Davies (Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg).
- **Basque:** Mr Paul Bilbao-Sarria (Secretary-General, Kontseilua)
- **Hungarian in Slovakia:** Mr János Fiala (Szlovákiai Magyarok Kerekasztala)
- **Hungarian in Romania:** Ms Krisztina Sándor (Erdélyi Magyar Nemzeti Tanács).
- **Occitan:** Mr Alexis Quentin (Institut Estudis Occitan).

LUNCH 13.30

15.00 European and International Norms on regional or minority language rights: are they sufficient? (Moderators Liadh Ní Riada, Josu Juaristi)

- Ms Iryna Ulasiuk, OSCE HCNM.
- Ms Belen Rodriguez de Alba, UN OHCHR, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section.
- Mr Sixto Molina, Council of Europe, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), Head of Secretariat.
- Ms Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion, Council of Europe, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), Secretariat.
- Ms Kristina Cunningham, EU Commission, DG Education and Culture, Multilingualism.

16.15 Case study on the cultural importance of language in terms of linguistic rights
Mr Liam Ó Maolaodha, Oireachtas na Gaeilge (Moderator Liadh).

16.25 COFFEE

16.35 Solutions (Moderator, Josep-Maria Terricabras MEP)

- A new alternative **“The Protocol to Ensure Language Rights”** created by contributions from civil society - the way forward for establishing substantive linguistic rights. Paul Bilbao-Sarria, Kontseilua.
- **Better implementation of existing mechanisms, the ECRML, FCNM, ECHR.**
Sixto Molina (CoE ECRML), Jill Evans MEP (EP Intergroup / CULT Cttee), Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion (CoE FCNM), Kristina Cunningham (EU Commission), Belen Rodriguez de Alba (UN OHCHR).
- **Languages Directive, new legislation?**
Rob Dunbar: Best practices in protecting languages against discrimination.
Davyth Hicks: An EU Directive for regional, minority or endangered languages?
- **Better promotion in the media of linguistic rights**
Mr Maitiú Ó Coimín (Tuarisc.ie).

17.20 Discussion. (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada).

17.30 Concluding Speech: “Dealing with language discrimination and ensuring linguistic rights in the EU.” Liadh Ní Riada MEP (Moderator Davyth Hicks)

17.45 Close.

Registration

The hearing is open to the public. In order to gain entry participants are requested to register at least seven working days before the event at: <http://www.greens-efa.eu/events/registrations/796-respecting-linguistic-diversity.html>

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