Basic information

2003/2057(INL) INL - Legislative initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Regional and less-used languages in Europe in the context of the enlargement and cultural diversity **Subject** 4.40.08 Language learning, regional and local languages	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	EBNER Michl (PPE-DE)	28/11/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	17/06/2003

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/07/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
08/07/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0271/2003	
04/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0372/2003	Summary
04/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2057(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Request for legislative proposal
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 47
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/19507

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0271/2003	08/07/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0372/2003 OJ C 076 25.03.2004, p. 0243-0374 E	04/09/2003	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Regional and less-used languages in Europe in the context of the enlargement and cultural diversity

2003/2057(INL) - 04/09/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report with 431 votes in favour, 30 against, and 23 abstentions, criticising the lack of EU legislation on regional and less widely-used languages. The rapporteur was by Michl EBNER (EPP-ED, Italy) on European regional and lesser-used languages. (Please see the summary of 08/07/03.) Parliament pointed out that despite the very considerable differences that sometimes exist between the social, economic and political factors involved in their use, Europe's regional and minority languages have many features in common throughout the EU and a European dimension. This makes them a matter of interest for the whole of Europe. In some communities regional or minority languages straddle the frontiers of Member States, and there is a tradition of long-standing cultural and historical links between other such communities. These links are important and continue to be promoted at interregional level, almost all these regional and minority language communities share a strong interest in the survival and development of their language and culture, as well as in making full use of their potential in the EU. Regional and minority languages are a major cultural treasure trove and support to foster them should be improved constantly and at every level. Parliament therefore called on the Commission, to submit to it by 31 March 2004 legislative proposals on language diversity and language learning. It also asked the Commission to provide scientifically based criteria for a definition of a minority or regional language for the purposes of the possible programme for linguistic diversity.