
**“Regional and minority languages in Europe today” –
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Recommendation 410 (2017)**

(Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 October 2018
at the 1326th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

1. The Committee of Ministers welcomes Congress Recommendation 410 (2017) on “Regional and minority languages in Europe today”, which it transmitted to the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, for information and possible comments.
2. It commends the Congress for its timely initiative in this area, adopted to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Languages Charter. 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Charter's entry into force, and the Committee of Ministers will use the anniversary as an opportunity to seek to bring a new dynamic to this key Council of Europe treaty. Under the Croatian chairmanship, which has included the Charter among its priorities, an international conference on the subject took place in Strasbourg on 18-19 June 2018. Bringing together many actors and stakeholders, the event provided the opportunity to assess what has been achieved thus far with the Charter, to consider how it may be made more effective by strengthening its supervisory mechanism, and to identify current challenges as well as possible responses to these from the Council of Europe.
3. In its Recommendation (paragraph 13c), the Congress calls for wider acceptance of the Charter. The Committee of Ministers shares this view, and regularly invites those States that have not done so to consider signing and/or ratifying the Charter. Furthermore, the importance of wider ratification was underlined on the occasion of the above-mentioned conference.