

Seminar

“Regional or Minority Languages in Europe Today”

*Organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
in cooperation with the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,
Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe*

with the support of the Senate of the French Republic

9-10 December 2013, Luxembourg Palace, Paris, 15, rue de Vaugirard

Monday, 9 December

[Interpretation provided in the working languages of the Congress: English, French, German, Italian, Russian]

[14:00: Press Conference with Mr Herwig VAN STAA, Mr François ALFONSI and Ms Vesna CRNIĆ-GROTIĆ]

Opening Session

14:30: Welcome by Mr Jean-Vincent PLACE, Senator of Essonne (France), Chair of the Contact Group between the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

14:45: Opening Speech by Mr Herwig VAN STAA, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

15:00: Keynote Speeches

Mr François ALFONSI, member of the European Parliament, Co-President of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages

- The situation of minority languages from the perspective of the European Union
- Presentation of the report on endangered European languages and linguistic diversity in the European Union [\[A7-0239/2013\]](#)

Ms Vesna CRNIĆ-GROTIĆ, Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Council of Europe

- The recent development of regional or minority languages from the perspective of the Council of Europe
- Presentation of the Council of Europe monitoring activities and the work of the Committee of Experts of the Charter

Discussion

16:00: Coffee break

First Session

16:30: The role of local and regional authorities in protecting and promoting regional or minority languages in Europe

Interactive debate between Congress members and experts participating at the Conference

Moderated by Mr Jean-Marie WOEHRLING, Expert of the Council of Europe, President of 'Culture et bilinguisme d'Alsace et de Moselle - René-Schickele-Gesellschaft'

Discussants:

Ms Vesna CRNIĆ-GROTIĆ, Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Mr Gerhard STEIER, President of the Regional Parliament of Burgenland, Austria

Ms Sandra BERGQVIST, Team Leader, International and Swedish-language Affairs, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Finland

Ms Caroline TURNER, Deputy Director – Welsh Language, Department for Education and Skills of the Welsh Government, United Kingdom

(...)

18:30: Close of the first session

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Second Session

9:00: Case Studies on countries having undertaken to ratify the Charter as a post-accession commitment

Moderated by Ms Ewa CHYLINSKI, Senior Advisor & Acting Director, European Centre for Minority Issues, Tbilisi (Georgia)

Presenters:

Representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

10:30: Coffee break

Third Session

11:00: Case Studies on countries having signed but not ratified the Charter – Italy and France

Moderated by Mr Alexey KOZHEMYAKOV, Head of the National Minorities and Antidiscrimination Department, Council of Europe

Presenters:

The Case of France: Mr Paul MOLAC, Deputy of Morbihan, Member of the National Assembly of France

The Case of Italy: Mr Giovanni POGGESCHI, Senior Researcher, Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism Bolzano, Italy

Discussants:

Ms Andrée BUCHMANN, Vice-Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress, France

Mr Enzo BROGI, Member of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress, Italy

Mr Domenico MORELLI, President of National Federative Committee for the Italian National Minorities (Confemili), Italy

Mr Jean-Marie WOEHRLING, President of ‘Culture et bilinguisme d'Alsace et de Moselle - René-Schickele-Gesellschaft’, France

Conclusions

12:30: Conclusion by Mr Jean-Claude FRECON, First Vice-President of the Congress, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities