

1 **EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution**

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3 **Tabled by Comhaontas Glas, Irish Greens**
4 **By Patricia McKenna MEP.**

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6 **ENDANGERED LANGUAGES**
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8 **Considering** that “over the next 100 years 90 per cent of the world's languages will have
9 become extinct or virtually extinct”, as warned by hundreds of linguists during the 21st
10 session of UNEP's Governing Council (United Nation Environment Programme);

11 **Observing** that “at least 3,000 [out of 6,000] tongues are endangered, seriously
12 endangered or dying in many parts of the world”, as recognized by UNESCO itself during
13 the last International Mother Language Day and that, according to the UNESCO Red Book
14 on Endangered Languages, almost 60% of the european languages are directly
15 endangered;

16 **Reminding** that the UNEP Executive Director, Klaus Toepfer, stressed that losing a
17 language and its cultural context is like burning a unique reference book of the natural
18 world: “if these cultures disappear they and their intimate relationship with nature will be
19 lost forever”, and **Pointing out** that, according to the official organ of UNESCO, “many of
20 the world’s endangered plant and animal species today are known only to certain peoples
21 whose languages are dying out. As they die, they take with them all the traditional
22 knowledge about the environment. The 1992 Rio Earth Summit set up machinery to
23 combat shrinking biodiversity. Now it is time for a Rio summit to tackle languages”
24 (UNESCO Courier, april 2000);

25 **Recalling** the resolution, presented during the II Congress of the Federation, fostering
26 “the establishment within the European Parliament of a Commision to study the different
27 solutions to the problem of matching the safeguard of the linguistic ecosystem with an
28 efficient and democratic communication, including the hypothesis of adopting esperanto
29 as a European federal language”, resolution which was approved by the Council;

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31 **Affirms** that the announced extinction of 90% of the ecolinguistic heritage of humanity is
32 not only a cultural catastrophe but also an environmental disaster and therefore fully
33 represents an ecological emergency;

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35 **Invites** the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the european governments,
36 belonging or not to the European Union, to call as soon as possible a first
37 intergovernmental Conference on the state of the european linguistic ecosystem, in
38 collaboration with the civil society, and in particular with the european and transnational
39 parties, associations and NGOs. **Urges** each member party, the green national and
40 european MPs and the green Ministers to promote such a Conference and to promote as
41 well the establishment of a european linguistic Observatory which should verify and
42 monitor the perishing degree of the european languages - and in particular of the less
43 diffused ones - in the schools, in the society and in the mass media.