

# 1 **EFGP 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution**

2 Tabled by Association of Esperanto Greens

## 3 4 **LANGUAGE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AND LANGUAGE SCHEME IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS**

5  
6 The European Greens

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8 A. Considering the Universal Declaration of Language Rights (UDLR), declared 1996 in Barcelona, by the  
9 International PEN Club and presented to UNESCO, which fully elaborates article 2 of the Universal  
10 Declaration of Human Rights in relation to languages.

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12 B. Considering the position of the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages <www.EBLUL.org>,  
13 published by Ned Thomas in december 2000 (in short): " To find a balance between the rights of  
14 individuals and groups, of minorities and majorities, and even of minorities inside the minorities is very  
15 tricky. Up till now the most ambitious project shows the UDLR called Barcelona Declaration, which has  
16 been presented to UNESCO.

17 It has nothing in common with populist rhetoric, referencing to roots and myths of the fatherland as  
18 a tool for bringing up new types of government and refuses a wider frame for cooperation and  
19 respecting rights. Jes, we are for subsidiarity up to the smallest ever functioning unit. But we are also  
20 for the creation of common european parameters relating minority rights and this means for a common  
21 european and democratic framework. We are working to carve out the basic difference which exists  
22 between us and them, who misuse the reasoning on identity."

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24 C. Considering the Resolution of the Second EFGP Congress, 1999 in Paris, part B:

25 "The international language Esperanto shall become one of the official languages in the EP/EU when  
26 the principle of 'language equal rights' has to be stopped (abandoned).

27 After the EU enlargement this principle cannot be held for simple technical reasons. The neutral language  
28 Esperanto will represent the other european languages." (including regional ones, like basque/euscadi,  
29 katalan, sorbic)

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31 D. Considering the decision of the EU Commission, March 2000, to discuss the use of International  
32 Language Esperanto inside the EU Institutions,

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34 E. Considering that Esperanto is neutral, regular, easier to learn than other languages and fit for all needs  
35 of institutional and real life.

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37 F. Considering the principle of subsidiarity, which could lead to a unique 'EU-European' language, like  
38 russian in the former Sovjet Union.

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40 G. Considering positively that - thanks to Johannes Voggenhuber, G/AFE - language rights are to be  
41 contained in the future European Constitution.

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43 H. Deploring, that there is a continuous discrimination in job offers, positively for 'native speakers' and  
44 negatively for other EU citizens - thanks to Bart Staes, G/AFE, this discrimination will be reduced.

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47 1. Calls on all European States to subscribe the Universal Declaration of Language Rights (Barcelona  
48 Declaration 1996).

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50 2. Calls on the EU Commission to look for a language scheme fit for Europe which doesn't offend most of  
51 the languages, regional ones and national ones, residing in Europe.

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53 3. Proposes to the EU Commission to introduce the neutral International Language Esperanto as  
54 common language for all - firstly as technical aid as it could be used as relais-language in interpreting of  
55 lesser used national and regional languages.

56 And secondly as direct spoken language, when desired.

57 This doesn't exclude the usage of other languages, but gives a technical solution to the problem of  
58 language equal rights and the great number of languages, regional or national ones, in the EU.

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60 *Second EFGP Congress, 1999, Paris*

61 *Forum about Language Problems after the EU Enlargement*

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1 *The Situation*

2 *At the foundation of the European Union (1958) it was decided that all the national languages of the*  
3 *member states should enjoy equal status. At that time there were 4, now they are 11.*

4 *Because of the mathematical (non linear) relationship between the number of languages and the*  
5 *workload for all the translations, we now use 1/3 of the operating budget of the European Commission*  
6 *simply for the translation work.*

7 *Also, in spite of the equal status, some of the languages are "more equal than others", EU documents*  
8 *often circulate first in just english and french.*

9 *Tender documents to outside firms often appear only in english and french - disadvantaging companies*  
10 *from other countries due to them bearing the translation costs (and loss of time, etc.).*

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12 *The future*

13 *It is foreseen to enlarge to a 16-language membership as the next step. How will the problems develop ?*

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15 *Proposals for solution*

16 *Given that not all national languages will be used as working languages, we will need to choose*  
17 *between them. We propose also to consider esperanto, a neutral choice.*

18 *The neutral language Esperanto should be offered in european schools as optional.*

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20 *The working group: 7 members from DE, FR, GB plus 1 of HU at the end of the session.*

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22 *Resolution relating language politics in the European Union*

23 *A:*

24 *The international language esperanto should be offered as option in european schools, as it is neutral*  
25 *and easy to learn. Esperanto gives easy access to understanding how languages work and is ideal to*  
26 *bridge the gap between the cultures.*

27  
28 *B:*

29 *The international language esperanto shall should become one of the official languages in the EP/EU-*  
30 *system when the principle of "language equal-rights" has to be stopped.*

31 *After the EU-enlargement this principle cannot be hold for simple technical reasons. The neutral language*  
32 *esperanto will be representative of those languages who will be not elected as official working languages*  
33 *in the EP/EU-system.*

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35 *Subscriptions: Victor Carvaco (Portugal), Solange Fernex (FR), Nato*  
36 *Kirvaldse (Georgia), Daniel Jositsch (CH), Marton Vargha (HU)*