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B5-0818/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question B5-0537/2001

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Pat the Cope Gallagher

on behalf of the UEN Group

on language diversity

European Parliament resolution on language diversity

The European Parliament,

- having regard to 2001 as the European Year of Languages and to the fact that it is dedicated to all languages spoken in Europe,
 - having regard to the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,
 - having regard to several international charters that recognise the right of citizens to maintain and develop their own languages,
 - having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which outlaws discrimination, including language-based discrimination,
 - having regard to the report adopted on 16 March 2000 on the Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- A. whereas languages are part of the richness of Europe, and more than forty regional and minority languages are spoken across Europe, which form a crucial part of our cultural heritage and, as such, need to be protected and promoted,
- B. whereas the European Commission has agreed to look into the possibility of presenting a draft program that will have as its objective the promotion and safeguarding of minority and regional languages,
- C. whereas projects involving lesser-used languages have been supported during the European Year of Languages,
- D. whereas the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages constitutes a necessary part of the process of cultural preservation,
1. Calls for the urgent establishment of a legal basis to promote and safeguard minority and regional languages at a European level;
 2. Calls on the European Commission to take immediate action to ensure that regional and minority languages can be promoted through the horizontal inclusion of language aspects in a variety of EU programmes;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the applicant countries.