

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article :NEW I-49b

By ~~Ms~~/ Mr : Danny PIETERS also on behalf of Alain LAMASSOURE and Neil McCORMICK

Status : - Member - Alternate

Introduce a new article 49 b, reading as follows :

“1. Every official language of a Member State submitted by that Member State to the Union is also an official language of the European Union.

The official language of the choice of the citizen of the Union is used for all communication between the citizen and the European Union. All documents, acts and other information the citizens and the enterprises of the European Union are supposed to know or have a legitimate interest to get access to, will be simultaneously accessible in all official languages of the European Union.

2. The European Union has three working languages: English, French and German. The use of one's mother tongue as a working language is not allowed.

The working languages are the languages used for internal communication, internal discussions and the internal exchange of information and documents. However Members of the European Parliament, and Members of the national Parliamentary Assemblies or of the Governments of the Member States, are always entitled to use the official language of their choice.

3. In their different establishments, the European Union institutions, bodies and agencies will also use the local official languages as a working language in their local communications.”

Explanation (if any) :

It makes little sense to deal in Part I with « transparency », « participatory democracy » etc. without guaranteeing the linguistic rights of the citizens of the Union and the linguistic regime of the Union institutions. This is NOT covered by Part II nor is it covered by references to linguistic diversity etc. It is essential to include the linguistic regime in Part I as in the opinion of most peoples and citizens of the Union, it is essential that their language is recognised also by the Union.

Let us also observe the inconsistency that in the presently proposed text there is a reference to the official languages in the Draft Protocol on National Parliaments in I.4, without this concept being defined in the Constitution.

The contents of the proposed article are explained at length in the boklet presented to all Convention Members in English, French and Dutch : « PIETERS, D ., The languages of the European Union, The Belgian House of Representatives, 2002,71pp (ISBN 90-807420-3-1).

The necessary text adaptations have been carried out in order to fit in the article into the actual Text of Part I.