



## Urgency motion

Name of the person introducing the urgency motion<sup>1</sup>: GROSCLAUDE David & CASACUBERTA Montserrat

On behalf of the party: Partit Occitan, Union Démocratique Bretonne and Unitat Catalana, french EFA members

### **Urgency motion: France against linguistic diversity.**

The French State continues to combat the use of regional languages spoken on its territory while perceiving them as a threat instead of a heritage to be protected, as stated in Article 75-1 of the Constitution.

Indeed, on April 18, four municipalities in Northern Catalonia were before the courts for having decided that their elected representatives could deliberate in Catalan, in writing and orally, by providing a translation into French.

Mister the Prefect, a local representative of the State, asked the court to annul this decision, invoking article 2 of the Constitution, which makes French the sole language of the Republic. We are currently awaiting the court's decision, but case law leaves little room for doubt about the decision.

Article 2 is invoked by the State whenever attempts are made to advance the rights of French citizens to use their regional languages in all areas including in public institutions, which represent the people.

Used recently against the Corsican Community and a few months ago to empty the so-called Molac law on languages of its content, Article 2 allows France not to apply on its territory principles that it claims to defend elsewhere: equal rights, respect for minorities, preservation of languages in serious danger of extinction.

The French state should change Article 2.

The European Free Alliance calls on France to allow French citizens to enjoy all their cultural and linguistic rights. These rights in no way contravene the republican principles that France intends to embody. A new wording of Article 2 of the Constitution could go as far as accepting the co-officiality of regional languages in their respective territories. A new article 2 and a ratification of the European Charter for Regional Languages would allow France to join the list of countries which, far from fearing their own linguistic diversity, make respect for linguistic rights one of the bases of social cohesion, living together and, in short, democratic quality.

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<sup>1</sup> [Rules of Internal Order. Article 7.2. Urgency motions.](#)

We call on all EU Member States to honour their commitments to the protection of regional and minority languages, in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.