



Recommendation 1043 (1986)¹

Europe's linguistic and literary heritage

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Drawing attention to the significant fact that Europe has developed as a cultural unity based on a diversity of interconnected languages, literary and cultural traditions ;
2. Recalling that language is not only a means of communication, but essentially a necessary way for countries and regions to maintain their identity and personality, and also a creative art, and thereby a basic medium of cultural expression of individuals and communities ;
3. Wishing to ensure the survival and continued creative richness of the European linguistic and literary heritage ;
4. Recalling earlier Council of Europe action relating to books, libraries and modern languages in Europe ;
5. Aware, however, of the new challenges and possible threats posed for many European languages by the rapid industrialisation of natural languages and the increased commercialisation of language products, as a consequence of the growing interface between these natural languages on the one hand and informatics and electronics on the other ;
6. Concerned also at the prospect of a more general decline in literacy in Europe as a result of increased reliance on the audiovisual as a means of communication ;
7. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
 - a. defend and encourage multilingualism in Europe, both in written material (whether in book or other form) and the audiovisual media ;
 - b. take active steps to safeguard Europe's linguistic and literary heritage, and encourage its continued creative development ;
 - c. encourage reading in Europe, while also combating illiteracy ;
 - d. urge the governments of member states to support through appropriate measures the development of the language industry and to initiate specific projects to further European co-operation in these fields
 - e. initiate specific projects to further European co-operation in these fields.

1. Assembly debate on 19 September 1986 (12th Sitting) (see [Doc. 5624](#), report of the Committee on Culture and Education). Text adopted by the Assembly on 19 September 1986 (12th Sitting).

