



## Recommendation 1135 (1990)<sup>1</sup>

# Literary translation

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly is concerned with the survival of the rich and diversified European literary tradition.
2. Its position has already been set out in [Recommendation 1043 \(1986\)](#) on Europe's linguistic and literary heritage.
3. Not only is literature in general threatened by the increasing development of the audiovisual media as the main means of communication, the commercialisation of books, and problems surrounding copyright and the status of the writer, but the literatures of minor languages are under particular threat.
4. The Assembly continues to favour linguistic diversity in Europe as expressed in [Recommendation 814 \(1977\)](#) on modern languages in Europe and is particularly aware of the problems of minor and minority languages (see [Recommendation 928 \(1981\)](#) and [Opinion No. 142 \(1988\)](#)). A colloquy was held on the subject in Warsaw in December 1989 by the Committee on Culture and Education.
5. Despite greatly increased knowledge of languages and general education, which have removed prejudice between countries, radically changed the attitudes of European nations towards one another and bridged the gaps between the different language areas and cultural islands in Europe, the translation of literary works remains an essential means of linking the different cultural areas of Europe.
6. Literary translation is particularly necessary for minor languages, in order that works written in these languages can be known more generally and that the public using these languages may have access to other literature.
7. Encouragement of literary translation, which can be distinguished from scientific and technical translation, must be part of an overall policy to promote literature and linguistic diversity.
8. The Council of Europe, in collaboration with other international bodies, should promote literature and literary exchange in Europe by specific action in support of literary translation.
9. The Assembly therefore asks the Committee of Ministers to :
  - a. set up a European fund for literary translation, involving bilateral or multilateral schemes for the mutual translation and promotion of literary works, and with particular emphasis on minor European languages ;
  - b. encourage the establishment of institutions for literary translators throughout Europe and co-ordinate co-operation between such institutions, writers and publishers in a European network.

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1. *Assembly debate* on 2 October 1990 (16th Sitting) (see [Doc. 6277](#), report of the Committee on Culture and Education, Rapporteur : Mr Arnalds). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 2 October 1990 (16th Sitting).

