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The need to amend Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly so as to establish German, Italian and Russian, which have hitherto been working languages, as official languages of the Assembly

Motion for a resolution

several Assembly members

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Assembly establishes English and French as the official languages of the Assembly. The Rules further specify that German, Italian and Russian are simply “working languages”.

As all Council of Europe documents are published in the two official languages only, many interested citizens of the member states are unable to keep abreast of political developments in the Assembly, let alone in committees.

Thus, the fact that Russian and German, the languages most widely spoken in mainland Europe, are not official languages of the Council of Europe is particularly detrimental to the standing of the Council of Europe as an institution in its Russian or German-speaking member countries. The fact that German and Russian, as well as Italian, have hitherto been working languages of the Assembly, result in the claim to also establish them as official languages of the Assembly. Furthermore, this present situation creates a language barrier which severely limits the exchange of information between the Council of Europe and citizens, NGOs and businesses, despite the digital information and communications technology deployed, for example, in connection with the Council of Europe website “assembly.coe.int”.

Increasing the number of official languages could also improve the effectiveness of individual members of the Assembly as there would no longer be any language barrier to prevent them from keeping their fellow citizens – and their counterparts in the national parliaments – informed of developments in the Assembly.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GRAF Martin, Austria, NR
ABBASOV Aydin, Azerbaijan, SOC
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
BARBI Mario, Italy, ALDE
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC
BILOZIR Oksana, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BOCQUET Eric, France, UEL
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD
BURYKINA Natalia, Russian Federation, EDG
CANEL Sylvia, Germany, ALDE
CARLONI Anna Maria, Italy, SOC
CHAGAF Ali Salem, Morocco
CHALOUPKA Otto, Czech Republic, EDG
CHERNYSHENKO Igor, Russian Federation
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, NR
CRISAFULLI Vladimiro, Italy, SOC
DEBONO GRECH Joseph, Malta, SOC
DONABAUER Karl, Austria, EPP/CD
DUMERY Daphné, Belgium, NR
FALZON Joseph, Malta, EPP/CD
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
FEDOROV Valeriy, Russian Federation, EDG
FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD
FOURNIER Bernard, France, EPP/CD
FRITZ Erich Georg, Germany, EPP/CD
GALATI Giuseppe, Italy
GAUDI NAGY Tamás, Hungary, NR
GUZMÁN SOTO Valentin, Mexico
HAGEN Christoph, Austria
HAKL Karin, Austria, EPP/CD
HARANGOZÓ Gábor, Hungary, SOC
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HÖRSTER Joachim, Germany, EPP/CD
HÜBINGER Anette, Germany, EPP/CD
HÜBNER Johannes, Austria, NR
HUSEYNOV Rafael, Azerbaijan, ALDE
IORDACHE Florin, Romania, SOC
ISLAMI Kastriot, Albania, SOC
IVANJI Željko, Serbia, EPP/CD
JAIME CORREA José Luis, Mexico
JONICA Snežana, Montenegro, SOC
JOVANOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, NR
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KAPETANOVIĆ Nermina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
KHADER Qais, Palestine
KOSACHEV Konstantin, Russian Federation, EDG
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
KRARUP Marie, Denmark, EDG
KUBOVIČ Pavol, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
LEIBRECHT Harald, Germany, ALDE
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EDG
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

MAISSEN Theo, Switzerland
MALGIERI Gennaro, Italy, EPP/CD
MARKOV Sergey, Russian Federation
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MELIKYAN Armen, Armenia
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC
MONTAG Jerzy, Germany, SOC
MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, NR
MULARONI Pier Marino, San Marino, ALDE
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NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
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O'SULLIVAN Maureen, Ireland, UEL
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OUKACHA Hassan, Morocco
PANȚIRU Tudor, Romania, SOC
PAPADIMITRIOU Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD
PIETERS Danny, Belgium, NR
PLOTNIKOV Oleksiy, Ukraine, SOC
POPESCU Ivan, Ukraine, SOC
POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
PYLYPENKO Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
RADETA Vjerica, Serbia, NR
RECORDON Luc, Switzerland, SOC
REILLY Kathryn, Ireland, UEL
REIMANN Maximilian, Switzerland, ALDE
RÖRING Johannes, Germany, EPP/CD
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SAKOVSKIS Aleksandrs, Latvia, SOC
SALHI Bassam, Palestine
SANNEN Ludo, Belgium, SOC
SANTINI Giacomo, Italy, EPP/CD
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
SCHENK Martina, Austria, NR
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
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SIEBERT Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD
SLUTSKY Leonid, Russian Federation, SOC
SPAHIĆ Ervin, Montenegro, SOC
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STRENZ Karin, Germany, EPP/CD
STUCCHI Giacomo, Italy, EDG
SZABÓ Vilmos, Hungary, SOC
TODOROVIĆ Dragan, Serbia, NR
UMAKHANOV Ilyas, Russian Federation, EDG
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VITALI Luigi, Italy, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
VUKČEVIĆ Zoran, Montenegro, SOC
VYATKIN Dmitry, Russian Federation, EDG
WADEPHUL Johann, Germany, EPP/CD
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC
ZAFFERANI Andrea, San Marino, ALDE

ZELLER Karl, Italy, EPP/CD