



## ***Liadh Ní Riada MEP / ELEN Hearing***

# **Respecting linguistic diversity? Language Discrimination in the European Union.**

**Date: Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.**

**Hosts: GUE-NGL and EFA-Greens in partnership with ELEN.**

**Location: European Parliament, JAN 2Q2, Brussels, Belgium.**

**Interpretation. Irish, Welsh, Catalan, Spanish, French, English.**

**8.30 -9.20 Registration and Signing In.**

**9.20 Opening session.**

**Welcome speech**

Liadh Ní Riada MEP, Davyth Hicks (ELEN Secretary-General).

**Introductory Remarks**

Jill Evans MEP, Jordi Sebastià MEP, Josep-Maria Terricabras MEP, Josu Juaristi MEP, Marina Albiol MEP, Ramon Tremosa MEP (Moderator Davyth Hicks).

## 10.10 The international development of linguistic rights

**Keynote: “Overcoming language discrimination, the global development of language rights.”** Mr Rob Dunbar, Roinn na Ceiltis is Eòlas na h-Alba, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada).

## 10.25 Language Rights and Discrimination in Europe (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada)

**“Respecting linguistic diversity? Language discrimination in Europe.”** Mr Davyth Hicks (ELEN)

- “Irish in the Six Counties,” Ms Carál Ní Chuilín, Minister for Culture.\*
- “Language speakers’ rights, revisiting the 1998 OSCE Recommendations,” Mr Miquel Strubell, Linguapax International.
- “Protecting Irish language rights,” Mr Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Coimisinéir Teanga / Irish Language Commissioner.
- “Linguistic supremacism,” Mr Ferran Suay (Acció Cultural del País Valencià (ACPV) / Universitat de València).
- “Invisibilising the language minority in policy,” Mr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin (Soillse, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean).

## 11.50 COFFEE

## 12.0 Case studies on language discrimination (Moderator Marina Albiol)

- **Breton:** Mr Tangi Louarn (President, Kevre Breizh and ELEN-EBLUL France).
- **Catalan:** Ms Neus Mestres (Director, Plataforma per la Llengua)
- **Irish:** Mr Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin (Advocacy Manager, Conradh na Gaeilge)
- **Welsh:** Ms Tamsin Davies (Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg).
- **Basque:** Mr Paul Bilbao-Sarria (Secretary-General, Kontseilua)
- **Hungarian in Slovakia:** Mr János Fiala (Szlovákiai Magyarok Keresztala)
- **Hungarian in Romania:** Ms Krisztina Sándor (Erdélyi Magyar Nemzeti Tanács).
- **Occitan:** Mr Alexis Quentin (Institut Estudis Occitan).

## LUNCH 13.30

**15.00 European and International Norms on regional or minority language rights: are they sufficient?** (Moderators Liadh Ní Riada, Josu Juaristi)

- Ms Iryna Ulasiuk, OSCE HCNM.
- Ms Belen Rodriguez de Alba, UN OHCHR, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section.
- Mr Sixto Molina, Council of Europe, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), Head of Secretariat.
- Ms Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion, Council of Europe, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), Secretariat.
- Ms Kristina Cunningham, EU Commission, DG Education and Culture, Multilingualism.

**16.15 Case study on the cultural importance of language in terms of linguistic rights**  
Mr Liam Ó Maolaodha, Oireachtas na Gaeilge (Moderator Liadh).

**16.25 COFFEE**

**16.35 Solutions** (Moderator, Josep-Maria Terricabras MEP)

- A new alternative **“The Protocol to Ensure Language Rights”** created by contributions from civil society - the way forward for establishing substantive linguistic rights. Paul Bilbao-Sarria, Kontseilua.
- **Better implementation of existing mechanisms, the ECRML, FCNM, ECHR.**  
Sixto Molina (CoE ECRML), Jill Evans MEP (EP Intergroup / CULT Cttee), Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion (CoE FCNM), Kristina Cunningham (EU Commission), Belen Rodriguez de Alba (UN OHCHR).
- **Languages Directive, new legislation?**  
Rob Dunbar: Best practices in protecting languages against discrimination.  
Davyth Hicks: An EU Directive for regional, minority or endangered languages?
- **Better promotion in the media of linguistic rights**  
Mr Maitiú Ó Coimín (Tuarisc.ie).

**17.20 Discussion.** (Moderator, Liadh Ní Riada).

**17.30 Concluding Speech: “Dealing with language discrimination and ensuring linguistic rights in the EU.”** Liadh Ní Riada MEP (Moderator Davyth Hicks)

**17.45 Close.**

**Registration**

The hearing is open to the public. In order to gain entry participants are requested to register at least seven working days before the event at: <http://www.greens-efa.eu/events/registrations/796-respecting-linguistic-diversity.html>

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