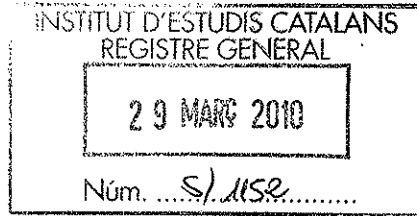




Salvador Giner

President



Institut  
d'Estudis  
Catalans

March 29, 2010

Ms. Androulla Vassiliou  
European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth  
European Commission  
BERL 10/106  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Bèlgica

Dear Ms. Vassiliou,

I am writing to you as President of the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans*, the academy of sciences and humanities of Catalonia, based in Barcelona, a member of the Union Académique Internationale since 1922. Our academy is also, by law, the official body representing and establishing the lexicographical, grammatical and syntactic rules of the Catalan language. Catalan is a language spoken and officially recognised in different territories of four European states: Spain, Andorra, France and Italy.

The European Commission has decided to suppress the post of translator of Catalan at the Barcelona office of the European Union. This is a serious decision. The post existed since January 2007. It has proven to be crucially important for all the activities of the Office in Barcelona. It may be interpreted as a gesture of ignorance towards the area covered by the said Office: Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. It contradicts the policy of proximity towards the European citizenry the European Commission pretends to follow.

The presence of a Catalan translator in Barcelona is essential if you wish to maintain good relations with the citizens of this country, whose European loyalties are intense. On the other hand the decision to suppress the post contradicts the spirit and the letter of the European Chart of minority and regional languages. Likewise, it runs counter to the policy of multilingualism within the Union. About 10 million people speak and have Catalan as an official or co-official language.

I am confident that you will take the necessary steps to redress this alarming situation. I sincerely hope that the decision to suppress the post of translator to and from Catalan will not be interpreted as a sign of hostility to an ancient and lively language and culture. In order to avoid that possibility, I do hope that you will correct the situation that has arisen as a consequence of the decision taken by the Commission.

Your faithfully,

Prof. Dr. Salvador Giner  
President  
Institut d'Estudis Catalans

CC: Viviane Reding, Vice-president of the European Commission.