

The European Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD)

Press release

Brussels, 12 July 2016

The Chair of NPLD and Vice-minister for Language Policy of the Basque Country, Patxi Baztarrika, will meet the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Tibor Navracsics, to discuss the Commission's lines of action on regional and minority languages in Europe

The Chair of the **NPLD** and Vice-minister for Language Policy of the Basque Country, Patxi Baztarrika, and **Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Tibor Navracsics** will be meeting on 14th of July to discuss the European Commission's lines of action the promotion of regional and minority languages of Europe. The meeting takes place after the hearing of Commissioner Navracsics before the **European Parliament's Intergroup on Languages** in which he made a firm statement in support of multilingualism, with a special reference to Europe's regional and minority languages. "There is no contradiction between preserving our regional and minority languages on the one hand and promoting the learning of additional languages that open up new horizons in today's interconnected world on the other. This is the objective of the European Commission's multilingualism policy" – he claimed.

The Chair will be accompanied by the **two Vice-chairs** of NPLD, **Sabrina Rasom**, from the Ladin language community in the Fassa Valley (Italy), and **Alex Riemersma**, from the Frisian language community in **Friesland (the Netherlands)**. They will be presenting to the Commissioner the **NPLD's Roadmap for Linguistic Diversity**, a consensus document elaborated by 14 State and regional governments with minority language communities, universities and associations from across Europe. The Roadmap is a practical proposal with concrete policy actions on multilingualism addressed to the EU institutions, which adopts an inclusive approach to multilingualism beyond the 24 EU official languages.

The Chair and Vice-chairs will also give an overview of the different initiatives being currently developed across many regional language communities **to link their language communities and regions with the European Commission's priorities on growth, competitiveness and job creation**. Examples include the recent study "**The Value and Economic Impact of Basque**", promoted by the Basque Government, or the "**Economic Benefits associated with the Irish Language which accrue to Galway City**", among many others.

Call for media

European Commission. Berlaymont building.

14th July at 9.45am.

Contacts:

Vicent CLIMENT-FERRANDO, policy advisor: M: +32 (0) 496 286 342

Eva SOMS BACH, network coordinator: M: +32 (0) 496 286 343

Rue de la Pépinière | Boomkwekerijstraat, 1, 3 -1000 Brussels (Belgium)

About the European Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) is a European network working in the field of language policy and language planning for Constitutional, Regional and Small-State Languages (CRSS) across Europe. The NPLD includes governments, both state and regional, universities, research institutes and associations as its members.

The NPLD works to ensure the languages spoken in Europe – international, national, regional, minority, endangered but also migrant languages – are all seen as valuable assets and a source of personal, social and economic development, which need to be supported and promoted.

The NPLD is currently working on different lines of action:

- ✓ Linking CRSS languages to growth, job creation and competitiveness.
- ✓ Ensuring effective integration of migrants through multilingual policy planning (State, regional but also migrant languages).
- ✓ Linking CRSS languages to new technologies and social media.
- ✓ Raising awareness of the importance of all languages for personal and societal development as well as for social cohesion and mutual understanding.

These lines of action are included in the **European Roadmap for Linguistic Diversity**, the NPLD's base document for the period 2016-2020, which aims to raise the profile and visibility of all the languages of Europe and include them in the EU policies for growth, progress, social cohesion and dialogue. The NPLD has its offices in Brussels.

NPLD Structure

The NPLD's structure comprises **three bodies** within the Network: the **Chair's Committee**, the **Steering Committee** and the **General Assembly**.

The current NPLD Chair is Mr. **Patxi Baztarrika**, Deputy-Minister for Language Policy of the Basque Country (Spain) and the Vice-chairs are **Sabrina Rasom**, responsible for the Ladin Language, Province of Trento (Italy) and **Alex Riemersma**, professor, Frisian language, Friesland (the Netherlands).

Members of the NPLD include **full members** and **associate members**.

NPLD Full members

The NPLD has currently **14 full members** from **7 EU Member States** and representing **11 languages**. They comprise State, regional governments and regional public bodies. They are the following:

Full members		
Institution	Language	Member State
Government of Ireland	Irish	Ireland
The Swedish Assembly of Finland	Swedish	Finland
Public Office for the Breton Language	Breton	France
Government of Corsica	Corsican	France
Government of Galicia	Galician	Spain
Government of Catalonia	Catalan	Spain
Government of Valencia	Catalan in Valencia	Spain
Government of Friesland	Frisian	The Netherlands
Government of Wales	Welsh	UK
Government of the Basque Country	Basque	Spain
Province of Bizkaia	Basque	Spain
Government of Navarre	Basque	Spain
Government of the Province of Trento/Fassa Valley	Ladin	Italy
Government of Friuli Venezia Giulia/Agency for Friulian Language	Friulian	Italy

NPLD Associate members

NPLD has **22 associate members** from **8 EU Member States** plus **Norway**, which includes universities, research centres and associations:

Associate Members		
Institution	Language	Member State
Fryske Akademy	Frisian	The Netherlands
EDESSA Macedonian Education and Culture in Greece	Macedonian	Greece
Bangor University	Welsh	UK
Glór Na nGael	Irish	Ireland
URDD Gobaith Cymru	Welsh	UK
Cornish Language Partnership	Cornish	UK
Europeesk Buro Foar Lytsen Talen (EBLT)	Frisian	The Netherlands
Iaith Cyf	Welsh	UK
Welsh National College	Welsh	UK
Aurten Bai Foundation	Basque	Spain
Cardiff University	Welsh	UK
Noregs Mallag	Nynorsk	Norway
Institut d'Estudis Occitans	Occitan	France
University of the Highlands and Islands/Soillse	Gaelic	UK
Stockholm University	Swedish	Sweden
The Archives of the Swedish Finns	Swedish	Finland
Conseil départemental du Finistère	Breton	France
Cluster on Sociolinguistics	Basque	Spain
Convergència Occitana	Occitan	Spain
University of Wales	Welsh	UK
Welsh Language Initiative	Welsh	UK
Hecla	Gaelic	UK