



Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 8 September 2026

Honourable President von der Leyen,

Ahead of your State of the Union address, we call on the European Commission to take decisive action for Europe's traditional national and linguistic minorities. We care deeply about how Europe is shaped – and about how its traditional national and linguistic minorities live and thrive within it. We aim to build on our historical milestones, such as including minority rights in Article 2 TEU and advancing the Minority SafePack Initiative, which received overwhelming support in the European Parliament.

As we prepare the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), it is essential that the needs and realities of minority communities are reflected in the EU's future priorities and funding. Specifically, it is crucial that the new MFF allocates dedicated, additional funding for the preservation and promotion of national minority languages and cultures.

Communities across the continent – including Basques, Bretons, Catalans, Danes in Germany, Frisians, Galicians, Hungarians in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine, Poles in Lithuania, Silesians in Poland, Slovenians in Austria, South Tyroleans, Sorbs, Swedish-speaking Finns, Valencians, the German-speaking community in Belgium, and many others – face pressing modern challenges. Their priorities range from the effects of climate change on rural economies to the youth's need for education and digital access in their native languages. Our citizens do not ask for privileges; they simply wish to use their languages, preserve their cultures, and feel fully equal and at home in Europe.

While we recognise that not every issue falls within EU competences, political leadership and small steps at European level make a real difference. Millions of citizens need a clear signal that the Union cherishes their contribution to its diversity. We therefore call on you to make a significant impact by developing a comprehensive European strategy for traditional national and linguistic minorities.

Dear President von der Leyen, you can make a lasting difference: by developing a European strategy for traditional national and linguistic minorities.

For us, and for them, it is high time to live up to our motto: United in Diversity.

We very much count on your support.

Yours sincerely,

Loránt VINCZE, Chair of the Minority Intergroup

Anna-Maja HENRIKSSON, Vice-Chair of the Minority Intergroup

Łukasz KOHUT, Vice-Chair of the Minority Intergroup

Vicent MARZÀ IBÁÑEZ, Vice-Chair of the Minority Intergroup

Annamária VICSEK, Vice-Chair of the Minority Intergroup

Kinga GÁL, Honorary President of the Minority Intergroup

Oihane AGIRREGOITIA MARTÍNEZ, Member of the Minority Intergroup

Rasmus ANDRESEN, Member of the Minority Intergroup

Pascal ARIMONT, Member of the Minority Intergroup

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Taner KABILOV, Member of the Minority Intergroup

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Isabelle LE CALLENNEC, Member of the Minority Intergroup

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Cynthia NÍ MHURCHÚ, Member of the Minority Intergroup

Diana RIBA I GINER, Member of the Minority Intergroup

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Viktor WEISZ, Member of the Minority Intergroup

Iuliu WINKLER, Member of the Minority Intergroup