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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.3.2025)

Promoting the rich cultural diversity of Europe is a key work strand of the EU. The Commission is fully aware of the importance that citizens give to this subject. The 2024 Eurobarometer on 'Europeans and their languages' showed that 85% of the citizens considered that regional and minority languages should be protected.

As regards the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Commission has no role in the implementation of that Charter. It is for the Council of Europe to monitor compliance and provide guidance in view of ensuring that the members fulfil their obligations under the Charter.

The Commission's Communication in reply to the Minority SafePack initiative¹ considered that no further legal acts were necessary, since the full implementation of legislation and policies already in place were sufficient to support the initiative's goals. Also, the Commission has no competence on the regime governing the use of regional or minority languages in Member States.

The Commission is committed to promoting linguistic diversity and is funding projects with this aim through the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes. Some examples can be found in the 2024 publication 'Linguistic diversity in the European Union'². The Commission is also continuing its cooperation on this subject with the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML).

The Horizon Europe programme also provides research opportunities in relation to cultural and linguistic diversity, in particular under Cluster 2 'Culture, creative and inclusive society'. Several relevant projects are ongoing.

¹ https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2017/000004/minority-safepack-one-million-signatures-diversity-europe_en

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d325c589-011a-11ef-a251-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>