

S P A I N

SECTION A

Capital

Madrid 3,029,734 (1995 est.)

Area

504,782 sq km (194,897 sq mi) including the African and insular territories

Form of government

Constitutional monarchy

GDP—per capita

Purchasing power parity—\$17,300 (1999 est.)

Population

39,167,744 (July 1999 est.)

Ethnic composition

Spanish	74.4%
Catalan	16.9%
Galician	6.4%
Basque	1.6%
Other	0.7%

Official language

Spanish (Castilian)

Minority languages

ARAGONESE is spoken by about 30,000 people in a few Pyrenean valleys.

ASTURIAN is spoken throughout the Principality of Asturias, except for the area bordering Galicia where a natural mixture of the Galician and Asturian languages occurs. Asturian is also spoken in the north and west parts of the Province of Castile-León, but there is no official cooperation between the Asturian and Leonese regional governments as regards language promotion.

BASQUE (Euskara) is spoken in parts of the provinces of Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa, and Araba, which make up the Autonomous Basque Community. It is also spoken in the Autonomous Community of Navarre (Nafarroa) as well as in the northern part of the Basque Country in France (Labourd, Basse-Navarre and Soule), Lapurdi, Behe-Nafarroa and Zuberoa. According to the 1991 census, about 25% of the population of the Autonomous Basque Community (around 515,000 people), and about 11% of the population of Autonomous Community of Navarre (roughly 50,000 people) speak Basque.

CATALAN is spoken in four Autonomous Communities, viz. Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia and also in a part of Aragon. According to the 1996 census, 95% of the population of Catalonia understands Catalan, and about 79% can speak it. According to the 1986 census 90% of the population on the Balearic Islands understands Catalan and 72% speak it. While in Valencia 74% of the population understand Catalan and nearly 50% also speak it.

GALICIAN is spoken in the autonomous community of Galicia (provinces of Coruna, Lugo, Ourense and Pontevedra), as well as in the Asturias/Galicia and Castile-León /Galicia border regions. According to the 1991 census, 91% of the 2,753,000 inhabitants of the autonomous community of Galicia understand Galician, and 84% also speak it. However, the same census also indicates that only 48% use the language all the time. Of the 90,000 people living in the Asturias/Galicia and Castile-León /Galicia border regions, about 45% normally communicate in Galician.

OCCITAN is spoken in Val d'Aran, a Pyrenean valley on the French-Spanish border, which is an administrative part of Catalonia. Three variants of the language exist: northern Occitan, central or southern Occitan, and Gascon. The Occitan (Aranese) spoken in the Val d'Aran (Aran Valley) is a variant of Gascon (differing in certain aspects from the Gascon spoken to the north of the Pyrenees, these differences that are mostly attributable to the influence of Castilian and Catalan). According to 1996 census, 64.85% of the inhabitants (6,000) can speak Aranese and 90.05% can understand it.

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

The Constitution of Spain

ARAGONESE is protected by the *Statute of the Autonomous Region of Aragon*.

ASTURIAN is recognized and protected by the *Statute of Autonomy of Asturias* but is not recognized as an official language.

BASQUE is protected by *The Statute of Autonomy of Basque Country (1979)*, which states that both Basque and Castilian (Spanish) are official languages. *The Law on the Standardization and Use of Euskera (Statute No 10/1982)* stipulates numerous provisions on the use of the language in administration, education and the media. An office for linguistic policy was also created to coordinate all efforts to promote the language.

According to the implementation of the *Plan of Normalization of the Use of the Basque Language in the Public Administration* for the period 1998-2000, the Basque government has recently regulated (March 2000) the functions and competences of its Official Service of Translators. This official body, which was created as a consequence of Article 12 of the Basic Law 10/1982, will be entrusted with the progressive setting out of the standardization and diffusion of a modern judicial and administrative language in Basque. This recent regulation specifies as well the role to be played by the Official Service of Translators as a public service. It also dictates foreign activities, and the need for a judicial equivalence for translations, granted its relevance within the Basque legal framework, in which both Basque and Spanish are co-official languages. The regulation also establishes criteria for a terminological equivalence in translations from and into Basque, to enable public employees to carry out bilingual work, the document attempts to balance the function of both languages in the administrative field.

The *Statute of the Navarre Autonomous Community (Navarra)(1982)* states that Castilian is the official language and that Basque also has official status in the Basque-speaking as well as in mixed areas. A *1986 Language Act* defines the limits of these zones, allowing Basque to be used for official purposes in the Basque-speaking zones, and for some purposes in other areas.

CATALAN is protected by the *Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia (4/1979)*, which states that Catalan and Castilian are the official languages in Catalonia. The *Law 7/1983 on Language Standardization in Catalonia*

was recently replaced by the *Act on Linguistic Policy of 1998 (Act No 1, January 7)*.

The Statute of Autonomy of the Balearic Islands (2/1983) states that Catalan and Castilian have equal status on the islands. *The Linguistic Normalization Act (3/1986)* passed by the Balearic Parliament in 1986 aims at making Catalan the normal working language of administration and the normal medium of instruction in schools.

The Statute of Autonomy of the Valencian Community (5/1982) specifies that the official languages of the region are Valencian, the name given by the Statute of Autonomy to the Catalan variety spoken in Valencia, and Castilian. In 1983 the *Act on Use and Teaching of Valencian (4/1983)* was passed to encourage and spread the use of the language.

GALICIAN is protected by the *Galician Autonomy Statute (1982)*, which specifies that both Galician and Castilian are the official languages. *The Galician Linguistic Standardization Act (1983)* promotes Galician in all domains of society. The regional government of Galicia also encourages the teaching and use of Galician in other regions where the language is spoken as a vernacular (e.g. Asturias and Castile-León).

ARANESE is the official language of the Val d'Aran, together with Catalan and Spanish.

Background notes

Spain's powerful world empire of the 16th and 17th centuries ultimately yielded command of the seas to England. Subsequent failure to embrace the mercantile and industrial revolutions caused the country to fall behind Britain, France, and Germany in economic and political power. Spain remained neutral in World Wars I and II, but suffered through a devastating Civil War (1936-39). In the second half of the 20th century, it has played a catch-up role in the western international community. Continuing concerns are large-scale unemployment and the Basque separatist movement.

The Spanish people are essentially a mixture of the indigenous peoples of the Iberian Peninsula with the successive peoples who conquered the peninsula and occupied it for extended periods. These added ethnologic elements include the Romans, a Mediterranean people, and the Suevi, Vandals, Visigoths (Goths), and Teutonic peoples. Semitic elements are also present. The populations of several regions in Spain have kept a separate identity, culturally and linguistically. These include the Basques, who number about 2.1 million and live chiefly around the Bay of Biscay; the Galicians (about 2.5 million), who live in northwestern Spain; and the Catalans of eastern and northeastern Spain. The nomadic

Spanish Gypsies, who are also called Gitanos, are also a separate ethnic group.

SECTION B

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

The Law of the Catalan Language, approved by the Catalan regional legislature (Generalitat) in 1998, stipulates the use of CATALAN as the official language in local government and administrative offices, regional courts, publicly owned corporations, and private companies subsidized by the Catalan regional government. Spanish-speaking citizens are provided with the right to be dealt with by public officials in Spanish. The legislation also establishes minimum quotas for Catalan-language radio and television programming. Many activists in Catalan's Spanish-speaking community criticized the law for discriminating against Spanish-speaking citizens and imposing "linguistic hegemony" on a diverse population. The Civic Catalan Coexistence, headed by a right-wing Catalan MEP Aleix Vidal –Quadras, delivered a petition last December (1999) to the European Parliament in which they demanded an investigation on the hypothetical infringement of the rights of the Spanish-speakers by the Catalan institutions. The Parliament's Petitions Committee (PETI) has thrown out such allegations of discrimination against Spanish speakers in Catalonia. This decision, taken in Brussels in September 2000, put an end to the attempts of the far right in Catalonia to obstruct initiatives in favor of Catalan through European institutions.

In GALICIA, student unions, professors, and parents were getting together in a campaign which aimed to denounce the lack of fulfillment of the 247/95 Act on Teaching in Galician. According to this movement, the linguistic legislation non-fulfillment is constant within the Galician community and it is the people, with their claims and denunciations who have to ask for a real application of the prevailing legislation in linguistic matters.

ASTURIAN unlike other languages of the autonomous regions in Spain is not recognized in the Asturian Statute of Autonomy as a co-official language. Although the fourth Article of this Statute states that such language must be protected and promoted, there has never been a real political decision favoring this provision. Many civil associations are calling for the regulation of this article by a law, which may guarantee the presence of this language in education and media. However, the steps towards making this law are still being taken very slowly. Despite

this fact, the Parliament has approved the procedural stage for a project to create a public television and radio broadcasting institution in Asturias. This would be an opportunity for a wider presence of this language in mass media.

On May 2 1999 the political groups of the Popular Party and Socialist Party (PSOE) in the Asturian Parliament voted in favor of an initiative aimed at supporting the creation of a university degree in Asturian Philology at the University of Oviedo. Although the initiative was unanimously approved, the Congress of Deputies in Madrid rejected it on the 20th of September 2000. A green paper submitted by the left-wing party Izquierda Unida concerning the same proposal, which was then voted against by the same political parties that approved it in the Asturian local Parliament. Both BNG (Galician) and CiU (Catalan) nationalist groups abstained from the vote. Nonetheless, this is not the first time such a proposal has been dismissed. Two years ago, the Spanish Council of Universities rejected it on the grounds that Asturian was not actually a language. Such a decision from the Council seems to be the main reason for the political parties' rejection. This news was received with indignation and surprise by the organizations for the promotion and development of the language, as well as by many members from the academic spheres.

According to a survey carried out by the University of the Basque Country, which monitors changes in social parameters twice a year, almost a third of young BASQUE people between the ages of 18 and 25 would leave the Basque country to work elsewhere, if they were offered the same conditions of work and pay. Most of the young people who commented were university students. Many of these students have been taught in Basque schools and represent the larger part of the Basque speakers among the young. If the renewed violence in the Basque country does lead to an exodus of graduates, the region would be facing a brain drain with serious consequences for the future. Seventy per cent of Basques say they live in constant fear of the violence. The militant Basque separatist organization ETA has been waging a terrorist campaign for three decades in effort to create an independent Basque homeland encompassing parts of northern Spain and southern France. More than 800 people have been killed. The Basque language Euskera is claimed to be a central issue in the fight for Basque identity.

ARAGON speaking community is also calling for a law on languages. The linguistic situation in Aragon throughout the last years has been characterized by the vindication from the Aragonese and Catalan speaking communities of an official recognition by the autonomous institutions of both Catalan and Aragonese languages in their corresponding areas of predominance. The reformation of the Statute of

Autonomy, although it did not explicitly mention either of the two languages, recognized the existence in Aragon of “languages and linguistic varieties” other than Spanish, which should be the object of protection concerning their use as well as their presence in education. Such measures should be regulated by the Aragonese Congress through the law that is now being called for from several public spheres.

Regional governments in Spain, which do not have any jurisdiction in justice, have long been critical of the reluctance of the judiciary to demand the use of regional languages in courts. The General Council of the Judiciary in Spain rejected a proposal in July 2000, which would have led to a wider use of Basque, Catalan and Galician in courts in areas where these languages are spoken. The proposal called for the “progressive application of criteria”, which would have obliged members of the judiciary to learn the language of a community where they were working. The proposal also called for arrangements to be made for members of the judiciary to be able to study the required languages.

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

ARAGONESE

Today the presence of the language at institutional level practically does not exist, nor is it used in local administration.

Aragonese is only taught in some schools in a very small number of towns as a voluntary extra-curricular subject.

The language has a token presence in radio but is non-existent in television. In the written media it has a stronger presence with some magazines being printed in the language and appearing infrequently. A newspaper published in North Aragon includes a weekly supplement in Aragonese.

ASTURIAN

Only some departments in the Autonomous Community Administration accept documents written in Asturian. The language is rarely used in courts, legislative texts or public signs.

At present, the language is used in some pre-primary and primary schools as a medium of instruction and is optionally available as a subject at the primary and secondary levels. It is available as an option in the teacher-training colleges and at the University of Oviedo. The language is also taught to adults, and the regional government funds these efforts.

Television programs in Asturian, practically speaking, do not exist (a few minutes per day). Radio programs are more frequent. There is one weekly newspaper in Asturian, "Les Noticias". Other newspapers publish some extracts in the language. A few magazines are published in Asturian. Media initiatives are supported financially by the government.

BASQUE

- In Autonomous Basque Community

Any citizen has the right to deal with the administration in Basque. Many administrative documents are published in both languages. The government and public administrations decide for which posts in administration knowledge of Basque is required. Although constant efforts are being made, as yet, the language has not become the normal working language of the administration. Everyone has the right to use the language in court, and the judicial authorities have to provide a translator, if needed. However, court cases are held in Spanish.

Law No. 10 of November 24, 1982, entitled "the Basic Law on Normalization of the Basque Language Use", recognizes a pupil's right to be taught in both Basque and Spanish at all educational levels up to University level. The 1983 Decree on Bilingualism created the following 4 different linguistic models, which are still valid in the education system:

Model X: Teaching is entirely in Spanish

Model A: The Basque language is a language subject

Model C: Approximately 50% of all subjects are taught in Basque and the other 50% in Spanish

Model D: All teaching is in Basque with Spanish taught as a language subject

It is also possible to complete a teacher-training course entirely in Basque. Attempts are also being made to offer university courses entirely in Basque. The Basque government has also set up an institution to organize the teaching of Basque for adults and to support initiatives made in this field by other institutions.

There are about a dozen private radio stations broadcasting in the Basque language. The public radio station "Euskadi Irratia", which can be heard in the entire Basque-speaking territory (including Nafarroa/Navarre) and the French Basque Country broadcasts in Basque only. In 1982 a television service in Basque was set up by the Basque autonomous government, broadcasting for the entire Basque-speaking

region and nowadays for the whole Basque Country on both sides of the border. This has had a tremendous impact on the revival and the standardization of the language. Two daily newspapers publish 20% of their articles in Basque. There is one daily newspaper (Euskaldunon Egunkaria) published entirely in Basque, which is funded by popular subscription.

- In Navarra (The Navarre Autonomous Community)

The 1986 language act stipulated that all government decisions and resolutions be published in both the Basque and Castilian languages, but it has not been practiced.

A Basque Translation Service has been established within the administration, for all citizens to use Basque in their dealings with the administration. Everyone has the right to use the language in court, and the judicial authorities have to provide a translator, if needed. However, trials are held in Spanish.

The Community of Navarra has established a Basque Teaching Service. It subsidizes and supports the teaching of Basque in all schools of the Basque-speaking zone and in other schools in Navarra where there is a demand. Navarra is divided into three linguistic zones for the purpose of primary and secondary education. These range from the strong Basque-speaking areas, where almost 83% of students are taught in Basque and have Spanish as one of their subjects, to areas where the number of Basque-speaking students accounts for just 25%, to the Spanish speaking areas of Navarra, where only four per cent of students are taught through the Basque language. The Navarre Parliament has received a petition, signed by 48,000 people, which asks the Parliament to debate the reform of the Basque Language Law, with a view to creating just one language zone in the region, in place of the three currently existing. The petition asks the Parliament to make Basque an official language throughout Navarra.

The amount of Basque used on local radio stations and on the regional Spanish television is minimal, but broadcasts from the Basque Community can be received without much difficulty. There are half a dozen private radio stations broadcasting in Basque. There is one daily newspaper ("Euskaldunon Egunkaria") published entirely in Basque, which is funded by popular subscription.

The UZEI (Unibertsitate Zerbitzuetako Euskal Ikastetxea), a Basque language center, which carries out terminological and lexicographical studies aimed at contributing to the standardization of the Basque language, is working on four new dictionaries. The intention is to solve

many of the problems encountered by those wishing to use Basque in computing. The center is producing a dictionary of Basque for Windows and another for the Internet. The center will also publish a dictionary of legal terms and another of geographical terms. The contribution of UZEI to the standardization of Basque has been immense since its creation as a non-profit-organization in 1977. It has received public funding since 1987, but the real effects of its work and of that of others in the same area has been seen over the last ten years, according to the director of UZEI.

CATALAN

- In Catalonia

Public officials and civil servants must have knowledge of Catalan. However, each citizen has the right to use either Castilian or Catalan when dealing with the administration. Official documents are published in both languages. Catalan can be used in court, although this is often hampered by a lack of knowledge of the language among the judiciary.

The 1983 Act stipulates that Catalan should be the normal language of education at all levels. However, if the language of the home is Castilian, children may receive the first years of their education in that language. These provisions are being implemented gradually. By 1990 about 30% of the pupils were educated entirely through Catalan. Teacher training is available in the language. Catalan is the official language of the three Catalan universities, but any student or professor is entitled to use either Castilian or Catalan. There is also an extensive network of adult education programs in the language. According to the Generalitat (the Catalan Government), in practice, Catalan universities offer on average 60% of their classes in Catalan and 40% in Spanish.

In radio and television broadcasting some stations use both languages and some of the stations broadcast in Castilian or Catalan only. A number of daily and weekly newspapers and other periodicals are published entirely in Catalan. In addition, some Spanish-language newspapers carry articles in the language.

- On the Balearic Islands

Catalan is the language normally used on signposts, policy documents, public information notices etc. Administrative forms and documents are available in both languages. In the regional Parliament the majority of the representatives express themselves in Catalan.

At present the language is taught in all schools and at all levels, but only for a limited number of hours. The number of schools where Catalan is used as a medium of teaching is very small.

The Balearic government has passed a new decree (125/2000, of September 8, 2000) to regulate the pre-school, primary and secondary education. The decree states that the Catalan language is to be both the teaching and the administrative language. Apart from fostering its use in all these education levels, the decree also refers to each school's "linguistic projects" as well as to "individual linguistic rights", which may lead to some variation in the use of Catalan in those centers in which there are children from immigrant families, mainly in Palma de Mallorca.

It is possible to receive the broadcasts of the Catalan and Valencian television channels on the islands. The presence of Catalan on radio is limited to a few hours a day. Several newspapers are published in the Balearic Islands but only one is entirely in Catalan. There are some periodicals in the language, and some towns publish local papers in Catalan.

- In Valencia

The language has a limited presence in public administration. It is used on signposts, policy documents, public information notices etc., often in conjunction with Castilian. However, the Valencian public administration itself makes little use of the language in its working procedures.

Parallel classes through Valencian have been introduced in the schools. In 1990 about 5% of all schools had such Valencian "streams". At the universities both Castilian and Catalan are official languages and either may be used in any circumstance, although Castilian is the majority language.

In the Valencian Community, the debate on the non-implementation of the law allowing bilingual education still goes on. This is due to the lack of teachers required to certify their knowledge of Catalan (Valencian in autonomous legislation) by the right wing Popular Party government.

The use of Valencian in the audiovisual media is limited. Some local radio stations broadcast in Valencian.

GALICIAN

Members of the public can use the Galician language in their dealings with the administration. It is also possible to use this language in court. Public officials must have a working knowledge of Galician. Official documents are published in both the Galician and Castilian languages.

Most representatives in the regional Parliament use Galician during their debates. In the offices of the autonomous government (Xunta de Galicia), Galician is used almost exclusively for both oral and written purposes. The language is also used in the local administration of a large number of municipalities. Only regional offices of state administration (including the judiciary) in Galicia use Galician sporadically. Generally, public signs are in the two languages.

Those applying for jobs in the regional government of Galicia will no longer have to pass a test in the Galician language, so long as they can present a certificate showing that they have basic skills in the language. The certificates, replacing the language exam, can be obtained after completing a sixty-hour language course. Critics of the new rules on tests for civil servants say the decision to eliminate the language test for civil servants undermine the positive steps that have been taken to protect Galician in the past. The “Mesa por la Normalización Lingüística”, a non-governmental group that watches over matters affecting language policy in Galicia, has warned that this is a step in the wrong direction. It announced it would continue its contacts with those responsible for language issues to try and resolve the problem.

According to the 1983 Language Act, Galician is the official language of all educational institutions. It stipulates that at pre-primary level and during the first two years of primary school the mother tongue of the pupils (either Galician or Castilian) should be used as the teaching medium. From the ages of eight to fourteen pupils should be taught through Castilian, with Galician being taught as a subject and used as a teaching medium in at least one subject. The Act specifies further that at the secondary level, the language be taught as a subject and used as a teaching medium in two other subjects. At present, all primary schools teach the language as a subject, but only 67% of the schools also use it as a teaching medium for one subject. Nearly all secondary schools teach Galician as a subject, but only 30% also teach two other subjects through the language. Teachers who want to enter primary or secondary teaching posts have to pass an exam in Galician. Language courses are organized for practicing teachers. Prospective teachers are trained to teach Galician and to use the language as a medium of instruction. At the universities Galician is rarely used as a teaching medium, except for courses in Galician Philology. It is also taught as a subject in other faculties. About 20% of the university professors use the language as a teaching medium. Adult courses in Galician exist primarily for public officials who need to have knowledge of the language.

A public television channel, which is controlled by the autonomous government, broadcasts in Galician. The regional station of state public television provides additional hours. A public radio station set up by the

autonomous government of Galicia broadcasts entirely in the language. There are also some other radio stations, both private and public, with Galician broadcasts a few hours per day. There is no daily newspaper in the language. However, one weekly paper is published entirely in Galician, and there are quite a number of other periodicals in the language. Some Castilian-language newspapers also carry articles in Galician.

OCCITAN (ARANESE)

The Aranese General Council uses the Aranese language regularly. In regards to the local administration, use varies from one town council to another.

Aranese is the language of instruction during the first few years. Spanish and Catalan take leading roles later, but in principle each language represents a third each. At the end of the school cycle, however, Spanish is the majority language and Aranese is taught as a subject only.

There is one program a week in the Aranese language on the Catalan television service and a short daily program in the radio schedule of the Autonomous Community. One Catalan newspaper carries a weekly supplement in the language.

Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities signed on February 1, 1995, ratified on September 1, 1995 and enacted on February 1, 1998.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority languages signed on November 5, 1992.

In September 2000 the Spanish congress discussed a proposal, in which the state applies the concept of regional or minority languages only to those officially recognized in the Statutes of Autonomy for the communities of Catalonia, the Basque Country, Galicia, Valencia, Navarra and the Balearic Islands. The proposal also considers as regional or minority languages those other languages protected or safeguarded in their traditional speaking areas by the Statutes of Autonomy. Such interpretation was explained as a way to avoid the different names given to the Catalan language. The definition does not specify the situation of the languages not recognized explicitly and it also leaves unmentioned the non territorial languages spoken in the state, such as Roma.

What else can be found about languages and minorities?

The plenum of the Parliament of Catalonia approved on March 29, 2000 three resolutions addressed at reiterating the presentation before the Congress of Deputies of three white papers referred to the use of official languages other than Spanish in personal documents and paper money. The proposals are the following ones:

- Proposal of resolution according to which there is an agreement on the submission to the Spanish Congress of Deputies of a white paper on the use of the official languages in the issue of bills and the metallic coinage of euros (270-00025/06)
- Project of resolution according to which there is an agreement on submission to the Spanish Congress of Deputies of an organic white paper on the incorporation of the official languages of the Spanish state into passports and national identity cards (269-00001/06)
- Project of resolution according to which there is an agreement on the submission to the Spanish Congress of Deputies of a white paper on the incorporation of the Spanish official languages into driving licenses for both cars and motorcycles (269-00002/06). These are all proposals from the Board of Reiteration of Submissions to the Congress of Deputies

The official languages of the indigenous communities will be able to be used in the Senate throughout the next legislature, according to a motion submitted by the Catalan nationalists group last April 10, 2000. The motion will probably depend on the consent from the rest of the groups, including the Popular group in the government. The modification of the current regulation, which after an amendment approved by the Senate would only allow the use of these languages once a year, will now make possible the unlimited use of Catalan, Galician and Basque by the representatives of these communities who wish to do so.

In June 2000 the Spanish minister for Public Administration, Jesús Posada announced that the Madrid government is studying a formula to allow Spanish regions to participate in the EU decision-making processes. Representatives of the seventeen autonomous regions of Spain could even be allowed into Council of Ministers meetings, according to the Minister, who was addressing one of the regular bilateral meetings between the central government and the regions. If implemented, the move would represent a victory for the regional governments in Spain, who have long been calling on Madrid to allow them to participate at least in the decisions that affect the areas of government, which have

been transferred to them. According to Catalan newspaper “Avui”, the Minister said that the participation of regional governments in EU decision-making was “essential”, which has been taken as an important sign of change on the part of the Madrid authorities.

SECTION C

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

Updated (January 2001)

IDENTITY CARDS BILL

On January 8, 1999 the Catalan Parliament proposed a bill (125/000016) incorporating the official languages other than Spanish into passports and national identity cards. In March 2001, the Spanish Congress has approved proposal that will for the first time ever allow the issuing of bilingual identity cards and driving licenses in the autonomous communities. The new regulation will affect the Catalan communities of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia, the Basque areas of Navarre, the Basque Country, and the northwestern community of Galicia. In those territories all identity cards will be obligatory bilingual (not optional as was the proposal of the Spanish Popular Party) and they will be available in six months after the present law comes into force.

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is expected to come into force in June 2001. The deadline for the Spanish Government to submit the ratification to the Council of Europe was planned to be the end of February.

The Charter recognizes only those languages, which are already recognized and promoted according to their Statutes. No specific recognition is made towards the promotion of non-official languages except of those having some kind of recognition in the Statutes of Asturias, Catalonia and Aragon.

THE ARAGON LANGUAGE

In Aragon Autonomous Community, a new bill drafted by the Department of Culture and Tourism will come into effect this year.

The law will

- Give a co-official status to the Catalan, Spanish and Aragonese languages, which are spoken by a million of the population in that region (approximately 70,000 Catalan speakers and 40,000 Aragonese speakers)
- Give those languages legal protection
- Guarantee the right to receive education in one's native language
- Adjust place names and personal names to the original language
- Create an institution to supervise the normalization of both languages

After approval of the new law, the Catalan language will be protected in Spain, Andorra and Italy. It will remain unprotected only in France.

GALICIAN LANGUAGE

Different Galician-speaking councils are moving towards making effective the official recognition of the Galician language. In February, the Council of Veigado Valcarce approved a motion requesting the recognition of Galician as co-official language. This request is based on the legality to recognize Galician in Asturia, Castilla-Leon and Extremadura regions.

Updated (May 2001)

ASTURIAN

The Council of the Asturian town Nava approved in June a series of municipal ordinances concerning the official status of the Asturian language. The ordinances guarantee the use of the language in the rapports with the local administration, in public bilingual labels, the establishment of annual plans for development and teaching of the language and other provisions. Nava's Council is the first among the Asturian speaking towns to recognize and regulate its citizen's linguistic rights. The ordinances must still wait for their final approval by the Princedom of Asturias.

Updated (October 2001)

ASTURIAN

The Official Bulletin of the Principality of Asturias (No.242) published on October 18, the Municipal Ordinances on the official status of Asturian

in the municipality of Nava. The ordinances aim at providing an official status for Asturian in local administration.

Updated (March 2002)

BASQUE

The Spanish Constitutional Court is considering the definitive suspension of the new Basque Governmental Decree (117/2001) on the Linguistic Normalization of the Administration of Justice of the Basque Autonomous Community. After its approval and publication in the Basque Official Journal, the Spanish Government submitted the Positive Conflict of Jurisdiction 5973-2001 in relation to articles II, III, IV and V and first, second and third additional dispositions, since according to them the Basque government had regulated on matters within the state's competences. The decree enforcement and application is suspended until the Constitutional Court ratifies or not the decision. This is expected to happen before the end of May.

Updated (April 2002)

ARAGON

Two public events in favor of the Catalan and Asturian languages have taken place during the last days in Aragon and the municipality of Villaviciosa (Asturias). In the former case, a numerous group of municipal representatives from the Catalan-speaking eastern fringe of the Autonomous Community of Aragon signed an agreement in order to claim the official recognition of the Catalan language in Aragon. The document states that the paralyzation of the Pact on the Languages of Aragon (where Spanish is the only official language) infringes the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3.3 of the Spanish Constitution, as well as it denounces the lack of responsibility on the part of the Spanish government after ratification of the European Charter of Minority Languages.

The other case refers to the Asturian municipality of Villaviciosa, where different political groups are asking for the elaboration of municipal ordinances to give the Asturian language the official status. It should be noted that in the Asturian municipality of Nava a similar ordinances were stopped due to an appeal presented by the Government delegation in Asturias.

Updated (July 2002)

In December 2000, the regional conservative government of Navarre approved a linguistic decree that brought linguistic controversy to the

northern territory of Spain where Basque is widely spoken. The main objective of the new regulation was to guarantee the status of Spanish as the official language, although the autonomic legal system in Spain establishes that those areas with a second language, such as Navarre, the Basque Country, Catalonia or the Balearic Islands must guarantee that all official institutions should be completely bilingual.

These regulations were put into practice in February 2001 in the so-called "Basque zone," or the northern part of Navarre. The result was a linguistic policy, which, among other things, reduced the number of public jobs that previously required an official degree in Basque. It also eliminated a number of bilingual signs and made them monolingual Spanish and allowed the printing of administrative documents exclusively in Spanish.

To stop this, the mayors of the small northern towns of Lekumberri and Lesaka, along with the city counselor of Pamplona, Idoia Saralegui, and the regional chamber representative, Milagros Rubio, brought the case to court last year, as they considered that it was an unacceptable attack against bilingualism and the Basque language. The case has been dealt with by Navarre's Superior Court (TSJN), the highest judicial institution in the territory, which decided to cancel the application of the new legislation in the Basque zone.

The promoters of the appeal are very satisfied by the TSJN's decision. The legal decision is permanent, as this court is the highest court in the territory and the regional government cannot bring it to another court.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Bilbao, July 5, 2002 by Jaume Clotet

Updated (November 2002)

ASTURIAN

Spanish Constitution of 1978

Statute of the Autonomy of Asturias of 1981

Article 4 of the Statute of the Autonomy of Asturias stipulates that teaching and use of Asturian has to be promoted, as well as its diffusion in the media.

The Educational System General Regulations Act of 1990

The Organic Law of Universities (LOU) of 2002

In 1998, the Asturian parliament passed *the Use and Promotion of Bable/Asturian Act*, establishing among other things the following:

- 1) Asturian is the traditional language of Asturias
- 2) All citizens have the right to employ Asturian in speech or in writing
- 3) The use of Asturian (oral or written) on the part of citizens of the Principality of Asturias will have full legal validity
- 4) The official nomenclature of the Autonomous Community's place names will be in Asturian

In view of the above, it can be said that the Asturian language has a legal status that allows its standardization and social recuperation. In fact, it has enjoyed a "quasi-official" legal regulation since its recognition and it can be used by institutions dependent on the Autonomous Government.

The Act also guarantees teaching of Asturian and its promotion within the educational system.

- 1) The Principality of Asturias guarantees the voluntary teaching of Asturian at all levels of the educational system.
- 2) Although it is a voluntary subject, the teaching of Asturian will be a part of the curriculum (i.e. it will be taught within the teaching timetable and will form a part of a student's school record).
- 3) It is the Principality's responsibility to enact the Curriculum Decrees for the teaching of the Asturian language.
- 4) The Principality will establish the procedures for authorization of the textbooks.
- 5) The University of Oviedo, via its departments, will carry out the initial training and qualification of Asturian language teaching staff at the various educational levels.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Asturian Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_asturian_in_spain.htm

GALICIAN

After five centuries of repression of the Galician community, in 1978, *the Magna Carta* stipulated that the Spanish Kingdom is a multilingual nation. It established Spanish as the official language of Spain, but allowed the Autonomous Communities to make other local languages co-official.

The 1981 *Galician Statute of Autonomy* declared both Galician and Spanish as the official languages.

In 1983, the Galician Parliament approved *the Linguistic Normalization Law* (Lei de Normalización Lingüística) to make joint official status real and effective. This law was created to ratify and monitor the citizen's right to use Galician, especially in administration, education and the media. Even though the law has been in effect for twenty years, the use of Galician is not satisfactory at present.

Although Galician is co-official in Galicia, between 80,000 and 100,000 speakers of this language in the other Autonomous Communities of Asturias, Castilla-León and Extremadura have no linguistic rights, having Spanish as the only official language. As a consequence of this pressure on cultural and political sectors, the Consello da Xunta de Galicia and the Consejería Educación da Junta de Castilla y León, signed an agreement in May 2001 to promote Galician education (as an optional subject in primary schools) in Bierzo Occidental (provinces of León and Zamora).

EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

In 1981, the Galician language and literature became compulsory subjects at all educational levels (except in higher education). The Linguistic Normalization Law of 1983 also addressed the area of education, although the law only established compulsory use of the Galician language in pre and primary schools. The Law of Linguistic Normalization was later expanded by a Decree entitled *the Incorporation of the Galician language in Education*.

Currently Galician is the official language of all educational institutions. All children have the right to receive instructions in their mother tongue (Galician or Spanish) at pre-school and the first two years of primary school. According to the law, each student at the age of 8 to 16 must have the Galician language as a subject and two to four subjects with Galician as the language of instruction. Concerning the other subjects, nothing is regulated.

PRE-SCHOOLS

Pre-school education is designed to contribute to the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and moral development of pupils. It is divided into two cycles: from 0 to 2 and from 3 to 5 years of age.

The Linguistic Normalization Law has established the following parameters for pre-schools and the first cycle of primary schools: *“Teachers will use the language that prevails among the pupils in a class. They will take into account the environmental language and will teach the other official language of Galicia orally and in writing, within the appropriate limits of the term or course.”* (Decree 247/95)

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Galician Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_galician_in_spain.htm

BASQUE

Under the 1978 Constitution, establishing Spanish as the official language of the state, but permitting the Autonomous Communities or regions to make other local languages co-official, Basque has gained this status in the Basque Autonomous Community (BAC). The regions in BAC have subsequently passed language laws to spell out the effects of co-officiality of Basque. They contain major stipulations on the availability of the Basque language as both a subject and a medium in the educational system.

The area where Basque has traditionally been spoken is called Euskal Herria, the Basque Country. This name currently applies to the area comprising seven historical provinces: four in Spain (Araba/Álava, Bizkaia/Vizcaya (in English, Biscay), Gipuzkoa/Guipúzcoa and Nafarroa/Navarra (in English, Navarre) and three in France (Lapurdi/Labourd, Nafarroa Beherea/Basse Navarre and Zuberoa/Soule).

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Basque Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_basque_in_spain.htm

CATALAN

The obligation to understand the language as stated in the 1978 Constitution refers only to Spanish. Thus only the Statute of Autonomy,

which had been drawn up in 1979, proclaimed Catalan as Catalonia's language, co-official with Castilian or Spanish.

Article 3

- ⌘ Catalonia's language is Catalan.
- ⌘ The Catalan language is the official language in Catalonia, as well as Spanish, which is official in the whole Spain.
- ⌘ The Generalitat of Catalonia (the Autonomous Government) is to guarantee the normal, official use of both languages, to adopt suitable measures to ensure their knowledge and to create conditions to ensure full equality as far as rights and obligations of the citizens of Catalonia are concerned.

The first paragraph of the article constitutes an important difference between Catalonia and the other autonomous communities with regional languages, because it provides the Catalan language with a specific legal status related to its recognition as the language of the country.

The creation of the Catalan Teaching Service in 1978, and the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy in 1980 were the first steps in the process of linguistic normalization of the Catalan language.

The Law of Linguistic Normalization of Catalonia (1983), a landmark in the history of Catalan language policy, set out norms and grants to facilitate and implant the Catalan language in public administration, teaching, media and cultural life in general to guarantee its social promotion.

As a result of these actions, comprehension and use of the Catalan language have increased considerably (see table below).

	Understanding	Speaking	Writing	Reading
1986 Census	90.6	64.0	31.5	-
1991 Census	93.7	68.3	39.9	67.6
1996 Census	94.9	75.3	45.8	72.4
1998 Census	97.3	79.0	-	-

Sources: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya (IEC), Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS)

EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Catalan had been banned in the school system during the Franco period and it was not until 1970/71 when it started to be taught at schools. In 1978, a Royal Decree introduced the Catalan language into pre-school study plans and primary and secondary schools.

Concerning education, *the 1983 Law of Linguistic Normalization* stated the following:

- ⌘ Catalan, as Catalonia's own language, is also the language of education at all levels
- ⌘ Nursery school children have the right to receive education in their native language, whether Catalan or Spanish. The administration must guarantee this right
- ⌘ Catalan and Spanish are to be obligatory subjects at non-university levels
- ⌘ To keep up with the demands of their work, teachers must have command of both official languages
- ⌘ The language of educational administration shall be Catalan. The second principle only affects children of Spanish-speaking homes, and the parents or tutors are the ones who demand this right, as all children go to the same schools.

After passing the Law, the Generalitat introduced the Linguistic Immersion Program to guarantee competence in both languages also for the Spanish-speaking children. This pedagogical program, devised by the school authorities, applies to the schools with over 75 percent of non-Catalan speaking children. In 1994, over 130,000 children participated in this program, particularly in schools located in predominantly Spanish-speaking areas (mainly the Barcelona conurbation).

Before 1992, the legislation established to enact the Law of Linguistic Normalization, which allowed the schools to use Catalan as a medium of instruction progressively. That has caused the development of different types of schools, according to the number of subjects taught in Catalan.

In the academic year 1992/1993 a new educational system for non-university levels was applied in Catalonia. This reform represented a far-reaching change in education in terms of a language. Legally it was

supported by a *Decree (75/1992)*, on the general organization of teaching for nursery school children (from 0 to 5 years old), primary (from 6 to 12) and obligatory secondary education (from 13 to 16 years old) in Catalonia. Article 3 of this Decree stipulates that the Catalan language is to be used as a vernacular language in compulsory education.

The Decree established Catalan as the language of instruction and thus changed the character of its gradual introduction to the schools. The regulations in the Decree were also made official by *the Catalan Law of Language Policy (1/98)*.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Catalan Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.fu.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_catalan_in_spain.htm

Updated (January 2003)

An inventory of all acts, royal decrees and lower-rank regulations, which impose or prioritize Spanish to the detriment of Catalan, Basque or Galician has been elaborated by the ERC (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya) MP. The list was published on December 17, 2002 on the website of the civil group “Contrastant” (www.contrastant.net). It includes 140 State positive norms, which demonstrate that the equality principle recognized in the Spanish Constitution is, in fact, asymmetrical.

Spanish is privileged in many aspects of everyday life, as in the areas of commercialization of consumer goods, labeling, law procedures, administrative documents, postal service, telecommunications, artistic creation (especially cinema and dubbing), in the army, in courts, etc.

Source: Mercator News, December 2002;
<http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>

Updated (February 2003)

A NEW CATALAN UNIVERSITY LAW INCLUDES LANGUAGE ASPECTS

On February 12, 2003 the Catalan Parliament approved its first Catalan University Law (LUC), which will regulate the university system in Catalonia. Although it is mainly devoted to a new teaching staff hiring scheme and a general financing plan for the next eight years, it also includes an article on the use of language (Art. 6).

This article establishes that “Catalan is the base language of Catalan universities, and therefore the language of normal use in their activities,”

although it also stipulates that “both Catalan and Spanish have official status and their use in university activities is to be regulated according to the Law on Language Policy, in force since January 1998.”

Pursuant to this law, teachers and students have the right to express themselves in either of the official languages. The Catalan Government and universities have to promote knowledge, use and learning of the Catalan language in all areas of university activities. Moreover, teachers must prove to have a sufficient command of both languages and this is to be taken into account in the process of their selection.

As for the reception of this law, some organizations (trade and student unions) argued that it insufficiently regulates the use of Catalan and that the language criteria for the teachers’ selection should be much clearer.

Source: Mercator News, February 2003,
<http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>

Updated (July 2003)

ARAGONESE LANGUAGE LAW AGAIN IN THE POLITICAL AGENDA

Four years ago, in his investiture speech, the President of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, Marcelino Iglesias mentioned the need to provide this community with a language law in order to promote the official use of the Aragonese and Catalan languages in their respective areas.

During the last term in the office, the Aragonese Government (a coalition between PSOE (the Spanish Socialist Party) and Partido Aragonés Regionalista (PAR)) submitted a bill, but the parliamentary process for its final adoption did not even start due to the lack of consensus among the political parties that made up the Aragonese parliament.

This time; however, when the government pact between the same two parties (PSOE and PAR) has been renewed and when most parties with representation in the Aragonese parliament are in favor of the bill, it seems that the adoption process may speed up.

Currently both languages (Aragonese and Catalan) are enshrined in the Constitution of the Aragón Autonomous Community, but they are only safeguarded and do not enjoy an official status. They can be taught just as optional courses in schools what causes that the whole community has only four teachers of Aragonese and thirty of Catalan.

The implementation of the commitments made through the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the

Government of Spain also needs special consideration. This document clearly differentiates between the languages with the official status (Catalan, Basque and Galician), as recognized by their respective Statutes of Autonomy, and those, which, although without an official status, are protected or safeguarded by the Statutes of Autonomy of Aragon, Asturias and Catalonia (Aragonese, Asturian and Aranese).

Source: Mercator News, July 2003,
<http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>
(www.mallorcaweb.net/catalarago) and Eurolang News, Brussels, July 15, 2003, by Marcello Mereu,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4326>

Background notes

Updated (November 2002)

CATALAN

Catalan belongs to the Indo-European (Romance) languages and it is spoken in four autonomous communities in Spain (Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia and also a part of Aragón).

From the 11th to the 17th Century, Catalan enjoyed an official status and orders and decrees were published in this language. However, in the 18th Century, King Philip V, in an attempt to erase the national character of Catalonia, introduced Spanish into all Catalan-speaking regions. In the 20th Century, there were further efforts to eradicate Catalan, the most severe of which occurred after the Spanish Civil War, when Franco dictatorship not only abolished the official status of Catalan, but also completely forbade its use in the public.

Immigration of Spanish-speaking workers attracted by the Catalan industry, also contributed to the loss of Catalan. The revival of Catalan only started after Franco's death, in 1975.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Catalan Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_catalan_in_spain.htm

Where does one observe language to be a problem in this country?

Updated (January 2003)

LANGUAGE ACTIVISTS' PRESSURE ON CATALAN GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE LINGUISTIC LAW

In 1998, the Catalan parliament voted, with a vast majority, for a new linguistic policy law. The proposal introduced for the first time strict legal quotas to promote the use of Catalan in most areas of everyday life. In this sense, the law specifically referred to cinemas, radio stations, television channels, the media and shops.

The goal was to achieve real bilingualism in the streets. A new regulation established a transitional period of five years to implement the law effectively. However, the Catalan authorities have not decided yet about legal punishments for those who violate the law. The main objective was to convince the organizations of the benefits of using Catalan.

At present, after five years, it is obvious that very little has been achieved. Few cinemas show films dubbed into Catalan, and even fewer stores have added Catalan to their street signs. The number of companies using the language on their labels is still marginal. According to the official figures, the law is not respected in Catalonia. So far neither specific personnel have been employed nor a single sanction or bill has been issued, although the law establishes bills of up to €3,000.

Nevertheless, the situation is not the same in all parts of the Catalan territories. In northern Catalonia, around Girona, only about 15 percent of all shops and offices do fail to comply with the law. In other parts, such as the metropolitan area of Barcelona, this figure raises to 35 percent.

The most active cultural movement called "Coordinadora d'Associacions per la Llengua" (CAL) together with other associations¹ have launched a vast campaign to force the authorities to step in real action. Since the beginning of this year many volunteers have been recording and listing all stores that do not include Catalan on their signs or otherwise violate the law. The CAL plans to bring these lists to the regional government, not to punish the stores, but to denounce the passivity of the Catalan regional government.

Source: Eurolang News, Barcelona, January 16, 2003, by Jaume Clotet, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4042>

¹ In Girona, for example, ADAC, a cultural center

To what extent are minority groups in this country disadvantaged by their language?

Updated (November 2002)

PUNISHING CHILDREN FOR SPEAKING ASTURIAN

The Constitutional Court, the highest judicial institution in Spain, has decided that punishing a child for speaking Asturian, the minority language spoken by around 450,000 people in the northwestern part of the country, is not an illegal activity. The high court thus confirmed two previous decisions of a court in the Asturian village of Villaviciosa and a provincial court about this issue.

All children “caught” speaking Asturian in a religious school in Villaviciosa were punished with a 25-peseta fine (about 16 cents). This practice was carried out until it was denounced by some parents a few years ago.

“*Andecha Astur*,” an active cultural movement, then brought this case to court; however, their initiative has failed, as the Constitutional Court is the highest institution in the country. According to this organization, the Constitutional court’s decision is simply a practical paraphrasing of the government’s linguistic policy, stating that Spanish is the only official language in Spain. However, *Andecha Astur* decided not to surrender and will bring this case to European institutions in the near future.

Roberto González-Quevedo, the secretary of another organization, “*the Asturian Language Academy*,” said this shows that Asturian is a repressed language in its own territory.

However, the Language Academy is cautious regarding the actual facts that led to this sentence. According to González-Quevedo, it is obvious that something happened in the school, but once the case became public the school called them several times to assure them that they respect the Asturian language and that even some teachers are studying it. This is why the Academy criticizes the court’s decision rather than the alleged punishment of the children.

Source: Eurolang News, Bilbao, November 4, 2002, by Jaume Clotet, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3909>

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

Updated (from January 2001)

BASQUE LANGUAGE

The report “the Situation of Basque and the Rights of Basque Speakers” was launched on March 14, 2001 at a meeting of minority language Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

According to the report compiled by Kontseilua, an umbrella organization representing 50 Basque organizations, there have been serious “attacks” against Basque in the three regions where it is spoken (the Basque speaking Navarre, the Basque Autonomous Community and the Northern Basque Country in the South of France).

- The Basque language desperately needs protection but France does not recognize any linguistic minorities and through this policy it is pushing for disappearance of the language in the region of Northern Basque Country.
- The largest Basque adult education organization has been attacked by the media since 1998 because of “groundless judicial processes” (e.g. having close links with ETA or defrauding the Spanish tax and social security offices). All allegations were strongly denied. The organization was also criticized by the Spanish Royal Academy that the textbooks used in Basque schools (ikastolas) are nationalistic and racist.
- In Navarre

A new decree was published in January (372/2000) that regulates the use of the Basque language in the Public Administration of Navarre.

From now on, the use of Basque will not be compulsory in mixed zone (there are three linguistic zones: Basque speaking, Spanish speaking and mixed zone) and all bilingual signs and notices will become monolingual (in Spanish only).

The decision to abolish bilingual street signs and notices in mixed area has provoked a strong reaction from Basque political parties and language organizations. The plan is interpreted as a violation of Basque speaking population linguistic rights because of the predominant or exclusive use of Spanish in labeling, signals, official communication, etc. These measures have been criticized by different political and cultural organizations; as the general lack

of respect proved by Navarra Government towards the Basque language and also a step back in the recognition of the plurilinguistic reality within the Spanish State. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages also criticized the decision, describing it as contrary to the letter and spirit of the language policy of the European institutions and as a violation of earlier laws of the Navarre government.

In March, the government of the autonomous community of Navarre announced that the new language decree in the region will not be changed despite extensive opposition and it was approved by a clear majority.

THE ASTURIAN LANGUAGE

In Asturian speaking region, there are many complaints about non-compliance of the 1998 Law on the Use and Promotion of the Asturian Language. According to “Xunta pola Defensa de la Llingua Asturiana” (a civic organization devoted to Asturian speaker’s linguistic rights defense) they have received 50 reports against the non-compliance of this law. Complaints mainly concern labels and road signs that have been written without taking into the consideration traditional place names in the Asturian language.

According to the weekly electronic service of linguistic news “Llingua Asturiana”, a carmelian school in Asturian would be fining pupils for speaking word in Asturian during their daily school time. This decision would be contravening the Asturian Statute of Autonomy as well as the Law on Linguistic Uses.

THE CATALAN LANGUAGE

In February, the High Court of Justice of Catalonia has suspended some articles from the regulation on the linguistic uses of Sabadell City Council (Barcelona) after considering their contravention to the co-officiality shared by the Catalan and Spanish languages. This decision affects the application of the 1998 Catalan Law in the municipal scope. The city council therefore required policy-makers to take measures to guarantee the application of the current legislation and the Catalan citizens’ linguistic rights.

THE OCCITAN LANGUAGE

Occitan language is not treated equally in all regions where it is spoken as far as the funding is concerned. Four out of seven Occitan regions enjoy a policy favoring the Occitan language and culture.

Updated (February 2002)

CATALAN

Catalan representatives demand official recognition of their language in the European Union. They claim that a language spoken by 7 million people deserves it.

Catalan is spoken in four states, but only Andorra, the non-EU member state, has it as the official language on the whole territory. Not being an official language of a EU member state also means the exclusion from many programs offered by the European Union. "Does this mean that we have to convince the small state Andorra to become an EU member state, in order to give Catalan its recognition as an official language?" asks Lluís M. de Puig, a Catalan representative from the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

For Joan Vallvé i Ribera, President of the European Association of Border Regions, the reason why Catalan has not got its recognition within the European institutions so far is simple: "The way for Catalan to Brussels goes via Madrid - and they are blocking it."

Fèlix Martí, President of UNESCO Catalonia, points out two other phenomena that are crucial for the future of the language. The first one refers to the "hierarchy of the languages" within the area: "Everybody has to know Castilian but there is no legal obligation for citizens to know Catalan. I am against this subordination because this weakens the language." He also notices an "attitude of linguistic indifference" that can also be passed on to other languages: "People do not care if they speak Catalan or Castilian. Even if this is somehow positive - if this develops further, it will be problematic for the future of the language."

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Updated (May 2001)

NAVARRRE

The use of the Basque language is decreasing in the Public University of Navarre. This year proportion of all studies taken in Basque is 3.5% less than last year except for teaching studies, which are entirely in Basque.

Such a decrease could be caused by the growing lack of requests for education in Basque but on the other hand the public opinion polls undertaken by the University itself proved that almost 20% of the students would like to be lectured in Basque.

Updated (July 2001)

BASQUE

In 1990, the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy initiated a program to convince private companies operating in the Basque Country to sign a two-year long program that introduces different levels of linguistic normalization in the firm's activities. The main goal is to make the companies competent in the use of Basque language in their economic activities. The Basque government supports the plan economically, including translation of documents, formation of personnel, creating and introducing computer programs and establishing a "Basque language committee" to control the application of the project. After a few years of pilot programs in selected companies, the plan is now fully activated and up to 60 firms participate in the project. Once the two-year program is finished, every company must set up an own "continuation committee" to keep up the project without the support of the institutions. Most of the companies that have joined the program are located in Gipuzkoa, the strongest Basque-speaking province, and several private firms from Bizkaia. Companies from the third Basque province, Araba, are still reluctant to get involved in normalization plans. This experiment led by the Basque government has already attracted the interest of other minority language communities in Europe. For example "Berie foar it Frysk", the Council for the Frisian Language, is particularly interested in the issue.

Updated (August 2001)

GALICIA

In Galicia, a group of promoters, "Edicións de Referencia", is working to launch a daily newspaper in Galician language. The promoters are by now gathering support among citizens interested in financing the project, which will cost around 500 million pesetas (3,01 million Euro). The aim of the project is to sell up to 7.000 copies per day (over a population of two million) and to start publishing the newspaper next spring.

There is a regional television channel, which is run by the autonomous government. The TV station, named 'Televisión de Galicia' (TVG), broadcasts more than a hundred hours per week exclusively in Galician language. The channel has gained acceptance from the public. Apart from TVG, the regional government also owns a public radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day in Galician language. Other private and local radios also use Galician in their programs, but there is not a legal regulation that establishes linguistic quotas in public or private media. More recently, an Internet media group, Vieiros, which includes updated

general and cultural information, has had unexpected success and is one of the most visited sites in the Galician territory.

Updated (April 2002)

ASTURIAN

The Asturian nationalist political party Andecha Astur has recently asked the central government delegation in Asturias to intervene in relation to the lack of public use of the Asturian language. In particular they are not satisfied that the informative bills in Oviedo and Gijón's railway stations are written in three languages - Spanish, English and Catalan, two of which are not official in the principality.

According to this political party, such circumstance represents a lack of respect for the Asturian-speaking citizens' right to be informed in their own language in state public services such as the railway.

Updated (July 2002)

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

Four Balearic Islands have Catalan culture and traditions. A poll currently released shows that 48.7 percent of the population cannot write in Catalan. Another 27.7 percent has an "acceptable" level in writing and only 23.6 percent write it correctly.

The figures related to the oral use of the language are more optimistic. Up to 59.9 percent can speak it correctly, compared to 23.3 percent, which cannot speak it at all. Another 16.8 percent speak the language, although not fluently. As for comprehension, the poll shows that up to 76.2 percent of the population can understand Catalan correctly, another 16.8 percent can understand much of it, and 7.1 percent do not understand it at all.

These figures are the result of a deep study carried out by the Government of the Balearic Islands. One of the conclusions that worry the linguistic authorities is the fact that among young people, the Catalan language is widely seen as a "cult issue" and not a "popular issue." This could lead to a situation that its use would be reduced to cultural places such as schools, universities or administration, but keeping it away from social life, such as cinemas or musical events.

However, the poll confirms that the Catalan language situation is improving, especially among young people who have attended Catalan schools. As a result, only 37.7 percent of people under 30 cannot write in Catalan, which is more than 10 percent under the general level. The

situation is also diverse when comparing the different islands. In Menorca, the situation is better than in the other two main islands: 73 percent of the population in Menorca speak Catalan fluently. Only 51 percent claim this in Eivissa or Ibiza, and 54 percent in Palma, which is the islands' capital city.

Source: Eurolang, <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Barcelona July 16, 2002, by Jaume Clotet

Updated (August 2002)

STAMPS

“Organització pel Multilingüisme,” being in charge of the campaign to use the official languages other than Spanish in post stamps and other related goods, has recently sent a letter to all members of the Spanish Congress and Senate asking them not to jeopardize the purpose of the campaign, as well as to move towards a full recognition of the multilingual reality of the State, as it happened in other states such as Finland, Switzerland, Canada or Belgium.

More than 300 municipalities of Aragon, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the Valencian Autonomous Community have so far expressed their support to the campaign. Out of 3,731 stamps issued in Spain since 1850, Catalan has only been used in 31 of them, Galician in 11, and Basque only in 4, therefore neglecting other languages such as Aragonese, Asturian or Aranese. The initiative concerning the use of official languages other than Spanish in post stamps has been also supported by the parliaments of Catalonia, Navarre and the Balearic Islands by means of three respective white papers or law proposals submitted to the Spanish Congress in Madrid, though unsuccessfully.

Source: Mercator News; August 2002;
<http://www.troc.es/ciemen/mercator/index-gb.htm>

CATALAN

The Catalan Government's Department of Linguistic Policy, also known as the Generalitat, has released its annual linguistic report, in which the situation of the Catalan language is analyzed. The report, which refers to the year 2001, shows that the language situation has improved in many fields, but also demonstrates the necessity of further work.

Concerning education and public administration at both local and regional level, Catalan is used as the primary language. The only part of education, where the progress of Catalan is stagnating, are the universities. An increasing number of foreign students, along with

multinational studies and research have caused that Spanish or English frequently substitute for the local language.

According to the report, despite a special plan, the use of Catalan is minimal in trials and other legal activities. As an example, in 2001, only 9.8 percent of the notary documents were written in Catalan. However, hundreds of officials join free language courses organized by the Catalan administration every year.

Another difficult field for Catalan is the economic sector and services. Here, great differences can be seen between companies. Although the majority of big commercial companies use the language in their business activities, some companies (such as Carrefour) use Catalan only in less than 40 percent. The greatest problem, however, are product labels. Around 2 percent of the products have labels in Catalan, although up to 71.4 percent of the Catalan population thinks that it should be used for labeling. Nonetheless, the situation has improved since 1989, when only 308 firms used Catalan labeling on their products compared to 1,538 companies in 2001.

As to media, the report shows clear signs of progress. The Catalan public television and radio network broadcast 100 percent in Catalan and according to preferences, it has the leading position. Two new local TV stations were founded in 2001, and both use Catalan most of the time. However, many Spanish TV stations reach Catalonia and they altogether hold the majority part of the audience. As for radio, the situation is similar. Many Spanish language radio stations get a big part of the audience. Nonetheless, some positive signs were noted: two private radio stations that started in 2000, managed to double their audience last year.

In printed media a new sport daily appeared and since it has an agreement with a private newspaper company, it sells more than 50,000 copies every day. Apart from that, a second free daily is published in Barcelona, with more than 150,000 copies every day. Around 30 percent of its content is in Catalan, which contributes to the boosting of the language in the metropolitan area of Barcelona, where it has a more fragile status. The oldest Catalan newspaper, "Avui," celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. It sells around 35,000 copies per day. Up to 28.6 percent of all newspapers sold in Catalonia are in Catalan.

Referring to new technologies, last year up to 47,241 web sites had information in Catalan, making a total of 1,682,000 web pages in the language (27.1 percent of Catalan homes have direct access). Up to 49.8 percent of Catalanian Internet users regularly visit web sites in their language.

Source: Eurolang, www.eurolang.net, Barcelona, August 6, 2002, by Jaume Clotet

Updated (October 2002)

LABELS

Following a long tradition of defending the Catalan language and culture at a grass root level, a new Organization of Consumers and Users of the Catalan Language (Organització de Consumidors i Usuaris en Llengua Catalana) has been established in Catalonia. The organization aims at boosting the use of Catalan on food product labels – a sector where nowadays it is almost non-existent. Though in 1998, the Linguistic Policy Law was adopted to promote the use of Catalan on commercial products, the law foresaw no penalties for those companies that violate it.

According to the organization, there is a potential market of 11 million consumers who, to some degree, speak or understand the Catalan language. The overall aim of a campaign is to promote a respectful use of Catalan on the products, particularly taking into account that many customers understand it and they buy their food also on a linguistic basis. This may, at some point, also bring financial benefits for the companies. The main tool to attract people is a website that divides the most common products into different categories. The companies or trademarks, which use Catalan on their labels, either alongside Spanish or even exclusively, are listed there as well.

The promoters of the website want businessmen trading with or in Catalonia to do exactly the same as they do in other countries, even in those with a smaller population. They refer to the fact that Catalan, according to the number of speakers, is the seventh language spoken in Europe, after German, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch.

One of the partners of this initiative is the Association for the Use of Catalan on Labels (ADEC), which publishes regularly a list of food companies that use Catalan on their products. They announced an impressive increase when in 1989 only 308 companies used Catalan while ten years later; in 1999 already 1,538 firms did the same. Among the companies that are especially aware of this linguistic issue are producers of water and wine, along with the companies selling traditional food products, such as cheese, milk, eggs or chocolate.

Source: Eurolang News, Barcelona, October 3, 2002, by Jaume Clotet, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3859>

EDUCATION

The third symposium on teaching of Catalan to Non Catalan-speakers, which was held in the Catalan town Vic, ended with a general call to promote the social use of the language. After more than twenty years of regular teaching of Catalan in schools, the results are far from what was expected, though the language is not dying out.

Experts on the subject put forward five suggestions to achieve this goal:

1. Continued action by the regional administration to finance and support new educational projects to keep up with the linguistic normalization strategy
2. Active plans to guarantee the presence of Catalan in new technologies
3. Elaboration of a multilingual educational system which takes into account the situation of Catalan
4. Changes in the formation and preparation of teachers
5. A political multilateral agreement to initiate active presence of the language in many social fields where it has not been permanently installed yet

As an example of the fragile situation with the Catalan language, a survey on the use of language by 12-year-olds carried out in 52 schools in Catalonia was issued to the symposium attendants. It showed that despite active learning of the language in both private and public educational centers, most students do not use it regularly outside their schools. So far, up to 60 percent of youngsters speak and communicate in Spanish, whereas only 34 percent use Catalan. Another 6 percent use both languages equally, even in the same conversations. According to the researchers, the results of the survey show that Catalan has little presence in daily life among children, who study the language for several years as a compulsory subject.

Children from Spanish-speaking families only use Catalan in 20 percent of their conversations or other communication. The results were slightly better for bilingual families (where one parent speaks Catalan and the other one Spanish). In these cases, up to two thirds of the conversations are in Spanish. Finally, in Catalan-speaking families, only 50 percent of communication is in Catalan. The study reflects that Catalan is a minority language nowadays even in its own historical territory.

A total of 700 professors, teachers and linguistic experts attended this symposium whose next edition is scheduled for the year 2007.

Source: Eurolang News, Barcelona, September 9, 2002 by Jaume Clotet

Updated (November 2002)

ASTURIAN / EDUCATION

Almost 90 percent of Asturians were favorable to the idea of the indigenous language being taught at schools.

Educational establishments can be divided to:

- a) Those in the state ownership (approximately 60 percent)
- b) Those privately owned but supported by state funds (around 30 percent)
- c) Those completely private (above 10 percent)

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

At this stage the language is integrated into a wider sphere because communication is not solely rooted in a verbal language but also in gestures, art, music, etc. The language of instruction in pre-schools is Spanish; however, for educational reasons the teachers in rural parts of Asturias utilize Asturian in their first contact with pupils seeing it is the language they use at home. Similarly, children' s songs, tales, stories, legends, etc. are published in the Asturian language. The systematic teaching of Asturian is limited because only 1,370 children in the state educational institutions are interested to be taught in this language (just over 10 percent of the total)¹.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Except specific situations and some pilot experiments, Asturian is taught only as a subject in primary schools. Teaching of the Asturian language, despite it is voluntary, is a full part of the curriculum and is integrated within a pupil' s school record. Generally, there are two lessons a week, each lasting an hour.

The establishments dealing with teaching Asturian are concentrated in the central industrial areas (the larger municipalities of Uviéu, Xixón and

¹, The sources refers to the situation in the academic year 2001/2002, the Statistical Department of the Vice-Ministry of Education (Planning Department, Educational Institutions and Infrastructure

Avilés and the coalmining areas of the Rivers Nalón and Caudal). As for the rural areas, schools in the southwest region of Cangas del Narcea educate the majority of the Asturian speaking students.

The number of pupils studying Asturian in primary schools is 14,238. The percentage of voluntary attendance in Asturian language classes (where the conditions of the educational establishment make it possible) amounts to nearly 65 percent. The remaining 35 percent receive classes on Asturian culture as an alternative.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Asturian is an optional subject in secondary schools. This language has been insufficiently introduced due to particular administrative problems in the government of the Principality of Asturias connected with a given full authority in the educational issues. Teaching of the Asturian language is a part of the curriculum.

ADMINISTRATION

The use of the Asturian language by the Asturian government is confined to the action of the Ministry of Education and Culture and it covers promotional reading campaigns, advertisements, announcements of cultural competitions, the publication of resolutions in the Principality of Asturias Official Bulletin (BOPA), etc. The use of the Asturian language in parliamentary life is occasional and restricted to particular political groups.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Asturian Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_asturian_in_spain.htm

GALICIAN / EDUCATION

The Spanish Parliament has established the basic coordination of the educational system through the LOGSE Law. According to this law, school attendance is compulsory and free from 6 to 16 years. The LOGSE Law is identical for all schools, private or public.

PRE-SCHOOLS

In most urban centers Spanish is the main teaching language because it is the language of the majority of pupils. In rural areas both languages are used; however, Galician predominates. Data given by the General Office of Linguistic Policy state that 39 percent of the centers never use

Galician and that in 40 percent of schools 15 hours per week are taught in Galician (1998).²

In the school year 2000/2001, there were 52,238 pupils in pre-school education in Galicia.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

At this level the law requires teaching of Galician as a compulsory subject for four hours a week (the same as Spanish) and using it as a language of instruction in the natural, social and cultural sciences. In many schools these subjects are taught in Spanish because there is no linguistic teaching model for Galician. Its use depends on several factors, which are directly related to the teachers' efforts and dedication (pupil's language, teachers' linguistic competence, the existence of teaching materials, the location of the school, etc.). At private schools, mainly in urban and semi-urban centers, the Decree 247/95 is even less respected because Spanish there is the language of instruction at all levels.

The following table shows the percentage of the students' mother tongue and the first language in which they write and read.

	Galician	Galician/Spanish	Spanish
Students under 25 (general)	39%	17%	44%
Students under 25 (in urban areas)	12%	19%	69%
First language they write and read (general)	17%	15%	68%
First language they write and read (in urban areas)	0%	4%	96%

² The Dirección Xeral de Política Lingüística (DXPL) admits in a letter from August 17, 1999 that some sections of Decree 247/95 have not been fulfilled: "There are a number of urban educational centers which do not respect the decree on the minimum number of subjects which must be taught in Galician." The letter also says that the presence of the Galician language in those centers is "negligible or nonexistent." This information comes from a letter/report, which was sent to the Mesapola Normalización Lingüística (MNL) by Valedor do Pobo. Information was required through this channel, since an official request for information of the MNL to the autonomous government was ignored.

It seems that in urban areas students do not start their education in Galician because they are less numerous than those whose mother tongue is Spanish. Thus Spanish prevails and the lessons will be given in this language. In rural areas the situation is different. The speakers of Galician are more numerous and thus in many cases teaching is carried out in Galician.

All Galician students are able to understand, speak, read and write Spanish (they become active bilinguals), but it cannot be said about Spanish students. Schools help to develop writing and reading skills, but they do not contribute to the normal use of the language because of the insufficient normalization efforts in Galicia. Children with Spanish as their mother tongue have more difficulties to become bilingual, because only 20 to 25 percent of their education is carried out in Galician. In the table below; however, we can see a strange fact. The percentage of their reading and writing skills in Galician is higher than that of Galician native speakers. Researchers explain it as follows: firstly, Galician speakers are concentrated in rural areas and being confident in speaking their Galician dialect, they are less interested in writing. On the other hand, Spanish students want to compensate this way their lack of oral competence in Galician and are not confused by their dialects. Nevertheless, this strange phenomenon has not been studied in detail yet.

Spanish	Mother tongue Galician		Mother tongue Spanish	
	Galician	Spanish	Galician	Spanish
Understand	99.3%	100%	83.5%	100%
Can speak	97.9%	100%	30.3%	100%
Can read	40.1%	100%	45.1%	100%
Can write	22.2%	100%	24.3%	100%

Source: Study of the University of Vigo (1997/1999)

In the school year 2000/2001, there were 137,286 pupils studying at primary level in Galicia.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In regards to the language policy, the law stipulates that four subjects must be taught in Galician - two obligatory subjects (social and natural sciences) and two optional subjects.

In practice, the centers do not meet this legal requirement and there is neither a bilingual model (50 percent) nor a monolingual model in Galician. In private centers only the Galician Language itself is taught in Galician. There are no official data about teachers' language used during the classes. The Mesapela Normalización Lingüística, parents' associations and unions file complaints about the nonobservance of the law on the use of the Galician language.

In post compulsory secondary education Philosophy is taught in Galician, as a common subject with one of the specific subjects in every modality in the 1st year. In the 2nd year, History and Galician are common subjects and some of the specific subjects in every modality are taught in the Galician language. Galician continues to be a compulsory subject for 3 hours per week.

In the academic year 2000/2001, there were 173,788 students in secondary schools in Galicia. All of them had Galician as a subject, but it is not known how many of them received the necessary instruction in Galician.

UNIVERSITIES

Since 1990 there have been three public universities in Galicia: the University of Vigo (UV), the University of A Coruña (UC) and the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC). The national distance-learning university UNED also operates in several towns in the region (Pontevedra, A Coruña and Ourense). At present, 100,000 students study at those three universities.

The statutes of the universities state that Galician is their official language together with Spanish, according to the Spanish Constitution and the Galician Statute of Autonomy. Since 1988 a Galician language test has been included in the entrance examinations for university and it has the same weight as a Spanish language one.

ADULT EDUCATION

There are two types of state schools, where adults can enroll to study major international languages and Galician in the modern language courses. They exist throughout the whole Spain and are a unique way of making language courses accessible to a wide audience. In the EPA (Educación para Adultos) people over 18 can register, while in the EOI (Official Language School – Escuela Oficial de Idiomas), 16 is the minimum age.

The EPA tries to guarantee the acquisition, updating and broadening of knowledge and skills needed for personal and professional development.

Systematic education, training for the labor market and socio-cultural education are included in the EPA.

The EOI trains pupils in linguistic skills to gain competence in the studied language. The EOIs are official language schools recognized by Spain's Department of Education, and in Galicia, by the Education Council (Consellería de Educación). A diploma obtained from these centers is highly regarded in the business community. It, together with a university degree, gives a person the ability and capacity to teach the language in medium regular education.

The first EOI in Galicia was set up in A Coruña 25 years ago, but in the last 10 years many EOIs have been established. Nowadays, there are centers in Pontevedra, Vigo, Ourense, Lugo, A Coruña and Ferrol. The studies comprise five courses (five years) divided into two cycles: elementary (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and advanced (4th and 5th). At Galician EOIs students can choose between English, French, German, Italian, Galician and Portuguese. At the EOI of A Coruña people can also study Russian and Spanish.

In Galicia, 4,881 pupils are registered in the EPA and approximately 15,000 students are involved in the EOI.

ADMINISTRATION

All administrative documents are written in Galician - certificates, forms, payrolls, etc., but at lower or internal levels the use of Galician or Spanish depends on teachers, managers and civil servants. Spanish is used more often in oral communication than Galician. Civil servants have to pass several examinations to work in public universities including written tests in the Galician language, which is not compulsory.

Major part of the documentation is written in Galician and on the whole, civil servants are Galician and know the language but documents in Galician do not make sense if the language used by the civil servants is Spanish.

Recent data (1998) given by the General Office of Linguistic Policy (Dirección Xeral de Política Lingüística, DXPL) informed that 82.5 percent of educational centers use Galician in their administrative functions; 15.4 percent work partially in Galician and 1.6 percent work totally in Spanish. Relations between centers, pupils and other institutions are in Galician in 66 percent of cases, in Galician and Spanish in 23.5 percent and totally in Spanish in 1.7 percent.

This information seems to be contradictory to the former data, but this is due to the fact that the DXPL analyzed the formal use of the language, e.g. in administration, while the real use of Galician in teaching was not being revealed.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Galician Language in education in Spain,
http://www1.fu.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_galician_in_spain.htm

CATALAN / EDUCATION

Until 1992, about one-third of private schools used Catalan as the main medium of instruction. Language choice was a result of the management of the schools and the parents, which left room for more variety in language policy. After the 1992 Decree and 1998 Law, all schools - private and public - must use Catalan as a medium of instruction (nursery schools are an exception) while Spanish is the second school language.

According to SEDEC (Service for Catalan Teaching), in 1995/96, 36 percent of all the children spoke only Catalan at home; 47 percent had Spanish-speaking background and 15 percent were bilingual in their families. One percent of the children were bilingual in Catalan and another language (not Spanish), while the same proportion spoke only the other language at home (neither Catalan nor Spanish).

The nursery school kids have the right to receive education in their mother tongue, but after this level, schooling continues in Catalan. At schools with more than 75 percent of Spanish pupils the Linguistic Immersion Program can be applied. At the end of compulsory secondary school studies pupils should attain a full oral and written competence in both languages.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

While the Catalan language is to be used as the medium of instruction in primary education, teaching of the Spanish language begins at the first compulsory stage. According to the immersion program, children start learning Catalan (reading and writing) at the age of six, followed by acquiring of the oral skills.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The linguistic normalization of the Catalan language at secondary level has been more difficult to carry out. There are still some teachers who are not competent in Catalan. Moreover, there are also teachers who

speak the language, but do not use it at schools. This problem is more present in post-compulsory secondary education, where the barrier to speaking Catalan is stronger due to the higher level required. But in spite of these difficulties, the use of Catalan has been increased.

School year	Catalan	Catalan & Spanish	Spanish	Total
1990/91	31.0%	62.0%	7.0%	298,648
1992/93	46.0%	52.0%	3.0%	323,046
1995/96	50.0%	48.0%	2.0%	379,716

Source: SEDEC, Evolution of students 1991/1996

Despite the great advance of the Catalan language in the educational system during the last twenty years, the use of Catalan in schools is still not optimal. Language politics are directed to find new ways how to involve everyone in the process of normalization. Thus one can expect a complete “Catalanization” of all the schools with Catalan being the first language and Spanish the second language of instruction. However, students must have the same command of both languages at the end of compulsory education.

SEDEC (THE SERVICE FOR CATALAN TEACHING)

This specific organization, existing within the Department of Education, promotes Catalan and deals with everything related to Catalan in education. This service also runs the Program for Linguistic Immersion (PIL), which, taking into account the varied sociolinguistic situation in the country, tries to support the government’s goal to make Catalan the language of instruction in Catalonia.

Another institution dealing with the linguistic normalization of Catalan is the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC), which is involved in studying the language, setting the norms and ensuring that the process of normalization is coherent.

IMMIGRANTS

An increasing number of foreign pupils, the vast majority from the Third World countries, are educated in Catalonia, without being familiar with the Catalan language. Bearing in mind this new social and cultural reality, the Department of Education emphasizes the necessity to integrate these pupils into the system and to devise strategies to facilitate

their further active participation in the school's programs and communicate with their environment.

To see the progress of these children the SEDEC provides consultation for teachers with a team of experts. For secondary school immigrants there are also oral and written language courses, which are organized for pupils in the same area.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Catalan Language in education in Spain,

http://www1.faknaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_catalan_in_spain.htm

Updated (April 2003)

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO LESSEN THE USE OF CATALAN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

According to a statewide Law on Education proposed by the governing party "Partido Popular" (PP), the number of hours of Spanish that children receive at primary schools should increase at the expense of Catalan, Basque and Galician.

Representatives of the minorities do not agree with many orders contained in this law; however, the language issue is particularly serious. It is clear that the Spanish government tries to lessen the use of the Catalan language in primary schools, when children are especially receptive and sensitive to language learning.

The proposed law seeks to establish a total of 350 hours in Spanish for seven and eight years old children.

If the law is passed the number of courses in Spanish will increase from 2 hours to 5 hours per week, inevitably making education in Catalan weaker. Up until now Catalan and Spanish were in an equal position concerning the time devoted to language learning.

The Catalan Education Department stated that since Catalunya controls public education, the Catalan government will not follow the PP's proposal on education.

Except Catalunya, the issue has also provoked sharp criticism in other Catalan-speaking areas such as País Valencià and Illes Balears. According to the unions, in case this decree will be passed, the Catalan government can either increase the number of hours destined for Catalan language learning from 2 to 5 (which would probably be difficult

for schoolchildren) or it can accept that Spanish will be prioritized and supersede Catalan.

Source: Eurolang News, Brussels, March 31, 2003, by Alexia Bos Solé & Davyth Hicks,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4182>

COUNCIL TO GIVE GRANTS TO INCREASE CATALAN SHOP-SIGNAGE

The Department of Barcelona City Council and the Institute of Urban Landscape and Quality of Life announced that it would grant a financial aid for all shop window signage written in Catalan. The Department plans to pay up to 40 percent of the total cost of a new sign (a maximum of €600).

The campaign should help shop owners to be aware of the importance of having shop-window signs in Catalan.

In January 2003, a five-year deadline set by the Language Law expired. The law states that all businesses are obliged to use the Catalan language in their shop windows. In case this rule is broken, the fines ranging from €300 to €3,000 can be imposed.

Despite the moratorium and the fines, the level of compliance to this law is still low, especially in the Barcelona area. According to a study carried out by the Generalitat's Department of Linguistic Policy in 1997, only 32.9 percent of shop signage was in Catalan. Other survey carried out in 2001 pointed out that only 213 out of 375 shops in the district of Ciutat Vella in Barcelona had shop-window signage in Catalan. This situation can be caused by the fact that shop owners who recently immigrated to the area do not know about the law. For this reason leaflets in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Urdu, giving information about the restoration of business premises and the use of Catalan are planned to be distributed.

Source: Eurolang News, Brussels, April 7, 2003, by Alexia Bos Solé,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4198>

CATALAN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN TO INTEGRATE IMMIGRANTS

The Generalitat, the Catalan autonomous government, has launched a massive media campaign calling on the Catalan population to use their language when addressing foreign people especially immigrants.

Around 400,000 immigrants who have arrived in Catalonia over the last few years, provokes a heated debate regarding their linguistic integration.

The campaign entitled “Tu ets mestre” (you are a teacher) shows how 45,000 immigrants learn Catalan every year. Thirty thousand of them are children and the remaining 15,000 are adult immigrants enrolled in one of the multiple courses available for adults.

The campaign shows an immigrant in three different daily situations when he/she asks the audience to use the Catalan language while speaking with him (“Help me, talk to me in Catalan”).

According to Jordi Roigé, a director general of the Linguistic Policy of the Generalitat, most Catalans do not use their language when talking to someone who physically does not seem to be a Catalan, and usually they change to Spanish. Thus many immigrants who might be studying Catalan may feel that their efforts are in vain.

However, this campaign has also raised criticism from some social organizations, which have been battling for years to improve the situation of the Catalan language.

Though the Platform for the Language (Plataforma per la Llengua) evaluates this public campaign positively, its representatives wonder whether the Catalan authorities put the integration problem on the shoulders of the citizens instead of doing as much as they can.

According to this organization, the main goal of the communication campaign is good because it makes clear that, if Catalan speakers do not use the language with newcomers, they will never integrate. Most immigrants are aware that some knowledge of the Catalan language will make their life easier and will provide them with more professional opportunities.

Nevertheless, many mistakes have been made in the linguistic integration policy, especially a lack of coordination among the different administrations and government departments. The shortage of Catalan language courses, which meant that several hundred immigrants who wanted to study Catalan did not have a chance to do so this year, is a good example. However, for the next year more courses are planned to be organized.

According to a spokesman of Itran, the Associació Catalana Amaziga, which represents the Berber community in Catalonia, this campaign arrived a bit late. Still he considers the campaigns and programs to be necessary and hopes that this one may change the Catalans’ mentality and will lead to using the language with foreigners. Mr. El-Molghy believes that the Catalan language is a major integration factor for foreigners. In his case, after living for fourteen years in the Catalan village of Manlleu, he uses Catalan daily.

The campaign is a key part of a more ambitious plan designed by the Generalitat to cope with the arrival of thousands of immigrants every year. The plan was approved by the Catalan government on February 4, 2003 and seeks as many newcomers as possible to learn Catalan. To achieve this goal, dozens of new language courses are organized together with a vast program that informs businessmen who employ immigrant workers about promotion of the normalized use of Catalan in factories and shops.

Source: Eurolang News, Barcelona, March 14, 2003, by Jaume Clotet, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4207>

Updated (May 2003)

SURVEY ON THE LANGUAGE USE IN BARCELONA AREA

The outcome of a recent official survey, dealing besides other social issues also with the use of languages in Barcelona's metropolitan area, has revealed that despite the supportive policies in this respect, which have been locally implemented, the use of Catalan is still decreasing, especially among the youngest generations.

According to the figures provided, more than half of the population (56.1 percent) considers Spanish as their first language, whereas only 29 percent states the same with regard to Catalan. On the other hand, 13.5 percent of the interviewees affirms that they have an equal command of both languages.

Another relevant information arising from the survey is that 90 percent of young people are able to speak and write Catalan, though its use in personal and social relations among them is much lower.

The current situation is a result of the growing urbanization of the city's surrounding areas as well as by migration waves (both Spanish national immigrants especially in the 50s, 60s and 70s, and present foreign immigrants, who generally adopt Spanish as the main language of communication).

Source: Mercator News, April 2003, <http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>

Updated (June 2003)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE HISPANIZATION OF THE SPANISH POST OFFICE

The Organization for the Multilingualism (OM) has started a campaign against, what it sees as, the progressive "hispanization" of the post

offices in Spain. The state company Correus i Telègrafs (the Spanish Post Office) has been using Catalan and Spanish in its offices of Catalunya, Illes Balears and País Valencià. However, from January 1, 2003, the company launched a campaign in order to change their corporate image without respecting the bilingual signs in the bilingual communities of the Spanish territory.

For this reason, the OM has started a campaign to promote the linguistic normalization of the Spanish post-office under the slogan “Correus Plurals” (a plural post office). It aims to change the current Correus i Telègrafs’ logo to the one that respects the Catalan language as well as the other official languages in the state. This organization also requests that all documents, websites, postage stamps, and any other postal goods issued by the National Coin and Stamp Factory should be issued and circulated in the Spanish, Catalan, Galician and Basque languages.

According to the OM, the monolingual signs on public companies such as Correus i Telègrafs contravene language legislation which states that public entities and companies should guarantee bilingualism in the communities where there is more than one official language. Moreover, such a monolingual policy causes a significant decrease in the presence of the Catalan, Galician and Basque languages.

Source: Eurolang News, Brussels, June 18, 2003, by Alexia Bos Solé, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4283>

Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?

Updated (August 2001)

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages came into force on August 1, 2001. In the instrument are established two levels of protection for the languages of the State. First series of specific measures are to be applied under the Part III of the Charter to those languages with an official status (co-official languages) recognized by the Statutes of Autonomy of the Basque Country, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Galicia, the Valencian Community and Navarre. The second level under the same part of the Charter is addressed to the regional and minority languages protected and safeguarded by the Statutes of Autonomy in the areas where they have been traditionally spoken and may be “reasonably applied” to those languages. It means for example the possibility to apply the Charter to the Galician language within the territory of Castila-León.

Updated (October 2002)

SPAIN SUBMITS THE FIRST REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN CHARTER

The first report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Spain was published on October 4, 2002. The report specifies that the measures undertaken by Spain in order to promote and protect the languages are as follows:

- The application of Parts II and III (general principles and specific measures) - Catalan, Basque, Galician and Valencian
- The application of Part II (general principles) - Aranese, Aragonese, Asturian and Catalan of Aragon

The report also includes statistical data on the co-official languages as well as a selection of the legal provisions relative to the Charter's application. As regards the description of the measures undertaken for the application, the report contains two sections. The first one deals with the rules adopted by the state and the second one is about those adopted by each Autonomous Community.

Source: Mercator news, October 2002, <http://www.troc.es/ciemen/mercator/index-gb.htm>

What else can be found about languages and minorities?

Updated (January 2001)

CATALAN

Catalonia keeps leading the editorial market in Spain. In 2000, Catalan companies sold books for 57,4% of the total book sales business in Spain.

Apart from printed books, the Catalan language has good news in the daily papers field. In January, a new sports paper appeared in kiosks and bookstores in Catalonia. Its name is "El 9 esportiu de Catalunya" and it is written entirely in Catalan. The new daily has been created by a coalition of local Catalan newspapers, called "Comit", which will enclose the new product in all newspapers of the group. Following this, Comit ensures a sale of up to 60,000 copies of "El 9".

However, the goal of Comit is to sell up to 80,000 newspapers every day. After a six-month period to consolidate the project, the new sports newspaper will launch a local edition in the Balearic Islands, and another edition for Valencia is being studied. "El 9" is the first sports

newspaper in Catalan since the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). At the moment, there are two other sports papers made in Catalonia but both are in Spanish. Both sell around 85,000 copies per day and both also have, curiously, detailed projects to make bilingual editions of their papers. Maybe now, with a direct competitor in the streets, they will carry these projects to reality.

Updated (June 2001)

VALENCIA

The parliament of the Valencian autonomous region has approved the creation of the Valencian Academy of Language (AVL) after three years of intense political and cultural debate. According to the law, the new institution's task is to "establish the linguistic rules of Valencian language", which is a variant, or dialect of Catalan. Many Catalan language authorities in Barcelona and Valencia do not support the newborn academy because there is another scientific institution, Barcelona-based Catalan Studies Institute (IEC), which is officially considered as the main authority in linguistic matters since 1920.

However, if the AVL shows a willingness to co-operate with the IEC in a joint effort to preserve Catalan language, the Barcelona based institution "will of course collaborate on a scientific basis", said Manuel Castellet, IEC President.

Updated (July 2001)

In July during the 37th summit of African states in Lusaca, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which according to its own definition, "promotes the unity and solidarity of the African States; defends the sovereignty of members; and works for human rights, and to eradicate poverty and the vestiges of colonialism", has accorded to establish Spanish as the sixth official language of this Pan-African body, alongside English, Portuguese, French, Swahili and Arabic.

Updated (October 2001)

On October 23, 2001, the first court sentence in the Aranese language (the official language of the Val d'Aran, together with Catalan and Spanish) was passed in city of Lleida. This was a historical precedent as regards the use of this language in the administration. Official sources claim that more than 5,000 forms and documents exist already translated into this language thus inhabitants of Val d'Aran may exercise their right to address to the local administration in Aranese.

Updated (December 2001)

One of the oldest and most used Internet companies, “Yahoo!”, is to create a Catalan 'portal' (www.encatala.yahoo.com) with the intent to boost the language in the on-line business world. The project has been seen as a major opportunity in Catalonia and therefore has received major political and financial aid. The new project should be ready by next February.

The cost of the operation will be 100 million pesetas (601,000 Euro), of which 60 millions will be given by the Catalan administrations. The rest will be paid by “Yahoo!” itself and other communication companies. The contents will be elaborated in Barcelona and Madrid, but also in the United States. Unlike other similar initiatives, in this case it was the Yahoo! company which had the original idea two years ago and proposed it to Catalan authorities. The multinational company argued that Catalan has enough Internet presence for them to consider this option and it will be the first experience of this kind for them.

According to June 2000 official figures, Catalan is the 19th most used language on the Internet, with 443,301 designed web pages. At that time, the 20th place was occupied by Turkish, with 436,996 web pages on the net. Taking into account that Catalan has only about 7 million speakers, and Turkish has almost 60 million, it gives an idea of how healthy Catalan is on the net. More recent figures, still to be confirmed, say that Catalan has risen to the 18th place, with 750,000 web pages. That will mean that Catalan has advanced over Hungarian, which kept the 18th position until today. With these figures, Catalan is the most used non-official language on the Internet, although other small languages, like Danish or Finnish have its major presence. This intense Catalan activity on the net is also demonstrated by Spanish official figures, which show that Catalonia is the part of Spain with a major Internet use: up to 24,8% of Catalan population uses the web regularly in comparison to 22,8% in Madrid or 20,7% in the Basque Country.

APPENDIX A

MAP OF SPAIN



APPENDIX B

SPAIN - CONSTITUTION

(Document Status on December 29, 1978)

Article 3 (Official Language)

(1) Castilian is the official Spanish language of the state. All Spaniards have the duty to know it and the right to use it.

(2) The other languages of Spain will also be official in the respective autonomous communities, in accordance with their Statutes.

(3) The richness of the linguistic modalities of Spain is a cultural patrimony, which will be the object of special respect and protection

Article 20 (Specific Freedoms, Restrictions)

(1) The following rights are recognized and protected:

a) To express and disseminate thoughts freely through words, writing, or any other means of reproduction.

b) Literary, artistic, scientific, and technical production, and creation.

c) Academic freedom.

d) To communicate or receive freely truthful information through any means of dissemination. The law shall regulate the right to the protection of the clause on conscience and professional secrecy in the exercise of these freedoms.

(2) The exercise of these rights cannot be restricted through any type of prior censorship.

(3) The law shall regulate the organization and parliamentary control of the means of social communication owned by the State or any public entity and shall guarantee access to those means by significant social and political groups, respecting the pluralism of society and the various languages of Spain.

(4) These liberties find their limitation in the respect for the rights recognized in this Title, in the precepts of the laws which develop it and, especially, in the right to honor, privacy, personal identity, and protection of youth and childhood.

(5) The seizure of publications, recordings, or other means of information may only be determined by a judicial resolution.

Article 148 (Competences)

(1) The Autonomous Communities may assume competences in the following:

(17) promotion of culture, research, and, when applicable, the teaching of the language of the Autonomous Community;

Note: The complete text of the Constitution and further information on the constitutional background of Spain are provided by the International Constitutional Law Project at the University of Wuerzburg.

BASIC LAW OF THE STANDARDIZATION OF THE USE OF BASQUE

In its judgement 82/1986, on 26th June, the Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional articles 8.3 and 12.1 and the final sentence of art. 6.2 of the Basic Law 10/1982, of 24th November, of the Basque Parliament on the normalization of the use of Basque.

Basic Law number 10 of November 24th, 1982 on the Standardization of the use of the Basque Language (Euskara).

It is made known to all the citizens of the Basque Country that the Basque Parliament has passed law number 10 of November 24th, 1982, the “Basic Law for the Standardization of the Use of Basque.” Therefore, I order all the citizens of the Basque Country both individuals and the authorities to keep the Law and oblige others to keep it.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, November 24th, 1982.

The President

CARLOS GARAIKOETXEA URRIZA

Basque: Cultural heritage and official language of the Basque Country.

The Constitution and the Statute of Autonomy entrust to the public authorities of the Basque Autonomous Community the adoption of the measures to ensure the development and the standardization of the use of the Basque Language, taking into account the dual role that it has as

a part of the cultural heritage of the Basque people and, together with Spanish, its use as an official language within the Autonomous Community.

An instrument of integration

The intention is to recognize the Basque language as the most viable and objective sign of our Community and an instrument of the full integration of the individual in it through knowledge and use of the language.

No discrimination.

The character of the Basque language as the mother tongue of the Basque people and as an official language together with Spanish should not, under any circumstances, impair the rights of those citizens who for different reasons cannot make use of it, in accordance with that which is expressly laid down in number 3 of article 6 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Basque Country.

Updating of the legal regulations.

As the language is recognized as an integrating element of all the citizens of the Basque Country, the rights of Basque citizens in linguistic matters should be incorporated into our legal system, particularly the right to express oneself in either of the two official languages and the guarantee of our language as an essential part of our cultural heritage, the custodian of which is the Basque people.

Mother tongue.

Based on the general principles behind the Law, the Preliminary Title recognizes the Basque Language as the language belonging to the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and the Basque and Spanish languages as official languages within its territory. In the same Title, discrimination for reasons of language is prohibited.

Rights and duties

The First Title deals with the rights of citizens and the duties of the Basque public authorities in language matters.

Actions of the public authorities

The second title regulates the behavior of the public authorities. The First Chapter refers to the use of the Basque language in the public administration and the right to use either Basque or the Spanish

language in dealings with the Autonomous Administration is recognized. The registration of documents in public registry offices is regulated, and the bilingual form for the publication of Regulations, Acts, and Decisions of the Administration as well as notifications and communications is established. All citizens are entitled to use the official language they wish in their relations with the Ministry of Justice.

The Government, the Provincial Institutions of the Historic Territories or local corporations are given the power to establish the official names of towns and other places, in general, within the Autonomous Community. The Government is also given the power of regulating the awarding of the title of official translator, as well as the creation of the official service of translators. The bilingual form of forms or official models to be used by public institutions, as well as in public transport services originating in the Basque Country is established. The progressive Basquisition of the personnel related to the public administration is foreseen.

Basque in teaching

The Second Chapter regulates the use of Basque in teaching. The right of all students to be taught in Basque is recognized, and the obligatory nature of the teaching of the official language not selected is also regulated. The Government is encharged with the regulation of the linguistic models to be taught, the adoption of measures leading to the acquisition of sufficient knowledge of each of the official languages and the adequate preparation of study plans. With regard to teaching staff the adaptation of their plans of study to achieve total capacity in both Basque and Spanish is contemplated. Also foreseen are possible exemptions from the teaching of Basque.

Basque in the means of communication

The Third Chapter regulates the use of Basque in the means of social communication and the right to be informed in Basque is recognized. The promotion of Basque in the mass media of the Autonomous Community and its promotion on Spanish television is responsibility of the Government, as well as the adoption of measures of promotion and protection of Basque on the radio, in the press, audio-visual means of reproduction, etc.

Social use and institutional aspects of Basque

The Fourth Chapter refers to the social use and other institutional aspects of Basque encharges the Government with the teaching of Basque and literacy in Basque for adults and the promotion of the use of Basque in different social atmospheres, and foresees the creation by the

Government of an institution that will coordinate the application and development of this Law.

Unification and Standardization

In the Fifth Chapter the responsibility of the Government to oversee the Unification and Standardization of official written Basque is laid down.

Additional Provision

The Additional Provision attributes to the Government the establishing of links with those institutions or powers that whilst acting outside the Autonomous Community undertake activities related to Basque.

Transitory Provision

The Transitional Provision ensures the passage from the present situation to another in which the application and development of this law will be complete, thereby avoiding a regulatory vacuum until its spirit is reflected in other laws and regulations

Provision of Repeal and Final Provision

The Law also establishes a provision for the repealing of other laws and a final provision in which the Government is authorized to develop the Law through further regulations.

PRELIMINARY TITLE

Article 1 (Regulation of the use of Basque and Spanish)

The use of Basque and Spanish, within the territorial area of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, will conform to that which is laid down in this Law and other provisions that the Parliament and Basque Governments may establish for the development of the said Law.

Article 2 (Mother tongue)

The natural language of the Basque Country is Basque.

Article 3 (Official languages)

The official languages of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country are Basque and Spanish.

Article 4 (No discrimination for Reasons of language)

The public authorities will watch over and adopt those measures necessary so that no person is discriminated against for reasons of language in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

FIRST TITLE

On citizens rights and the duties of the public authorities in language matters.

Article 5 (The right to know and use the official Languages)

1. All the citizens of the Basque country have the right to know and use the official languages, both orally and in written form.

Linguistic rights of The Citizens:

2. The following fundamental language rights of the citizens of the Basque Country are recognized:

In relations with the Administration and Other Institutions,

a) The right to maintain relations in Basque or in Spanish orally and/or in writing with the Administration and any official organization or institution located in the Autonomous Community.

In education,

b) The right to receive or the right to be taught in both official languages.

In the means of communication

c) The right to receive in Basque publications, radio, and television programmes and other means of communication.

In professional, political, labor, and union activities,.

d) The right to develop professional, labour, political, and union activities in Basque

In expressing opinions.

e) The right to express oneself in Basque at any meeting.

Rights guaranteed

3. The public authorities will guarantee the exercising of these rights, in the territorial area of the Autonomous Community, to ensure that they are both effective and real.

SECOND TITLE

ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

FIRST CHAPTER

ON THE USE OF BASQUE IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL AREA OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Article 6 (Language options in relations with the Administration, providing the necessary means)

1. The right of all citizens to use both Basque and Spanish in their relations within the territorial area of the Autonomous Community, and to be attended in the official language that they choose, is recognized. To this end, the relevant measures will be adopted and the necessary means will be provided to guarantee, progressively, the exercising of this right.

Opening of proceedings

2. In those proceedings in which more than one person is involved, the Public Authorities will use that language that is mutually chosen by those parties involved. If there is no agreement the language that the person who put the proceedings into motion chose to use will be used, without prejudicing the rights of other parties to be informed in the language of their choice.

Article 7 (Registration of documents)

1. The registration of documents in the Public Registries for which the Autonomous Community is responsible, whether belonging to the Basque Government, Autonomous Institutions of the same, Provincial Authorities, Local Authorities, or others, will be carried out in the official language which appears on the documents.

Public registries not Under the authority of The Autonomous Community

2. In those Public Registries not belonging to the Autonomous Community, the Basque Government will promote, in agreement with the relevant institutions, the standardization of the use of Basque.

Certificates

3. With regard to exhibition and/or certificates, the translation to either of the official languages of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country is guaranteed.

Article 8 (Double edition of official texts)

1. All official provisions or resolutions that emanate from the Public Authorities located in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country must be written in bilingual form for official publicity purposes.

Double edition of other official texts

2. All acts in which the public authorities located within the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country take part, as well as the administrative notifications and communications, must be written in both languages, except when those private individuals involved expressly choose the use of one of the official languages of the Autonomous Community.

Exclusive use of Basque without prejudice to the rights of citizens

3. Notwithstanding that which is set out above, the public authorities may make exclusive use of Basque in the area of local administration, when, because of the socio-linguistic character of the area, the rights of citizens are not prejudiced.

Article 9 (Relations with the Administration of Justice)

1. All citizens may freely use the official language of the choice in their relations with the Administration of Justice without having to give any translation whatsoever.

Validity of texts and acts

2. Written statements and documents presented in Basque, as well as judiciary acts will be totally valid and executable.

Standardization of the Use of Basque in the Administration of Justice

3. The Basque Government, in agreement with the corresponding institutions, shall promote the standardization of the use of Basque in the Administration of Justice in the Basque Country.

Article 10 (Official place-names)

1. The official names of the territories, urban areas, groups of population, geographical features, urban roads and, in general, all place-names of the Basque Autonomous Community, will be established by the government, the Provincial Institutions of the Historic Territories or local corporations in their respective areas, always respecting the original Basque, Romance or Spanish, with the correct academic written form of each language.

The Royal Academy Of the Basque Language

In the case of a conflict between the local corporations and the Basque Government over the official names mentioned in the previous paragraph, the Basque Government will resolve the conflict after consulting the Royal Academy of the Basque Language.

Public signposts

2. Traffic signs installed on the public highway will be written in bilingual form, while respecting in all cases the international norms and the need for security and legibility by the users.

Official consideration

3. If these names are considerably different, both will be considered official, with regards to highway signs.

Article 11 (Public Transport)

1. In all public transport services originating in the Basque Country, printed matter announcements, and communications to the public will be in Basque and in Spanish.

Article 12 (Certificate of Official Translator)

1. The Government will lay down the conditions for obtaining and awarding the Certificate of Official Translator between the two official languages.

Official Service of Translators

2. Likewise, it will create the Official Service of Translators, which will be at the disposition of the citizens and public entities of the Autonomous Community, in order to guarantee the precision and legal equivalence of translations.

Article 13 (Bilingual forms)

The forms or official models that are used by the public authorities in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country must be written in both official languages.

Article 14 (Basquisition of the Personnel of the Public Administration)

1. In order to make effective the rights recognized in Article 6 of this law, the public authorities will adopt those measures that will tend towards the progressive Basquisition of the personnel related to the public administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

Jobs and knowledge of both languages

2. The public authorities will determine those posts for which knowledge of both languages is obligatory.

Knowledge of the official languages as merits in access to a Post in the Public Administration

3. In the selection tests carried out for access to other posts of work within the administration in the territorial area of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, among other merits, the level of knowledge of the official languages, for which the administration will set a level for each professional grading will be taken into consideration.

SECOND CHAPTER

On the use of Basque in teaching

Article 15 (Rights to receive education in Basque and in Spanish Progressive generalization of Basque)

The right of all students to be taught either in Basque or in Spanish at the different educational levels is recognized.

To this effect the Parliament and the Government will adopt those measures necessary which will tend to the progressive generalization of

bilingualism in the educational system of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

Article 16 (Compulsory teaching of that language not chosen (in pre-university education))

1. In pre-university teaching, the teaching of the official language which has not been chosen as the medium of teaching by parents or the tutor, or, if appropriate, the student, will be compulsory.

Regulation of the linguistic models

2. However, the Government will regulate the linguistic models to be taught in each centre taking into account the wishes of the parents or the tutors and the socio-linguistic situation of the area.

Private centres

3. Private centres that receive public funds as grants and that teach official subjects using as a base a language that is not one of the official languages of the Community, will teach both Basque and Spanish as compulsory subjects.

Article 17

1) Fluency in both languages and 2) Social use of Basque

The Government will adopt these measures that will lead to a guarantee of a real possibility in equality of conditions, of possessing sufficient practical knowledge of Basque at the end of the period of compulsory schooling and that will ensure the official use of Basque, making the same a vehicle of normal expression, both in internal and external activities, and in administrative acts and documents.

Article 18 (Updating of study plans)

Study plans will be adjusted to meet the objectives proposed in Articles 15, 16, and 17.

Article 19 (Professional Training Colleges)

The University Teacher Training Schools will adapt their study plans to achieve total proficiency in Basque and Spanish of the teachers, in accordance with the demands of their specialty.

Article 20 (Basquisition of teaching staff)

1. The Government, in order to make the right to receive education in Basque effective, will establish those means which tend toward a progressive Basquisition of the teaching staff.
2. Likewise, it will determine those teaching posts or units for which knowledge of Basque will be obligatory, in order to comply with that which is laid down in Articles 15 and 16 of this law.

Article 21 (Exemption from the teaching of Basque)

Those students who have begun their secondary school studies outside the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country or those who duly justify their non-habitual residence in the Autonomous Community may be excused from Basque classes according to the procedure which will be established to that end.

THIRD CHAPTER

On the use of Basque in the mass media

Article 22 (Right to receive information in Basque and Spanish)

Progressive equality of both languages, the right of all citizens to be informed by the means of social communication both in Basque and in Spanish is recognized. To this end, the Government will adopt those measures that will lead to an increase in the presence of Basque in the means of social communication, which will tend to the progressive equalization in the use of both official languages.

Using Basque preferentially

Article 23

The Government will promote the preferential use of Basque in the means of communication of the Autonomous Community, in order to guarantee the equalization of both languages established in the previous article.

Article 24 (Broadcasting centers of Spanish Television (TVE))

The Government will promote language standardization in the broadcasting centers of Spanish Television in order to ensure the adequate presence of Basque as the natural language of the Basque Country.

Article 25 (Diffusion and use in...)

The Government, in order to progressively guarantee the right recognized in Article 22, will adopt measures that will lead to the promotion and protection of the use of Basque, improving in all cases its diffusion and possibilities of effective use in:

The radio.

The press and publications.

The cinema.

The theater and public spectacles.

Audiovisual means of reproduction.

To this end the relevant title will be developed within the laws, which deal with and regulate the previous points.

FOURTH CHAPTER

On the social use and other institutional aspects of Basque

Article 26 (The acts of the Basque public authorities)

The Basque public authorities will take the necessary measures and provide the necessary means to promote the use of Basque in all areas of social life, in order to allow citizens to use the said language in the different mercantile, cultural, associative, sporting, religious and any other activities.

Article 27 (Publicity)

1. The Basque public authorities will promote the use of Basque in publicity.

Social uses and signs

2. Likewise they will promote the social use of Basque and its use in the signs of all types of mercantile, recreational and cultural associations as well as those of non-official character.

Article 28 (Basquisition and literacy in Basque for adults)

The Government will promote the teaching of Basque for adults and literacy of the Basque speaking population by means of the creation of a

public institution for that purpose. By a law of the Basque Parliament the corresponding regulations will be established.

Article 29 (Institution to serve as a meeting point)

The Government, in order to facilitate the task of the standardization of Basque will create a body that will have the objective of studying, channeling, and coordinating the efforts and the activities of the different institutions with regard to the application and development of this Law.

FIFTH CHAPTER

On the use of Basque as an official written language

Article 30

1) Unification and standardisation of written Basque, 2) without prejudice to the dialects

The Government will monitor the unification and standardization of Basque in its condition of common official written language within the territorial area of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, without prejudicing the respect due to the different dialects which are an essential part of the cultural heritage of the Basque Country in those areas where they are spoken.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Establishing cultural links

First—The Government, as part of its responsibilities, will establish cultural links with those institutions or authorities that while acting outside the territorial area of the Autonomous Community, undertake activities of research, protection and promotion of Basque.

Socio-linguistic planning map

Second—The Government will draw up the socio-linguistic planning map of the Basque Country that will be revised periodically, after the Basque Parliament has been informed.

Adoption of agreements tending towards standardization

Third—The Basque Government will promote, in accordance with the competent authorities, the adoption of measures tending to the progressive standardization of the use of Basque in the Administration of the State or in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, with regard to that which is regulated in articles 6, 8, 11, 13, 14 of this Law.

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Proceedings already opened

First— All those proceedings that have been initiated in the different public administrations prior to coming into effect of this Law, will continue until their termination in the language in which they were begun.

Temporary exemption from the application of the Law

Second—The Government, at the request of local public authorities and taking into account the special socio-linguistic situation of the area, may temporarily exempt, in the area of its responsibility, the application of articles of this Law that are not obligatory due to constitutional or statutory considerations.

REPEAL PROVISION

Repeal of Provisions

Those provisions of equal or inferior rank that are opposed to that which is laid down in this Law are repealed.

FINAL PROVISION

1) Development and application

2) Coming into effect

The Government is authorized to hand down those provisions of regulatory character necessary for the development and application of the present law which will take effect from the day following its publication in the Official Gazette of the Basque Country.

PRESIDENCY OF THE GENERALITAT³

ACT NO. 1, OF 7 JANUARY 1998, ON LINGUISTIC POLICY

(DOGC N. 2553, of 9th January 1998)²

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERALITAT OF CATALONIA

¹ The Generalitat is the institution through which the self-government of Catalonia is politically organised.

² BOE no. 36, of 11th February 1998.

Let it be known to all citizens that the Catalan Parliament has approved, and I, in the name of the King, and as laid down in article 33.2 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, enact the following

ACT

Introduction

I. The meaningfulness and situation of the Catalan language

The Catalan language is an essential element in the national formation and character of Catalonia, a basic instrument for communication, integration and social cohesion of citizens, regardless of their geographic origin, and a privileged link between Catalonia and the other Catalan-speaking areas, with which it forms a linguistic community which has made a valuable contribution, in its original way, to universal culture over the centuries. Furthermore, it has borne witness to the loyalty of the Catalan people towards their land and their specific culture.

Developed originally within the territory of Catalonia, shared with other areas - where people and even laws have given it different names - it has always been the language of the country and as such it has been negatively affected by certain events in the history of Catalonia which have placed it in a precarious situation. This situation has arisen due to various factors, such as the political persecution it has suffered and the legal imposition of for more than two and a half centuries; the political and socio-economic circumstances in which the demographic changes took place in recent decades and, moreover, the restricted scope that the language has, similar to that of other official languages of Europe, especially in the world of today, where communication, information and the cultural industries are moving towards globalisation.

Thus, as a result of all these circumstances the present sociolinguistic situation of Catalonia is very complex. The situation of a people's language which has not achieved fully normal use and has a relatively small number of speakers in the international context coincides with the fact that the mother tongue of many citizens in the territory of Catalonia is Castilian, which they prefer to speak, and thanks to which they have often contributed significantly to enriching Catalan culture itself, a contribution which has similarly been made by citizens whose mother tongue is another language. This situation therefore requires a language policy which effectively helps to achieve the normal use of Catalonia's own language and which at the same time guarantees a scrupulous respect of the linguistic rights of all citizens.

II. The legal framework

The present legal framework of the Catalan language is defined by the 1978 Spanish Constitution and by the 1979 Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia.

The former, recognising the diversity of peoples within the Spanish State, states in article 3 that "Castilian is the official Castilian language of the State" and that, as the official language "all Spaniards have the duty to learn it and the right to use it". Furthermore, the Constitution states that "the other Spanish languages shall also be official in their respective autonomous communities as laid down in their Statutes".

Article 3 of the Statute of Autonomy states "1. Catalan is Catalonia's own language. 2. Catalan is the official language of Catalonia, as is Castilian, which is official throughout Spain. 3. The Generalitat will guarantee the normal and official use of both languages, will take the appropriate measures in order to ensure that they are learnt and will create the conditions which will allow them to attain full equality with respect to the rights and duties of the citizens of Catalonia. 4. The Aranese³ tongue shall be taught and shall be the object of special respect and protection".

These statutory provisions were further developed by Act No. 7 of 18th April 1983, on Linguistic in Catalonia, of great importance in the history of the language, which signalled the end to sanctions against Catalan; the fourteen years it has been in force have made possible the spread of knowledge of the language among most of the population, and a policy agreed by all sectors of society, which has led to a process of normal linguistic use.

During the time the Act has been in force, important changes have taken place: in the technological field, computers and information networks have become of general use; in the cultural and commercial field, free trade has been established, and this has spread to cultural interchanges, especially in the communication and audio-visual world; in the political field, on the one hand Spain has joined the European Economic Community, now called the European Union, governed by a multilingual principle, and on the other hand the Generalitat has taken over responsibility for many of the competencies laid down in the Statute; in the social and sociolinguistic field, proficiency in Catalan has become widespread - though it has not always resulted in a similar increase in public use - and a considerable change in immigration flows has taken place. Furthermore, language law in our country has developed

³ Occitan dialect spoken in the Aran valley, a Catalan district (*comarca*) in the Pyrenees.

considerably, due partly to the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Tribunal and partly to Catalan legislation and to doctrinal studies. Finally, the contents of various resolutions passed by the European Parliament have to be pointed out: that of 30th November 1987, on the languages and cultures of regional and ethnic minorities in the European Community; that of 11th December 1990, on the situation of languages in the Community and that of the Catalan language, and that of 9th February 1994, on cultural and linguistic minorities of the European Community. Moreover, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, adopted in the form of a Convention by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 5th November 1992, is worth mentioning, as is the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights, approved by the World Conference of Linguistic Rights on 6th June 1996 in Barcelona, which received the unanimous support of the Congress of Deputies and the Parliament of Catalonia.

III. The aims of this Act

All these circumstances have made it advisable to amend and update the 1983 Act and to renew the political and social agreement reached at that time, in order to be able to consolidate the process promoted by the Language Normalisation in Catalonia Act in the fields of government and education, to adapt the media and cultural industries to today's needs and to fix linguistic regulations directed at the socio-economic world; all this with a view to moving towards full and complete proficiency in Catalan and its normal use, which can make a new thrust in the social use of the language feasible.

Amending and updating the 1983 Act also has to make it possible to reaffirm the statutory commitment to achieving full equality regarding linguistic rights and duties, and especially, those of learning both official languages and of using them, which means that, in accordance with the existing statutory framework, the citizens of Catalonia have to have learned Catalan and Castilian and shall be entitled to use them.

In order to continue with this drive, it has moreover become essential for changes to be made to State and European law, and to strengthen the policies of support and the relevant budgetary provisions.

IV. The contents and structure of this Act

This Act expresses the legal concepts of a people's own language and that of official language. Thus the concept of Catalonia's own language applied to Catalan commits the public authorities and institutions in Catalonia to safeguard Catalan, to use it in a general manner and to promote its public use at all levels. The concept of official language

applied to Catalan and Castilian guarantees all citizens their subjective rights, which are explicitly stated, to learn both languages, to be able to freely use them in all private and public activities, to be served in the language of their choice in their relationships with the authorities and, gradually and progressively, with all social agents who offer services to the public, and to not be discriminated against on the basis of language. Bearing in mind these principles, the Act governs the use of both official languages in Catalonia, and establishes measures to and promote the use of Catalan in order to achieve its normal use and promotional measures to guarantee its presence in all spheres.

In the official and administrative field, this Act stipulates that Catalan authorities and institutions shall generally use Catalan, without affecting the right of citizens to address them in the official language of their choice, and declares the full validity of all public and private documents in either of the two official languages, totally indifferently one from the other, in all spheres, including the State and Judicial Authorities as well as public registries.

As regards education, this Act guarantees to all the population full proficiency in both languages, and at the same time, it guarantees that students shall not be discriminated against, nor separated into different groups, on the grounds of language; all this is stated while maintaining the joint linguistic system applied under the 1983 Act, and in accordance with jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court. Furthermore, it establishes measures to promote university education in Catalan.

In the field of the media, and within the framework of the Generalitat's responsibilities, it governs the use of Catalan in radio and television station broadcasts, so as to guarantee the presence of the Catalan language in radio and television programs, and lays down measures to promote the written press. As regards cultural industries, it maintains and reinforces the promotional measures already established by the Linguistic Normalisation in Catalonia Act for the cinema, books, music and entertainment, and includes references to computer science, telecommunication networks and linguistic engineering products, which have become the basis for processing information in all fields.

As regards the socio-economic field, it adopts measures to regulate the presence of Catalan and to promote its use in all fields where, for market or other reasons, they are not adequately guaranteed. Thus public companies, licensees and public services shall become active agents in the process of normal linguistic use in order to guarantee consumers' linguistic rights. The aim is to progressively achieve that both languages are treated equally in the economic world as all citizens in Catalonia

acquire full knowledge of Catalan, and always by means of social agreements sought by the Generalitat.

Finally, this Act acknowledges, protects and promotes education and the use of Aranese in the Aran valley, with reference to Act 16 of 13th July 1990, concerning the special treatment of the Aran valley, and with full respect for the powers of the institutions of the Aran valley.

This Act offers guidelines for citizens, only creating obligations for the authorities and certain companies, should this be required, due to the nature of their activity being public services and in order to safeguard citizens' linguistic rights. Therefore, only civil servants and the aforementioned companies may become subject to administrative action, according to the sectoral laws in force, should they breach the obligations set forth in this Act.

As regards the structure, this Act consists of thirty-nine articles, and eight additional, three transitory and three final provisions. The articles are distributed in seven chapters, which govern the general principles (preliminary chapter), institutional use (chapter I), place and personal names (chapter II), education (chapter III), the mass media and cultural industries (chapter IV), socio-economic activity (chapter V), and the institutional stimulus (chapter VI). Thus it follows the structure of Act 7 of 1983, to which chapters specifically concerning names and socio-economic activity have been added.

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

General Principles

Article 1 (The object of this Act)

1. The object of this Act is to develop article 3 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, in order to protect, promote and normalise the use of Catalan in all fields, and the use of Aranese in the Aran valley, and to guarantee the normal and official use of Catalan and Castilian.

2. The main aims of this Act are:

- a) To protect and promote the use of Catalan by all citizens.
- b) To provide effectiveness in the use of Catalan and Castilian, without any citizens being discriminated against.
- c) To promote the normal use of Catalan in administration, education, mass media, cultural industries and in the socio-economic world.

d) To ensure that proficiency in Catalan spreads to all citizens.

3. A further aim of this Act is to reach equality regarding the linguistic rights and duties of citizens, promoting whatever actions are needed and removing the obstacles that at present make this difficult.

Article 2 (Catalonia's own language)

1. Catalan is Catalonia's own language and distinguishes it as a people.

2. Catalan, as Catalonia's own language, is:

a) The language of all institutions of Catalonia, and particularly of the Administration of the Generalitat, local authorities, and public corporations, companies and public services, institutional media, education and place names.

b) The language preferentially used by the State Administration in Catalonia in the manner that it lays down, by the other institutions and, generally, by companies and entities offering services to the public.

3. That set forth in para 2 implies a special commitment by the institutions to promote the knowledge and use among citizens, without detriment to the official nature of Catalan and Castilian.

Article 3 (Official languages)

1. Catalan is the official language of Catalonia, as is Castilian as well.

2. Catalan and Castilian, as official languages, may be used indiscriminately by citizens in all private and public activities without exception. Legal procedures carried out in either of the two official languages have, as far as the language used is concerned, full validity and effect.

Article 4 (Linguistic rights)

1. In accordance with article 3 of the Statute of Autonomy, and within the context of an active policy by the Generalitat to create a situation which allows linguistic rights and duties to reach full equality, everyone in Catalonia is entitled:

a) To be proficient in both official languages.

b) To express themselves in either of the two official languages, verbally or in writing, in their relations as well as in private and public procedures.

c) To be served in either of the two official languages in the manner laid down by this Act.

d) To freely use either of the two official languages in all fields.

e) Not to be discriminated against on account of the official language they use.

2. Everyone may address the courts and tribunals in order to obtain legal protection for the right to use their language.

Everyone may address the Generalitat and the *Síndic de Greuges*⁴ requesting that, within the scope of their authority, they act in order to guarantee linguistic rights in a specific manner.

Article 5 (The guiding principles of the policy of the Generalitat)

1. The Generalitat shall guarantee the linguistic rights of citizens, the normal and official use of Catalan and Castilian, the teaching of both languages to the whole population, the linguistic ability and capacity of staff in service of the Authorities and full equality of citizens regarding their linguistic rights and duties, in all fields.

2. The Generalitat shall take steps to safeguard, protect and promote the use of Catalan in all fields, by adopting the required measures and providing adequate resources.

Article 6 (Unity of the Catalan language)

1. The Catalan language is a heritage that is shared with other territories forming the same linguistic community. The Generalitat shall ensure the protection of the unity of Catalan and shall promote the use and dissemination of Catalan abroad and communication between different Catalan-speaking areas.

2. Pursuant to legislation in force, the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans*⁵ is responsible for linguistic authority.

Article 7 (Acknowledgement and Protection of Aranese)

Aranese, the Aran valley's own variety of the Occitan language, is governed, as regards its use, by Act No. 16 of 13th July 1990, concerning

⁴ An Ombudsman appointed by the Parliament of Catalonia to defend fundamental rights and public liberties.

⁵ Institute of Catalan Studies, higher scientific institution one of whose roles is to act as the Academy of the Catalan language.

the special treatment in the Aran valley, and, additionally, by the provisions of this Act, which are never to be interpreted in such a way as limit the use of Aranese.

CHAPTER I

Institutional Use

Article 8 (Publication of regulations)

1. Bills enacted by the Parliament of Catalonia are published, in simultaneous editions, in Catalan and Castilian, in the *Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya*⁶. The Parliament is responsible for preparing the official version in Castilian.

2. General provisions and regulating resolutions of the Government, the Authorities and the Institutions of the Generalitat and the local authorities of Catalonia are published, when appropriate, in the *Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya*, in simultaneous versions in Catalan and Castilian.

Article 9 (The language of the Catalan Authorities)

1. The Generalitat, local authorities and other public corporations of Catalonia, institutions and the licensed services and companies that they are responsible for shall use Catalan in their internal procedures and in relations between each other. They shall also normally use it in their communications and notifications addressed to individuals or companies residing within the Catalan linguistic area, without detriment to the right of citizens to receive them in Castilian on request.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall regulate, by means of statutes provisions, the use of Catalan in the administrative activities of all bodies under its authority.

3. Local corporations and universities shall regulate the use of Catalan in the field of their respective responsibilities, as laid down in para 1. All other public corporations shall also likewise regulate it.

Article 10 (Administrative procedures)

1. In administrative procedures carried out by the Generalitat Authorities, by local authorities and by the other corporations of Catalonia, Catalan shall be used, without detriment to the right of

⁶ The official gazette of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

citizens to submit documents, make statements and, on request, to receive notifications in Castilian.

2. The Authorities shall deliver a translated certificate of whatever affects them in the official language requested by the individuals involved. The request for translation shall not imply any handicap or expense to the applicant or any delay in the procedure or the suspension of the procedure and the stipulated time spans.

Article 11 (The linguistic ability of the staff in the service of Catalonia)

1. The staff in the service of the authorities, corporations or public institutions of Catalonia shall have a sufficient and appropriate command of the two official languages, both in verbal and written communication, so that they can adequately carry out the duties assigned to their post.

2. In order for what is laid down in para 1 to be valid, the Government of the Generalitat shall guarantee the teaching of Catalan to the staff in the service of the Generalitat, local authorities, public universities and the judicial authorities of Catalonia and promote measures to recycle such staff.

3. In recruiting staff to cover posts in the Generalitat, local authorities and university administration and services, including staff on contract, Catalan proficiency, both oral and written, shall be at a level appropriate for the duties of the position to be filled in the terms established by legislation for public service.

Article 12 (State Authorities)

1. Administrative procedures carried out in Catalonia by the bodies and entities of the State Authorities, both verbally and in writing, in either of the official languages, are valid, without requiring translation.

2. Everyone is entitled to communicate with and to be served by the State Authorities in Catalonia, verbally or in writing, in the official language of their choice, and cannot be required to provide any kind of translation.

Article 13 (Judicial proceedings)

1. Judicial proceedings are valid, whether verbal or in writing, whichever of the two official languages they are carried out in, without requiring a translation thereof.

2. Everyone is entitled to communicate with the Judicial Authorities, verbally or in writing, in the official language of their choice and to be served by them, and cannot be required to provide any kind of translation.

3. On request, everyone may receive certificates of rulings and decision procedures affecting them in the official language they require, with no delay due to language.

4. That set forth in paras 1, 2 and 3 is also applicable to the ecclesiastical and arbitration courts.

5. In the provision for staff placements in the service of the judicial authorities responsible for which the Generalitat is, what is laid down in article 11 shall be applicable, in accordance with the specific relevant regulations, in the terms laid down by regulation.

Article 14 (Public documents)

1. Public documents drawn up in either of the official languages shall be valid.

2. The public documents shall be drawn up in the official language chosen by the grantor, or should there be more than one, in the language they agree upon. Should no agreement be reached regarding the language, the deed or document shall be drawn up in both official languages.

3. Prior to drawing up the document, the grantors shall be specifically asked which language they choose; under no circumstances may the choice of one or other result in a delay in drawing up and authorising the document. Should no specific language be chosen, the document shall be drawn up in Catalan.

4. Public commissioners of oaths shall deliver the copies and certificates in either Castilian or Catalan, in whichever language those involved require, and they shall provide translations, under their responsibility and when appropriate, of the documents and original texts. The fact that the original text and the copies thereof are translated shall be recorded in the margin and in a footnote, but legal recording of this fact is not required.

5. The offices of public commissioners of oaths shall be in a position to serve citizens in either of the two languages and they must have staff who have an adequate and sufficient knowledge of them both to perform the duties related to their job task.

Article 15 (Civil and commercial documents)

1. The choice of language is not a formal requirement for private documents. Documents drawn up in either of the languages shall therefore be valid, without detriment to the translations that civil, commercial or litigation laws may require, if the language used is not official in Catalonia.
2. Private documents, whether contractual or not, whatever their nature may be, drawn up in either of the two official languages of Catalonia shall be valid and do not need any translation for their fulfilment in or out of court, within Catalan territory.
3. The documents to which para 2 refers to shall be drawn up in the official language both parties agree upon. Nevertheless, should it be a standard form contract, a regulated contract, a contract with standard clauses or one with general conditions, it shall be drawn up in the language chosen by the consumer and shall be at the immediate disposal of the client in separate copies in Catalan and Castilian.
4. Securities of all kinds, including those that represent shares in trading companies, shall be valid whichever of the two official languages they are drawn up in.
5. Cheques, promissory notes, receipts and other documents offered by financial entities to their clients shall be drawn up at least in Catalan.

Article 16 (Collective Bargaining Agreements)

1. Collective bargaining agreements shall be valid whichever of the two official languages they are drawn up in.
2. Collective bargaining agreements shall be drawn up in the official language agreed upon by the parties or, should no agreement be reached, in both official languages and in two separate copies.

Article 17 (Public Registries)

1. Registry entries recorded in either of the two official languages shall be valid.
2. In all the public registries in Catalonia, except those that are only of an administrative nature, the entries shall be recorded in the official language in which the document has been drawn up or the one used in the declaration. Should the document be bilingual, the entry shall be in the language chosen by whoever submits the document to the registry.

3. Registrars shall issue certificates in the official language used in the request.

4. Registry offices shall be in a position to serve citizens in either of the two official languages and shall have staff with a sufficient and adequate level of proficiency that they can perform the duties of their job position.

5. Registry offices shall guarantee that interpretation and translation, whether verbal or in writing, of any entry into the official language requested by the interested party is both immediate and accurate.

6. Forms and other printed material at the disposal of the public in the Registry offices shall be drawn up at least in Catalan.

CHAPTER II

Denomination

Article 18 (Place names)

1. The Catalan version of the place names of Catalonia are the only official ones, in accordance with the linguistic norms of the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans*, except those of the Aran valley, where they shall be in Aranese.

2. Decisions regarding the names of municipalities and *comarques*⁷, are governed by the legislation on local authorities.

3. Decisions on the name for urban streets and villages of every kind are the responsibility of the local councils, and decisions on other names in Catalonia, including inter-city roads, are the responsibility of the Generalitat whoever is responsible for them.

4. Names that para 2 and 3 refer to are the legal ones for all purposes and signs shall be written accordingly. The Generalitat, heeding in all cases the international regulations which have become part of internal law, shall regulate the normal use of Catalan on public signs.

Article 19 (Personal names)

1. The citizens of Catalonia are entitled to use their forenames and surnames written in a regulatory correct manner, and to use the conjunction "i" between their surnames.

⁷ The *comarca* (plural, *comarques*) is the administrative district of Catalonia established by the Generalitat on the basis of historical demarcations.

2. Interested persons may arrange for their forenames and surnames to be recorded in a regulatory correct manner in Catalan in the Civil Registry, whatever the date of the original imposition, by a simple declaration to the person in charge and by submitting the documents accrediting the linguistically correct form, in a manner which shall be set forth by regulations.

3. This rule shall be applicable to Aranese names and surnames as regards the linguistic norms for Aranese.

CHAPTER III

Education

Article 20 (The language of education)

1. Catalan, as Catalonia's own language, is also that of education, at all levels and types of schooling.

2. Educational establishments at all levels shall make Catalan the vehicle of normal expression in their educational and administrative activities, both internally and externally.

Article 21 (Non-university education)

1. Catalan shall normally be used as the vehicle of teaching and learning in non-university education.

2. Children are entitled to receive their initial education in their usual language, whether this be Catalan or Castilian. The authorities shall guarantee this right and shall provide the appropriate resources to make it effective. Parents or guardians may exercise this right on behalf of their children, on request.

3. The teaching of Catalan and Castilian shall be guaranteed in the curricula, so that all children, whatever their usual language may be when starting their education, can normally and correctly use both official languages by the end of their compulsory education.

4. In post-compulsory education, the educational authorities shall promote policies of syllabus development instruction and so as to ensure that proficiency in, and the use of, both languages are perfected so that all young people acquire the instrumental and cultural knowledge to be expected from such education.

5. Students shall not be separated either in centres or in group classes according to their usual language.

6. No graduation certificate of secondary education can be granted to any student who does not accredit that he or she has an oral and written knowledge of Catalan and Castilian at the appropriate level.

7. Certification of Catalan proficiency may not be required from any student who has been excused from learning it during their education or a part thereof, or who has carried out his or her compulsory education outside Catalonia, in the circumstances that the government of the Generalitat shall lay down by regulations.

8. Students who enter the educational system of Catalonia at a later time than usual shall receive special and additional support for the teaching of Catalan.

Article 22 (University education)

1. In higher education colleges and universities, teaching staff and students are entitled to express themselves, orally and in writing, in the official language of their choice.

2. The government of the Generalitat, universities and higher education colleges, within the field of their respective responsibilities, shall take appropriate measures to guarantee and promote the use of Catalan in all teaching, non-teaching and research fields, including the reading of doctorate theses and the taking of official professional examinations.

3. Universities shall provide courses and other suitable resources so that students and teaching staff may improve their comprehension and knowledge of Catalan.

4. Universities may, if necessary, set specific criteria for linguistic use in activities related to international commitments.

Article 23 (Permanent training and special treatment)

1. Curricula of adult permanent training courses shall include Catalan and Castilian classes.

2. Educational colleges specialised in languages shall provide for the teaching of both official languages.

3. In specially-classified educational establishments for which the Generalitat is responsible, where the language is not taught, courses of Catalan shall be provided for students not having sufficient knowledge thereof.

Article 24 (Teaching staff)

1. The teaching staff in the educational establishments of Catalonia, at any level of non-university education, shall know both official languages and shall be in a position to be able to use them in their teaching tasks.
2. Curricula for teachers' training colleges and courses shall be drawn up in such a manner that the students shall achieve full proficiency in both official languages, in accordance with the requirements of each teaching speciality.
3. The teaching staff of university colleges in Catalonia shall know both official languages sufficiently, in accordance with the requirements of their teaching tasks. This rule is not applicable to visiting teachers and other similar cases. The universities shall be responsible for setting up the mechanisms and the pertinent time scales for fulfilling this regulation.

CHAPTER IV

Mass media and cultural industries

Article 25 (Public radio and television media)

1. In radio and television broadcasting managed by the Generalitat and local authorities in Catalonia, the normal language used shall be Catalan. In this context, the media for which local authorities are responsible may bear in mind the features of their audience.
2. Without detriment to the implementation of the provisions in paras 1 and 5 of article 26, the media referred to in para 1 of this article shall promote Catalonia's cultural expression, especially that which are produced in the Catalan language.
3. The Catalan Radio and Television Corporation shall guarantee regular programming of radio and television broadcasts in Aranese for the Aran valley.
4. The government of the Generalitat shall take steps to help the satisfactory reception in Catalonia of television stations from other territories that broadcast in Catalan.

Article 26 (Radio and television media broadcasting under licence)

1. Without detriment to the application of Act No. 8 of 5th July 1996, concerning regulations of audio-visual programming provided by cable, the organisations referred to in the aforementioned Act shall guarantee

that at least fifty per cent of viewing time of all kinds of programmes produced by themselves and other tele-services are provided in the Catalan language.

2. What is laid down in para 1 shall also be applicable to licensees of television managed privately within the territorial area of Catalonia.

3. Radio broadcasts by licensees granted by the Generalitat shall guarantee at least fifty per cent of broadcasting time in Catalan, although the government of the Generalitat, depending on the features of their audience, may modify this percentage by regulation.

4. The government of the Generalitat shall include the use of the Catalan language in percentages higher than the established minimum as one of the criteria for awarding surface wave television broadcasting licences, television programmes provided by cable and radio broadcasting.

5. Radio and television broadcasting companies shall guarantee that music programmes have an adequate presence of songs produced by Catalan artists and at least twenty-five per cent are songs performed in the Catalan language or in Aranese.

6. Those broadcasters to which this article refers and who broadcast to, or provide programmes for, the Aran valley shall guarantee a significant presence of Aranese in their broadcasts.

Article 27 (The written media)

1. In the written press and in magazines published by the Generalitat and by local authorities, the language to be normally used shall be Catalan.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall promote and subsidise magazines of general distribution Catalonia which are written totally or mostly in Catalan.

3. The government of the Generalitat and the local authorities shall promote and may subsidise magazines of a municipal or local nature which are written totally or mostly in Catalan.

4. The granting of subsidies, to which paras 2 and 3 refer, shall follow objective criteria of dissemination, commercialisation and use of Catalan, within the budgetary provisions and under the control of Parliament or local authority councils.

Article 28 (Cultural industries and the entertainment business)

1. The government of the Generalitat shall aid, encourage and promote:

a) Literary and scientific output in Catalan, distribution inside and outside the Catalan-speaking territories and translation of literary and scientific works from Catalan into other languages, and translation of works written in other languages into Catalan.

b) The publishing, distributing and disseminating of books and magazines in Catalan.

c) The production of films in Catalan and the dubbing and sub-titling in Catalan of films originally made in other languages, and the distribution in whatever format, and the showing of these products.

d) The production, distribution and issuing of sound recordings and audio-visual material in Catalan.

e) The production and performance of entertainment in Catalan.

f) The creation, performance and production of music sung in Catalan.

g) The production, publishing and distribution of written and sound material in Catalan designed for the blind, and a basic cultural offer, in Catalan, for this sector.

h) All other public cultural activities in Catalan.

2. All measures taken to ensure the use of Catalan in cultural industries and in others shall be applied following objective criteria, without discrimination and within the budgetary provisions.

3. In order to ensure a significant presence of the Catalan language in available films, the government of the Generalitat can establish by a regulation linguistic quotas for the screening and distribution of film products distributed and shown either dubbed or subtitled in a language other than the original one. The quotas set for film products, whether dubbed or subtitled in Catalan, may not exceed fifty per cent of the annual total of films distributed or shown, and shall be based on objective criteria. The relevant regulation shall be issued within the context of the State Act No. 17 of 8th June 1994, concerning safeguarding and promoting the cinema, and according to the treatment set forth therein.

Article 29 (Language and computer industries)

The government of the Generalitat shall aid, encourage and promote with adequate measures:

- a) Research, production and marketing of all kind of products in Catalan related to the language industries, such as systems of voice recognition, automatic translation and so on and others that technological advancement may make possible.
- b) Production, distribution and marketing of computer software, computer games, digital and multimedia products in the Catalan language, and the translation of such products into Catalan, when appropriate.
- c) The presence of products and information in Catalan in telematic information networks.

CHAPTER V

Socio-economic activities

Article 30 (Public Companies)

- 1. Public companies of the Generalitat and local authorities, and also licensed companies thereof that manage or operate the licensed service, shall normally use Catalan in their internal procedures and documents, and on their signs, instruction manuals, labelling and wrapping of products or services they produce or provide.
- 2. The companies referred to in para 1 shall normally use Catalan in their notifications and communication, including invoices and other business documents addressed to individuals resident in the Catalan-speaking territories, without detriment to the citizens' right to receive them in Castilian - or when appropriate, in Catalan, on request.

Article 31 (Public services companies)

- 1. Companies and public or private entities which provide public services, such as those of transport, supplies, communication and others, shall use, at least, Catalan in their signs and loudspeaker announcements.
- 2. Written communiqués and notices addressed to individuals resident in Catalonia, including invoices and other business documents, made by companies and entities mentioned in para 1, shall at least be in Catalan,

without detriment to the citizen's right to receive them in Castilian on request.

3. The provision in para 2 regarding invoices and other business documents shall be interpreted without detriment to the responsibility of the State to organise the aforementioned services when they directly render them or by means of their own companies and entities.

Article 32 (Serving the public)

1. Companies and establishments involved in the sale of products and rendering services which carry out their activity in Catalonia shall be in a position to be able to serve consumers when they express themselves in either of the official languages in Catalonia.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall promote, by means of suitable measures, an increased use of Catalan within the activities referred to in para 1.

3. Permanent signs and posters with general information and documents offering services provided to users and consumers in establishments open to the public shall be at least drawn up in Catalan. This regulation is not applicable to trademarks, commercial names or to signs protected by industrial property legislation.

Article 33 (Contracted or subsidised companies)

Companies which have entered into a contract or a collaboration agreement with the Generalitat or with the local authorities of Catalonia, or are beneficiaries of aid or subsidies from them, shall use at least Catalan in their signs, announcements and documents addressed to the public, at least when the latter are linked to the object of the aid or agreement.

Article 34 (Information to users and consumers)

1. Information stated on labels, wrapping and instruction manuals for products distributed in Catalonia may be in Catalan, Castilian or in any other language of the European Union.

2. The compulsory data and voluntary additional information stated on the labels of Catalan products which benefit from certification of origin, territorial certification and certification of quality as well as craft products distributed within the territorial area of Catalonia shall be of necessity at least in Catalan.

3. The government of the Generalitat shall rule on information to consumers and users in certain sectors by regulations, and the labels and instruction manuals of industrial and commercial products distributed within the territorial area of Catalonia, especially packed food stuffs, dangerous and poisonous products as well as tobacco products, in order to ensure a progressive increase of the presence of Catalan, in accordance with the principles of this Act, European Union rules and other legal ordinances.

Article 35 (Advertising)

1. Institutional advertising by the Generalitat and local authorities, their public companies and licensees and other Catalan institutions and corporations of public law, carried out within the territorial area of Catalonia, shall generally use Catalan.

2. The government of the Generalitat and local authorities shall favour, encourage and promote the use of Catalan in advertising with appropriate measures, especially in public thoroughfares, so that it becomes the language of normal use in the sector.

Article 36 (Professional and labour activities)

1. The government of the Generalitat and professional federations shall promote the use of Catalan in their professional activities.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall encourage and promote the use of Catalan in work centres, in labour relationships and in collective bargaining agreements, in company agreements and in labour contracts and it shall directly promote the participation of the unions and business organisations in order to achieve this aim.

3. Collective bargaining agreements and company agreements may contain linguistic clauses designed to promote knowledge of Catalan among employees and to guarantee its use in work centres and in labour contracts, wage slips and all other documents. The government of the Generalitat shall encourage the inclusion of such clauses in collective bargaining agreements.

4. Permanent signs and information containing text for people who are employed in work centres, and whose installation inside such centres is mandatory, shall at least be in Catalan.

CHAPTER VI

INSTITUTIONAL STIMULUS

Article 37 (Promotional measures)

1. The government of the Generalitat shall favour, encourage and promote the use of Catalan in labour, professional, commercial, advertising, cultural, social, sports, leisure and other kinds of activities.
2. The government of the Generalitat and the local authorities in their respective fields of responsibility shall promote the public image and use of Catalan and may provide tax allowances and exemptions for actions related to the normal use and promotion of the use of Catalan.

Article 38 (Support centers)

1. The government of the Generalitat, in agreement with local authorities, shall create and subsidise centres devoted to promoting the knowledge, use and spread of Catalan, especially where the sociolinguistic situation requires them. The Consortium Language Promotion, which acts as a body for developing the territorial policies for language promotion, shall be responsible for these support centres.
2. The centres referred to in para 1 shall have sufficient human and material resources to perform their duties.

Article 39 (Planning measures)

1. The government of the Generalitat shall avail itself of general linguistic planning devices consisting of periodic programs in order to fix the most appropriate aims and measures for each circumstance and to assess results. Planning mechanisms shall be developed with the various agents and groups involved, and principles of participation, simplification and effectiveness shall be borne in mind.
2. The government of the Generalitat shall draw up a sociolinguistic map of Catalonia, which shall be reviewed every five years, in order to adjust its linguistic policy action to the real situation and, likewise, to assess the consequences of actions carried out.
3. The government of the Generalitat shall inform Parliament each year of linguistic policy actions and the results achieved in the context of the mechanisms referred to in paras 1 and 2.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

One - Collaboration with other institutions and entities

1. Without detriment to the application of this Act, the government of the Generalitat shall be vigilant in order to achieve the generalised use of Catalan, in a context of collaboration with European Union, State Authorities, the General Council of Legal Power and private and public companies of State, european or international scope, especially in the fields of the services, radio and television.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall be vigilant that there is an adequate presence of Catalan in the State-wide, trans-European and international media.

Two – Collaboration agreements with institutions of other Catalan-speaking territories

1. The Generalitat shall seek agreements, contracts and treaties with the Aragonese, Balearic and Valencian Autonomous Communities and with the states of Andorra, France and Italy to promote cultural interchanges between Catalan-speaking territories and communities, and coordination and co-operation between communities or between States in linguistic policy matters, to ensure, with suitable measures, the promotion, use and protection of the Catalan language and to achieve generalising and spreading its knowledge and use in all linguistic areas, with respect for all the different varieties thereof.

2. The Generalitat, in order to favour a Catalan communication space, shall promote broadcasting and reception of the communication media in the Catalan language.

Three - External projection

1. The government of the Generalitat shall be vigilant of the advancement of the Catalan culture and language outside the linguistic area, basically in academic and research fields, and also in European Union institutions and in their policies. In order to achieve this aim, the Generalitat may participate in an Organisation common to the Catalan-speaking territories.

2. The government of the Generalitat shall enable distribution and learning of Catalan in the Catalan communities abroad, under the terms of Act No. 18 of 27th December 1996, concerning relations with Catalan communities abroad.

Four - Normative spelling of Catalan forenames and surnames

The replacement of incorrectly written or spelt names by the correct forms, as laid down in article 19, shall be ruled by the procedure set forth in article 2 of the State Act 17 of 4th January 1977, concerning reform of article 54 of the Civil Registry Act, or the equivalent regulations which may replace it.

Five - Guarantees for fulfillment

This Act does not contemplate sanctions for citizens. Nevertheless:

a) Breach of the rules in article 26 shall be deemed a breach of the essential conditions of licence, as a result of which the sanctioning treatment set forth in Act No. 8 of 5th July 1996 shall be applicable, regulating audio-visual programs broadcasts by means of cable, and by the State Acts No. 31 of 18th December 1987, of the telecommunication ordinance, and No. 25 of 12th July 1994, by which the EEC Directive 89/552 is included in the Spanish legal ordinance.

b) Breach of the rules laid down in articles 15, 30, 31 and 32.3 attributed to the companies and entities concerned, shall be deemed as an unjustified refusal to serve the wishes of users and consumers, as a result of which the sanctioning treatment set forth in Act No. 1 of 8th January 1990, concerning market discipline and defence of consumers and users, shall be applicable.

Six - Economic provisions

In the budgets of the Generalitat, relevant provisions shall be made in order to carry out the activities and to adopt the measures stemming from the implementation of this Act with sufficient means and resources, with special attention to the costs of a plurilingual educational system, of authorities that have two official languages and of cultural distribution in a restricted area language, furthermore bearing in mind the objective needs of territorial and sectoral distribution.

Seven - Duties of vigilance and encouragement

The Generalitat shall be vigilant so that regulations and administrative actions of other public authorities of the State respect the constitutional and statutory ordinance principles and this Act, and shall encourage legislative amendment of State regulations which hinder the use of Catalan in any field or restrict the full linguistic equality of citizens.

Eight - Civil Service Rules

The rules in this Act bind the staff in the service of the Authorities, in accordance with regulatory norms of the civil service.

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

One - Linguistic Use Rules

The linguistic use rules referred to in article 9.3 shall be approved no later than two years after this Act has come into force.

Two - Company adaptation

1. The companies and entities affected by this Act shall have two years to adapt to what is laid down in article 15 and the provisions in chapter V. This period will be five years for independent businessmen.

2. Within five years or before the expiry date if this is later, products or services referred to in article 34 may continue in the market without fulfilling the linguistic rules of labelling.

Three - Radio and television stations

Articles 25 and 26 shall be applicable to those stations for which the Generalist is responsible for granting authorisation and whose license is to be conferred or renewed after this Act comes into force.

FINAL PROVISIONS

One - Amendment of Act 8 of 15th April 1987

1. Article 5 of the municipal and local treatment Act No. 8, of 15th April 1987, is amended and shall be drawn up in the following manner:

"Article 5

1. Catalan is the local authorities of Catalonia's own language and thus shall be the language normally and generally used in their activities. 2. All citizens shall be entitled to choose the official language in which to have their dealings with the local authorities, and the latter are correlatively obliged to serve them in the language they have chosen, in the terms set forth in Act No. 1, of 7th January 1998, on linguistic policy."

2. Article 294.2 of the municipal and local treatment Act No. 8 of 15th April 1987 is amended, and shall be drawn up in the following manner:

"Article 294.2

In accordance with their public employment schemes, local authorities shall recruit staff by means of a public announcement and systems of tender, official examination and free official examination tender, which shall guarantee equality, merit, ability and announcement principles. In the recruitment process, proficiency in Catalan shall be accredited, as will Aranese in the local authorities of the Aran valley, both verbally and in writing, at the appropriate level for the duties of the work position to be filled."

3. Article 310.2 of the municipal and local authorities Act No. 8 of 15th April 1987 is amended, and shall be drawn up in the following manner:

"Article 310.2 The local authorities of Catalonia shall include the requirement of oral and written proficiency in the announcement of tender conditions for work positions for local authority civil servants whose professions are valid throughout the State."

Two - Regulatory Development

The government of the Generalitat shall be authorised to enact any regulatory provisions required to develop and apply this Act.

Three - Replacement and validity of regulations

1. Act No. 7 of 18th April 1983, of linguistic nonnalisation in Catalonia, is replaced by the provisions of this Act, without detriment to all that is not contradictory becoming part of the Catalan legal tradition.

2. All the provisions arising from the development of Act No. 7 of 1983 which do not oppose this Act shall be valid, without detriment to any regulatory amendment that may arise.

3. The provisions of Act No. 3 of 5th March 1993, of the Consumer Statute and the rules passed to develop it that do not oppose this Act, shall be valid.

I therefore order all citizens to whom this Act applies to cooperate in its fulfilment and all courts and authorities concerned to see that it is carried out.

Palace of the Generalitat, 7th January 1998

JORDI PUJOL President of the Generalitat of Catalonia (97.364.047)

LAW 1/93, OF MARCH 23, ON THE USE AND PROMOTION OF THE ASTURIAN LANGUAGE

The President of Asturias

Asturias' General Meeting has adopted, and I, on behalf of His Majesty the King, and pursuant to what article 32.2 of the Statute of Autonomy for Asturias provides, enact the following law on the use and promotion of the Bable/Asturian language.

Preamble

Article 4 of Asturias' Statute of Autonomy provides: "The Asturian language will enjoy protection. Its use, teaching and diffusion in the media will be furthered, whilst its local dialects and voluntary apprenticeship will always be respected".

Likewise, article 10.1.15 points out as being in Asturias' jurisdiction: "Furtherance and protection of the Asturian language and its different dialects which, as linguistic varieties, are used in Asturias".

Moreover, the same article, in paragraph 1.14, also points out as being in Asturias' jurisdiction: "Furtherance of research and culture, with special emphasis on their regional manifestations and teaching of their autochthonous culture". From such point of view, the Asturian language and its varieties build up a historic and cultural heritage which needs to be defended and preserved.

It is also evident that promotion of a region's culture and linguistic diversity favours revitalization of the identifying marks of the peoples which make up the Spanish State.

The fact that the Asturian people have recovered the richness of the Bable/Asturian language demands a set of actions aimed at its promotion, protection, preservation and good use and also respect for its different varieties.

Asturias' Cabinet, which has undertaken the management and coordination of the activities related to the Bable/Asturian language, has set measures to promote it, specially in education and other institutional fields. Such measures were aimed at the recovery, preservation and promotion of the Bable/Asturian language and its varieties.

It is deemed fit to go forward in this process and achieve a consolidation of what has been provided until now. It is therefore convenient that the articles of our Statute concerning the Bable/Asturian language and its

varieties are implemented. In this respect it is necessary to go deeply into some aspects, such as use, teaching, promotion in the media, in order to fulfil the present social demand according to the requirements of our Statute.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Traditional Language

The Bable/Asturian language, as Asturias' traditional language of Asturias, shall enjoy protection. Asturias shall promote its use, diffusion and teaching.

Article 2. Galician/Asturian

The status of protection, respect, tutelage and development provided by this law for the Bable/Asturian language will be extensive, through special regulations, to the Galician/Asturian in those areas where it is an own linguistic variety.

Article 3. Purpose of the law

It is the purpose of this law:

- a) to protect the citizens' right to know and use the Asturian language and provide the means to put such right into effect.
- b) to further its recovery and development, taking measures to promote its use.
- c) to ensure the Bable/Asturian language teaching in the exercise of the duties undertaken by Asturias, according to the principles of its voluntary and gradual character and respect for the sociolinguistic reality of Asturias.
- d) to ensure its free use and the non-discrimination of citizens for this reason.

CHAPTER II

ON THE USE OF THE BABLE/ASTURIAN LANGUAGE

Article 4. Administrative use

1. All citizens have the right to use the Bable/Asturian language and express themselves orally and in the written form in such language.

2. Use of the Bable/Asturian language shall be binding to all ends in the citizens' oral or written communications in Asturias.

3. Asturias shall promote knowledge of the Bable/Asturian language amongst all civil servants working in Asturias. Knowledge of the Bable/Asturian language shall be an advantage in public competition announced by Asturias, as demanded by the characteristics of the post and duties to be developed.

Article 5. Publications

1. Provisions, decisions and agreements by all Asturian institutional bodies, together with the laws adopted by the General Meeting, shall be publishable in Bable/Asturian, in a separate issue of Asturias' OFFICIAL JOURNAL. The publishing agreement shall be adopted by the body or institution which allows or orders such publication.

2. Publications, forms, leaflets or institutional notices shall be published indistinctly in Spanish, Bable/Asturian or in both languages. In the event that a conflict arose with a third party, they shall be compulsorily published in Spanish, without detriment of being also publishable in Bable/Asturian.

Article 6. Agreements

Asturias shall achieve agreements with the government administration to promote use of the Bable/Asturian language by the services which perform their duties in the territory of Asturias.

Article 7. Translation bodies

1. The Asturian administration shall have an official translation body of the Asturian language whose duties shall be the following:

a) Translate or certify the validity, as the case may require, of all the texts that are to be published in Bable/Asturian in the Official Journals of Asturias and of Asturias' General Meeting.

b) Translate any text written in Bable/Asturian into Spanish, as required both by public authorities in the exercise of their duties and by the institutions which article 16 of this Law refers to.

c) Any other duty conferred to it in the regulatory development of this Law.

Article 8. Town Councils

1. Asturian Town Councils shall be able to take the necessary measures to ensure the effectiveness of the exercise of the linguistic rights that this Law grants to all citizens residing in Asturias.
2. Asturias shall be able to agree on specific plans with the Town Councils for the effective use of the Bable/Asturian language in the respective councils, and it shall therefore be able to subsidize the services and actions required.

CHAPTER III

ON EDUCATION

Article 9. Teaching

Asturias, in the exercise of its duties, shall ensure the Asturian language teaching and shall promote its use within the educational system, as Asturias' Statute of Autonomy provides.

Article 10. Curriculum

1. In the exercise of its duties, Asturias shall ensure the Bable/Asturian language teaching in all levels and degrees, but respecting, however, the voluntary character of its apprenticeship. In any case, the Bable/Asturian language shall be taught within the school timetable and it shall be a subject included in the curriculum.
2. The previous principles shall be applied to standing education for adults.
3. Choice of study or use of the Bable/Asturian language as a subject of the curriculum shall by no means be grounds for discrimination amongst students.

For those who chose it, its apprenticeship or use shall not be an obstacle to be granted the same education and knowledge on the same conditions as the rest of students.

Article 11. Degrees and diplomas

Asturias shall provide:

- a) The required degrees or diplomas to teach the Bable/Asturian language.

- b) Degrees or certificates proving knowledge of the Bable/Asturian language.
- c) Training programmes and entry procedures concerning such degrees and certificates.
- d) The authorization procedure for the textbooks to be used in the Bable/Asturian language teaching.
- e) Decree of curriculum in the different educational levels.

CHAPTER IV

ON THE MEDIA AND THE EDITORIAL AND AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION

Article 12. Promotion

Public administrations shall promote the defence of the Bable/Asturian language in the public and private media.

Article 13. Diffusion

1. Asturias shall contribute to the diffusion of the Bable/Asturian language in the media through:

- a) The draft and budgetary endowment of schemes for economic and physical support to normally use the Bable/Asturian language in the media.
- b) The protection of cultural and artistic manifestations, publication of books, phonographic, audiovisual and cinematographic production and any other activities carried out in Bable/Asturian.

2. The autonomous government Administration shall ensure a relevant presence of the Bable/Asturian language on radio and television broadcastings and on the other media being present now or in the future in such institution.

Article 14. Subsidies

- 1. The grant of subsidies or aids to the media, and to audiovisual, cinematographic, phonographic or editorial productions can be specific for productions or publications in Bable/Asturian. In the rest of publications and productions the presence of the Asturian language shall be promoted in a non-summarized way on specific sections or spots.
- 2. Private or public companies or businessmen using the Bable/Asturian

language in advertising, labelling, mail or documents shall be equally granted subsidies and aids for this purpose.

CHAPTER V

ON TOPONYMY

Article 15. Place-names

1. The place-names of Asturias' Autonomous Community shall have their traditional official denomination. When the general use of a place-name is in its traditional form and in Spanish, its denomination can be bilingual.

2. Pursuant to the regulatory procedure, it is the Cabinet's concern, subject to the opinion by Asturias' Committee on Toponymy, and without prejudice to the municipal and national powers, to determine the place-names of the Autonomous Community.

CHAPTER VI

ON THE CONSULTATIVE BODIES

Article 16. Consultative and Advisory Bodies

According to the provisions of this Law, the following institutions shall be considered to be consultative and advisory bodies of Asturias' Administration:

- a) The University of Oviedo.
- b) The Academy of Language.
- c) Asturias' Committee on Toponymy.
- d) The Royal Institute of Asturian Studies (RIDEA).

Article 17. University of Oviedo

The University of Oviedo, in the exercise of its duties and aiming to ensure that the Asturian language teachers are well qualified to teach the Bable/Asturian language, shall carry out the initial training of such teachers through the relevant departments. Likewise, it is in the University's field the linguistic and philological research on the Bable/Asturian language.

Article 18. Academy of Language

Without prejudice to the authority that the institutions which article 16 of this Law refers to have in the exercise of their duties, the following functions will be in the Academy of Language's field:

- a) Monitor the regional plans and programmes with regard to the Bable/Asturian language.
- b) Deliver opinions on one's own initiative or at the request of both Asturias' General Meeting and the regional Government on specific actions concerning the Bable/Asturian language.
- c) Give advice or make proposals concerning the Bable/Asturian language to Asturias' Administration, as requested by the relevant bodies with regard to culture and/or language.
- d) Any other function conferred to it as provided by the regulatory development of this Law.

Additional provision

The Galician-Asturian language shall have a similar treatment to the Asturian language with regard to its protection, respect, teaching, use and tutelage in its territory.

Temporary provision

Until the adoption of the procedures and curricula which are required to enter the degrees which section a) of article 11 refers to, Asturias shall give official recognition, as provided by regulations, to the degrees issued by official institutions.

Final provision

The Cabinet shall have the authority to issue the regulatory provisions required for the development and implementation of this Law.

Therefore, I order all the citizens who are to implement this Law to contribute to its enforcement, and also all courts and authorities to observe it and have it observed.

In Oviedo, March 23, 1998

Note: We acknowledge with thanks data from the Mercator-Legislation, CIEMEN.

EXCERPTS FROM THE DECREE 125/2000

(IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Decree 125/2000, September 8, which establishes the general arrangements of schooling in children's education, primary education and compulsory secondary education in the Balearic Islands.

By means of the Royal Decree 1876/1997, of December 12, on the transfer of functions and services from the State's administration to the Balearic Islands in the matter of non-University education, and also in accordance with the first final dispositions of the abovementioned decrees 1330/1991, 1006/1991, 1007/1991 and 894/1995, it is a duty of the Government of the Balearic Islands to dictate, within the field of its competences, the dispositions necessary for the execution and development of such decrees.

The government of the Balearic Islands sets forth a quality education with the purpose to put into effect the ambition to attain an educational system for all citizens, to be integrating, rooted in the environment, of prevention and compensatory of inequalities, coherent with our cultural and linguistic reality, with a will to integrate in the European and international community and with a dimension of future.

Such an integral training contributes to the making up of a plural, free and solidary society, able to integrate both individual and communal dimensions from the respect and the valuing of its own linguistic and cultural patrimony. Being Catalan the own language of the Balearic Islands, it must therefore articulate all the education. Education and training will more than ever be the main vectors of identification, belonging and social promotion. Education must become a fundamental element in the shaping of the individuals' personality and their development in the bosom of society.

DECREE

CHAPTER I

General Dispositions

Article 2.

Teaching in children's and compulsory basic education has the following aims:

f) To foster and defend the consciousness of belonging to the community of the Balearic Islands, which implies the acknowledgment, respect and regard for our territorial, historical, cultural and linguistic patrimony, with the assumption of those values derived from the reality of its own language and culture, being...

The identifying features of a people that respects and co-exists with another official language throughout the state, and with other languages and cultures.

Article 3.

1. Catalan, as the Balearic Islands' own language, is the language of education. Its use as a vehicular and learning language in childrens' education, primary education, and compulsory secondary education must adapt to the dispositions of the prevailing regulation. Its use must be promoted from schools, and the government must adopt measures aimed at its full normalization.

2. In any case, individual linguistic rights must be respected, according to the prevailing legislation and to each centre's established linguistic project.

3. In order to maintain and recover the Balearic own identity, a special interest must be devoted to the specific knowledge of its history, culture and tradition, and, therefore, the fundamental features to be assured must be determined in the curriculum.

Article 6.

4. School centres must have their own linguistic project, inserted in the educational project and aimed at the full normalization of the Catalan language, which includes the centre's language planning as well as the consideration of the Catalan language, the Balearics' own one, as a vehicular language in education, according to what is established in the prevailing regulation.

Final disposition

This decree shall enter into force the day after its publication in the Official Bulletin of the Balearic Islands.

Palma, 8th September 2000.

THE PRESIDENT

Francesc Antich i Oliver

The Minister of Education and Culture

Damià Pons i Pons

Note: This is the unofficial English translation abstract. The original text can be found on the website: <http://www.troc.es/mercator>. We acknowledge with thanks data from the Mercator-Legislation, CIEMEN.

**REGIONAL DECREE 372/2000, OF DECEMBER 11TH,
REGULATING THE USE OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE IN
THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS OF NAVARRE.**

Official Gazette of Navarre, 3, January 5th, 2001

The Regional Act 18/1986, of 15th December, on the Basque Language - articles 2.1 and 6, establishes that all citizens have the right to know and use both Spanish and Basque languages in the strict terms specified thereby, whereas in article 2.2 it recognizes that Spanish is the official language of all Navarre, and establishes that Basque is co-official alongside Spanish in the Basque-speaking area of Navarre, in accordance with the provisions of article 9 of the Organic Act of Reintegration and Improvement of the Regional Legal System of Navarre, as well as in the articles of the aforementioned Regional Act on the Basque Language.

This Regional Act on the Basque Language, in its articles 5 and related ones, establishes three linguistic areas in Navarre, to which the present Regional Decree refers. One Basque-speaking area, where Basque is co-official alongside Spanish, as well as a mixed area and a third non-Basque area where the Basque language is not co-official. The citizens' right to use Basque in their relations with Public Administrations is recognized in all of them, in accordance with the provisions established in the Regional Act itself, while urging them to take different measures in each zone seeking its effectiveness in distinct ways and levels.

On the other hand, the current regulation concerning the Ordinary Administrative Procedure recognizes, as regards relations with public Administrations, the citizens' right to use the co-official languages within the territories of their Autonomous Communities where such languages have an official status, and establishes that all procedures involving bodies of the State General Administration based in an Autonomous Community shall be conducted in the official language chosen by the person concerned, in accordance with their linguistic rights. Besides, the Organic Act on the Judiciary regulates its scope of application.

Being therefore fitting to regulate the use of the Basque language in the Public Administrations of Navarre, the Regional Decree 70/1994 was

firstly enacted, and subsequently, Regional Decree 135/1994, of 4th July, some provisions of which have been duly revised in order to ensure the principle of legal certainty, to ponder the use of Basque through the necessary means in order to make its use effective and to respond to the socio-linguistic reality of Navarre after the accumulated experience.

To these effects, and in order to lawfully proceed with the legal requirement undertaken by the Public Administrations in the Basque-speaking area while carrying out their actions, communications and announcements in bilingual way, and their duty with regard to citizens having the conditions of concerned persons, to make real and effective their right and power of choice, in accordance with the rules that regulate administrative procedures conducted in any of the official languages, or both at the same time, pursuant to articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language, the present Regional Decree, as an indispensable complement to the Act, envisages the possibility for those bodies of Public Administrations within the Basque-speaking area, while respecting their autonomy and self-organization faculties, to be provided with the necessary material elements in order to guarantee this right.

With regard to the relations held by these Public Administrations and related corporations with other Administrations, one must distinguish, on the one hand, those related to the State Administration and Justice Administration, in which cases will govern the legislation concerning the Ordinary Administrative Procedure and the Organic Act of the Judiciary.

Inter-administrative relations with the rest of the Public Administrations of Navarre shall be governed under the principle of voluntariness and autonomy of the parties except when any of them are interested parties in the procedures, in accordance with the norms that regulate the administrative procedures. In this case, articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language shall govern as regards the rest of citizenship with the condition of concerned subjects.

On the other hand, in accordance with the constitutional doctrine, the qualification of specific requirement provided by the preceding regulations as regards the knowledge of the Basque language when it is preceptive to accede to specific posts, has been replaced by that of preceptive knowledge, more accordingly with the wording of article 15.2 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language, in order to therefore include it within the scope of the skills to be evaluated in accordance with the principles of values and capacities envisaged in Article 103 of the Constitution.

Finally, such revision shall be carried out, for reasons of normative techniques, by means of a new text replacing the preceding one.

The Council of Navarre has delivered a preceptive opinion in its session of November 6th, 2000, after adjusting this Regional Decree to its recommendations.

Pursuant to this, on a proposal from the Counselor of Presidency, Justice and Domestic Affairs and in compliance with the agreement adopted by the Government of Navarre in its session of December 11th, 2000, I decree:

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.

1. The present Regional Decree develops the regulation on the normal and official use of the Basque language in the Public Administrations of Navarre. Its scope of application consists in the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, Local Administrations and those public corporations related to them.

2. Being its essential objectives:

I. In the Basque-speaking area, to render possible the indistinct use of any of the two official languages as languages of work and public services.

II. In the mixed area, to organize and enable the necessary staff in order to render possible the exercise of linguistic rights by the citizens living in this area.

III. In the central services of the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, to organize and enable the necessary staff so that users may be attended in Basque, if required by them. Central services of the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre are those, which regardless of the territory they are based in, concern the whole of the population of Navarre.

3. The application of the present Regional Decree shall be carried out progressively, in accordance with the eventual possibilities of the different Administrations.

Article 2.

The areas to which the present Regional Decree refers correspond, as regards their delimitation and denomination, to those established in article 5 of the Regional Act 18/1996 on the Basque Language, of December 15th.

Article 3.

The application of the preceptive principle and the appraisal of the knowledge of Basque as a merit in the provision of posts in the Public Administration of Navarre, shall be carried out in the terms and conditions deriving from what establishes the Regional Act on the Basque Language, in this Regional Decree and in the decisions that complement it.

Article 4.

The Government of Navarre shall determine, as regards any of the actions envisaged in the present Regional Decree, the institutions to collaborate and, when necessary, do the coordination between the Departments of the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, specially with regard to the enforcement of the rules of procedure concerning the use of Basque which the Government of Navarre may approve. It will also determine the collaborating body in the elaboration of rules of procedure concerning the use of Basque in local bodies and other public administrations that may request it, subject to the provisions of the present Regional Decree.

Article 5.

The Government of Navarre and those public Act bodies linked to the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre shall elaborate and approve the plans aiming at the progressive achievement of the goals stated in article 1.2 of the present Regional Decree. In the like manner, Local Administrations shall be able to elaborate their own plans within their scope of action.

Article 6.

The Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, local Administrations and bodies of public law related to them shall adopt measures aimed to the progressive training of the necessary staff as regards the knowledge and use of the Basque language, in order to comply with the provisions of the Regional Decree on the Basque

Language, the present Regional Decree and further regulations to be developed.

TITLE II

THE BASQUE LANGUAGE IN THE ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I

General Disposition

Article 7.

The use of the Basque and Spanish languages in the Public Administrations of Navarre, and in other linked public corporation based in the Basque-speaking area, shall be ruled under the criteria established by the Regional Act on the Basque Language and the present Regional Decree, while always respecting the citizens' right to freely choose whatever of the two official languages in which they can be attended, as well as the right of non-discrimination for linguistic reasons.

SECTION II

External and domestic usages

Article 8.

1. All administrative procedures using whatever official language shall be valid and have full juridical effectiveness.
2. All administrative procedures involving strictly called administrative actions, in the terms established by the juridical system, and which knowledge must be notified to other individual or legal persons within the same area, should be written in both languages, except in those cases involving people having the condition of concerned persons who, in accordance with the norms ruling administrative procedures, express their will to choose only one of them, according to articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language.
3. All authorized bodies of public Administrations, and any other linked ones, shall be able to establish the use of printed matters, papers or forms either in Spanish, Basque or in bilingual form concerning the undertaking of actions by concerned subjects according to what establishes the preceding paragraph.

THIRD SECTION

Relations between Public Administrations

Article 9.

1. Administrative documents, announcements and communications from Public Administrations and other related public corporations based in the Basque-speaking area addressed to other ones sited in the same area, should be written in both official languages either in one single document or in two separate ones, except when an agreement is reached between the two involved parties aiming at only using one of them, according to the decision by the Administration authorized body, or the respective Corporation.

2. In compliance with articles 12 and 13 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language and with their contents, public officials having a public authority to attest documents and the function of administrative attestation should in all cases issue in Spanish the copies of those public documents delivered to their respective administrations that must take effect outside the Basque-speaking area. Likewise, the issue of copies and attestations of entries placed upon the Registries depending on public Administrations shall be carried out in any of the official languages.

3. The relations held between public Administrations of the Basque-speaking area and its bodies depending on the State Administration and its Institutions, shall be carried out in Spanish, except when addressed to institutions sited in the territory of Navarre, in which case Basque can also be used in accordance with article 36 of the Act on the Juridical Status of Public Administrations and Ordinary Administrative Procedures.

4. With regard to the relations with the Justice Administration, the aforementioned public Administrations shall adjust to what the Organic Act on the Judiciary establishes.

5. In inter-administrative relations, Public Administrations in the Basque-speaking area shall be able to use the language agreed on with the other administrations, except when such relation derives from an administrative procedure in which the other administrations have the condition of concerned parties under the terms of the legislation regulating administrative procedures, in which case shall govern article 11 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language, and article 8.2 of this Regional Decree.

FOURTH SECTION

Relation with the administered

Article 10.

1. All communications and announcements addressed to individual or legal persons from the Basque-speaking area itself, shall be written in bilingual form, except in those cases when the interested parties express their will to use one of the two official languages, in compliance with article 11 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language.

2. In relations deriving from procedures in which citizens, or other public administrations, have the condition of concerned parties, under the terms envisaged in articles 8.2 and 9.5 of this Regional Decree, shall be able to use printed matters, papers and forms written in Spanish, in Basque, or in bilingual form.

3. In their oral communications, public officials shall attend the citizens in any of the two official languages chosen by the latter.

FIFTH SECTION

Image, announcements and publications

Article 11.

1. All labels indicating offices, bureaus and branch offices, documentation headings or letterheads, official stamps and any other identifying and signaling elements shall be written in bilingual form.

2. All regulations and their publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of Navarre as an effectiveness requirement, as well as all signals in urban ways and place names shall be written in Spanish and Basque, in compliance with article 16 of the Regional Act on the Basque Language.

CHAPTER II

Mixed Area

FIRST SECTION

General application criteria

Article 12.

1.The use of Basque and Spanish in any Public Administration of Navarre sited in the mixed area shall be governed by the criteria established in the present Regional Decree.

2. All Public Administration of Navarre serving in the mixed area shall take the appropriate measures as to render possible the exercise of the citizens' right to address the Administration in the Basque language, as stated in the present Regional Decree.

3. An administrative body of official Basque-Spanish translation shall be established in the central services of the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, sited in Pamplona, which activity shall be addressed to the whole of the population. Further complementary measures shall be also adopted in order to render possible the provision of their basic administrative services in Basque, when so required by the user. The creation of an administrative translation body by other Public Administrations in their central services within the mixed area of Navarre shall be facultative. This shall be developed within the framework of the plans referred to in article 5 of the present Regional Decree.

SECOND SECTION

Material sources

Article 13.

Headings and letterheads of printed matters of internal use in Public Administrations and linked public corporations shall be written in Spanish. If the printed matters are of public use, distinct forms in Spanish and Basque shall have to be offered to the interested person to choose.

THIRD SECTION

Institutional relations

Article 14.

1. All documents, announcements and administrative communications issued between the Public Administrations and the public corporations linked to them from the mixed area, or with others from the Basque-speaking area, can be bilingual in one single document, whereas in Spanish in case of using one language only.

2. All documents, notices and administrative communications that Public Administrations, and the public corporations linked to them and sited in the mixed area, address to other Administrations sited in the Basque-speaking and mixed areas shall be written in Spanish, except if corresponding to administrative procedures originated in the Basque-speaking area and in the Basque language, in which case they may be continued in bilingual form.

3. All documents, announcements and administrative communications addressed to Public Administrations and the public corporations linked to them not included in the preceding paragraphs shall be written in Spanish. Bilingual ones shall also be valid when corresponding to administrative procedures originated in the Basque-speaking and mixed areas.

FOURTH SECTION

Relations with the administered

Article 15.

1. Communications and announcements issued from services of the Regional Community of Navarre Administration sited in the mixed area and addressed to individual or legal persons of the Basque-speaking area shall be written in Spanish, except when the concerned persons request the use of the Basque language, in which case it can be written in bilingual form.

2. Printed matters and forms for the use of individual or legal persons of the mixed area can be either used in their only-Spanish documents or in their bilingual Spanish-Basque forms, although in separate units in order to render possible the users' choice according to his/her interests.

FIFTH SECTION

Image, notices and publications

Article 16.

1. All labels indicating offices, bureaus and branch offices of the Public Administrations of Navarre, and in public corporations linked to them sited in the mixed area, as well as in documentation headings or letterheads, official stamps and any other identifying and signaling elements, shall be written in Spanish.

2. The Spanish language shall be used in orders, notices, publications, announcements and all kind of advertising.

3. Without any prejudice to the preceding provisions, all brochures, graphic campaigning material, publications or other similar written papers issued by the Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre, addressed to the whole of the population, shall only be written in Spanish, or in a single bilingual edition, or in different editions in Spanish and Basque, depending on each case, and through the decision of the Counselor of the Department in charge of the publication.

CHAPTER III

Non Basque-speaking area

Article 17.

1. Public Administrations in the non Basque-speaking area shall require to interested subjects the simultaneous submission of a translation into Spanish of whatever documents they submit in Basque, although, if not possible, they will be able to use the existing official translation services for citizens when, in the exercise of their rights, they may only address the former in the Basque language.

2. All the proceedings, printed matters, stamps, documentation, announcements, communications, signals, labels, publications and publicity of the Public Administrations of the non Basque-speaking area and public law bodies related to them, shall be carried out in Spanish.

TITLE III

PRECEPTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND APPRAISAL OF BASQUE IN THE ACCESS TO AND PROVISION OF POSTS

CHAPTER I

Basque-speaking area

Article 18.

1. The Public Administration of Navarre shall indicate through a legal decision, the posts in their respective organic staffs for which the knowledge of the Basque language is mandatory in order to fulfill them according to the competent contents, to the provisions of this Regional Decree and the requirement itself, while expressing the level of knowledge corresponding to the activity of the aforementioned posts.

2. This linguistic requirement shall be subsequently stated in the corresponding public offers of vacancies as well as in their calls.

3. Whomever fulfils these posts shall only be able to subsequently participate in the provision of vacancies corresponding to posts in which the knowledge of the Basque language is mandatory.

4. The rights acquired by the persons who are holding posts for which the future requirement of the mandatory knowledge of Basque shall apply, shall be respected. However, they shall be offered the opportunity to freely participate in the training actions that may be carried out as regards the Basque language.

Article 19.

The knowledge of the Basque language shall be considered, amongst others, a qualified merit for the admission and the provision of the rest of vacancies when being part of the competitive exam of merits.

Article 20.

1. The knowledge of the Basque language for vacancies in all levels in which it is mandatory, or considered a qualified merit, may have to be accredited by means of a proficiency certificate issued by an Official School of Languages, or by means of an equivalent officially authorized qualification, or else through passing an exam to determine whether the applicant has the linguistic level required by the organic staff or by the call itself.

2. The Public Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre shall, as long as it is required to do so and in accordance with the available means, elaborate linguistic tests, collaborate in the official translating tasks, in the analysis of the vacancies in order to evaluate the requirement of the specific knowledge of Basque, and in the evaluation of the rating system as regards the provision of posts and training courses of Basque language for public officials.

Article 21.

1. In those cases in which the knowledge of Basque should be valued amongst others as a qualified merit in the Basque-speaking area, the increased percentage of the valuation, in relation with the marks required as a merit as regards the knowledge of the French, English or German languages as languages of official use in the European Union, shall not exceed in any case the 10%, and its specific quantification shall be determined in the corresponding call.

2. These merits shall be accredited in accordance with the criteria put forward in article 20 of the present Regional Decree.

CHAPTER II

Mixed area

Article 22.

1. The Public Administrations of Navarre sited in the mixed area shall not have any obligation to qualify the knowledge of the Basque language as mandatory in order to fulfill or provide those vacancies in their officials' staff, except for those devoted to Basque-Spanish translation services.

When the knowledge of Basque in relation to a specific post is qualified as mandatory in the mixed area, those dispositions included in paragraphs 1 to 4 of article 18 of this Regional Decree shall be applied.

2. The Public Administrations of Navarre sited in the mixed area shall be able to qualify on a voluntary basis specific posts in their basic administrative services for which the knowledge of Basque is considered a merit amongst others for their fulfillment or provision, by means of a legal decision and a precise indication in the organic staff.

3. The accreditation of the knowledge of Basque shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of article 20 of the present Regional Decree.

Article 23.

1. The valuation of the knowledge of Basque as a merit in the mixed area, whenever it is so considered, shall not in any case exceed the 5% of the marks required as regards the knowledge of the French, English or German languages, as languages of official use in the European Union, and its specific quantification shall be determined in the corresponding call.

2. These merits shall be accredited in accordance with the criteria put forward in article 20 of the present Regional Decree.

TITLE III

LINGUISTIC TRAINING OF THE STAFF

Article 24.

The Public Administration of the Regional Community of Navarre shall organize training courses in Basque aiming to guaranteeing the availability of the necessary number of proficient staff in this language,

in order to render possible the accomplishment of the aims envisaged in the Regional Act on the Basque Language, in this Regional Decree, and in the regulations and plans deriving from their enforcement. The modalities of these courses, the conditions for their access and participation shall be regulated, as well as the obligations to collaborate in tasks of public attention in Basque and Basque-Spanish translation, amongst others, which should be assumed by whomever participate in them under a voluntary basis.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

First.- The Government of Navarre shall collaborate with the State Administration in order that the competent bodies can adopt the necessary measures aimed to the progressive training of the officials' staff of the State Administration sited in Navarre, who must use this language when rendering their administrative services, in accordance with the Order of the 20th of July, 1990, of the Ministry for Public Administrations, the Act on the Juridical Basis of Public Administrations and Ordinary Administrative Procedures and in the present Regional Decree.

Second.- At the suggestion of the Counselor of the Department of Presidency, Justice and Domestic Affairs of Navarre, an Agreement shall be taken in accordance with the present Regional Decree, and concerning the establishment of the definitive rates regarding any of the calls for the fulfillment and provision of posts, incorporating the specific merit provided the knowledge of French, English and German, as official languages of the European Union, as well as that corresponding to Basque.

Third.- In order to regulate those matters related to the specific use and appraisal of Basque in the exercise of the teaching public function, a corresponding Agreement shall be taken, on a proposal from the Counselor of Education and Culture, adjusting the preceding regulations into the line of the present Regional Decree.

Fourth.- Wherever this Regional Decree establishes the bilingual version in labels, signals, documents, printed matters, forms, stamps, notices, publications, publicity and communications as valid, this shall be carried out in separate documents for Spanish and Basque, or jointly, according to the decision of the competent body of the Administration or respective corporation, except when prescribed in the present Regional Decree.

Fifth.- Whenever it is necessary to settle a controversy as regards the interpretation of the contents of official documents in their Spanish and Basque versions, Public Administrations and related corporations shall

in first instance decide upon the document written in Spanish as well as on its legal effects.

DEROGATORY PROVISION

All provisions opposing the contents of the present Regional Decree, with an inferior or equal status, and the integral contents of Regional Decree 135/1994, of 4th of July, on the Regulation of the Use of Basque in the Public Administrations of Navarre, as well as regulations deriving from it, shall be derogated.

FINAL PROVISIONS

First.- The Counselor of Presidency, Justice and Domestic Affairs shall be empowered to give as many provisions are necessary for the implementation and development of the present Regional Decree.

Second.- This Regional Decree shall enter into force on the day of its publication the "OFFICIAL GAZETTE of Navarre".

Pamplona/Iruña, December, 11th, 2000.

The President of the Government of Navarre, Miguel Sanz Sesma.

The Counselor of Presidency, Justice and Domestic Affairs, Rafael Gurrea Induráin.

Note: This is the unofficial English translation by Mercator. We acknowledge with thanks data from the Mercator-Legislation, CIEMEN.

ARAGON LANGUAGE BILL

PREAMBLE

I.

Aragon is a multi-lingual community with the major and official language of Castilian, where in certain areas other languages such as Aragon and Catalan exist in their specific forms and varieties.

The linguistic plurality creates rich heritage of Aragon (Autonomous Community) and reflects its history and culture. Therefore it shall be acknowledged and valued by its inhabitants, protected and supported by all public institutions of Aragon, by means of appropriate standards and acts.

II.

Since installation of democracy in Spain, Spanish and Aragon legislation recognised multilingual heritage in the country and, by means of this Act, in the province of Aragon. The Constitution Court on the basis of the Spanish Constitution 1978 has referred several times to "master lines of the linguistic model".

The Constitution Preamble 1978 refers to the Spanish people's will" to protect human rights, cultures, traditions and develop their languages and institutions on the whole territory".

The Article 3 of The Preliminary Part states that "Castilian is an official language in Spain. All Spanish people are obliged to master it and have the right to use it". The following paragraph states that "other Spanish languages are recognized in respective autonomous communities in accordance with their Statutes". The third paragraph of the Article 3 of the Spanish Constitution claims that "linguistic modalities in Spain create cultural heritage and therefore are treated and protected with special respect".

Finally, the Article 148.1.17 of the Spanish Constitution gives Autonomous Communities the powers to maintain culture, research and education in the language of the Autonomous Community.

The Autonomous Community of Aragon Statutes in its Act 5/1996 from 30th Dec., Article 7 states that languages and linguistic modalities of Aragon deserve protection. It guarantees their education and use in a form established in the House of Aragon Act and throughout the zones where respective language predominates.

The Statute of Autonomy in the Article 35.1.30 acknowledges exclusive powers of the cultural matters to the Autonomous Community with special attention given to manifestation of Aragon uniqueness, its linguistic modalities, their preservation, promotion and research. It has to be pointed out that since 1st January 1999 Aragon has obtained the rights to develop legislation and execution concerning education on all levels and grades, in all modalities and specialities in accordance with Article 36 of the Statute of Autonomy.

In accordance with this basic institutional standard of the Autonomous Community The Act on Cultural Heritage of Aragon (3/1999, 10th March) in the Article 4 confirms that "Aragon and Catalan language minorities together with their linguistic modalities represent cultural property and therefore shall be protected by the Administration.

The second Amendment of the Cultural Heritage of the Aragon Act refers to the Aragon Language Act that "creates juridical frame regulating existence of two official languages (Aragon and Catalan), sets the rights of the respective language communities, linguistic education and education in the languages and the standards of using those two languages in respective territories".

III.

The House of Aragon bearing in mind complicated situation concerning two official languages (Aragon and Catalan) and their diverse linguistic modalities has unanimously approved establishment of a Special Court Commission for Language Policy in Aragon with the objective to assess the state of the matter, to deal with occurring discrepancies in adoption of necessary measures and standards (legal investigation, existence of two official languages, protection, promotion and education) in all cases concerning language minorities of Aragon. The session took place on 20th June 1996.

The Special Court Commission on Language Policy in Aragon was approved unanimously with no single vote against on 7th April 1997 published in the Official Bulletin of the House of Aragon No. 105, 21st April 1997.

The conclusions drawn by the Special Commission concern, among other issues, the acknowledgment of Aragon and Catalan as equal languages of Aragon, respect of their modalities and local varieties, their education, rules of traditional topography, grants and publications, language minority mass media, and foundation of administrative body responsible for linguistic standards.

IV.

This Act bearing in mind plural linguistic reality of the Autonomous Community wants to transform the conclusions of the Special Court Commission on Language Policy in Aragon into a juridical standard in accordance with 1978 Constitution and the Statute of Autonomy.

Chapter I of the Act recognizes two official languages of Aragon and Catalan in certain zones of Autonomous Community specified in Chapter II as well as the annex of the legal text pointing out explicitly modalities and varieties of the local languages.

Chapter III establishes and regulates the Highest Languages Council of Aragon being a fundamental body in the delicate process of linguistic standardisation which shall commence as soon as this Act has been approved. Establishment of the Highest Council that comprises of

scientific experts on the subject which shall guarantee its objectivity, independence and efficiency.

Chapter IV deals in detail with characteristics of Aragon languages representing part of Aragon cultural heritage, it sets up concrete measures for preservation, protection and promotion of Aragon Linguistic Heritage.

The following chapters searching patrons for establishing legal system have defined common points with the European Chart of Regional Languages and Minorities supported by the European Council (from 5th November 1992). Even though Spain has not ratified the aforementioned international document, the European Chart contains various methods which are convenient and can be applied within the Autonomous Community of Aragon. Apparently, the methods show the progress and its direction being made in all European Union countries in the area of linguistic policy.

Chapter V of this Act regulates language education on the voluntary basis. It also ensures the possibility to learn different languages and their linguistic modalities for inhabitants of co-official zones giving guarantee to corresponding language class establishment on different levels of Aragon education system.

Chapter VI specifies different standards concerning casual and official use of languages in Aragon. It deals with different elements, among them administrative procedures in public and social services or proper linguistic preparation of civil servants. The Chapter also refers to official publications, topography and regional topographical names.

The Act is completed with four transitory directions stating various deadlines for putting the Act into effect, derogatory directions and two conclusions.

Coinciding with the Announcement of the European Year of Languages in 2001, the Aragon Language Act unifies various protective and promotional standards on languages in Aragon and it represents execution of constitutional powers of the Autonomous Community of Aragon.

CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. - Objectives

1. The objective of this Act is to protect linguistic heritage as well as to regulate casual and official use of minority languages Aragon and Catalan in certain social spheres, such as education.

2. The fundamental objectives are:

- a) exercise the citizens' rights to master and use the languages of Aragon.
- b) support and encourage revival and development of languages in Aragon.
- c) guarantee education in Aragon and Catalan on different grades based on the principles of voluntarism, respect.
- d) specify municipalities in which Aragon and Catalan are co-official languages.

3. The Aragon and Catalan language modalities and varieties are treated with special respect and protection.

Article 2. - Official Languages

1. Castilian is the official language on the whole territory of Autonomous Community of Aragon.

2. Besides Castilian Aragon and Catalan are co-official languages in the territories of their predomination.

Article 3. - Support of the Aragon and Catalan Languages

1. The Authorities of Aragon guarantee casual and official use, education and knowledge of Aragon and Catalan especially on the territories where they are predominant.

2. They also adopt measures for prevention of discrimination towards the citizens exercising their rights to use any of the official languages.

Article 4. - Legal Protection

In accordance with valid legislation, citizens may address the Courts of Justice in order to defend their language rights acknowledged by this Act.

CHAPTER II - ZONES OF USE OF PREDOMINANT LANGUAGES

Article 5. - Co-official Zones

The hereby Act acknowledges the Autonomous Community of Aragon as:

- a) a co-official zone of Aragon including all municipalities stated in the Annex I of this Act.

- b) a co-official zone of Catalan including all municipalities stated in the Annex I of this Act.
- c) a zone of Castilian as the exclusive official language in all other municipalities.

Article 6. - Modalities and Local Varieties

1. Without contradicting the aforementioned provisions, municipalities listed in the Annex I and II of the Act may declare their territory a predominant zone of use of a local language or its linguistic modality.
2. The Municipal Council takes decisions in the aforementioned issue by majority of votes and similarly decides about declaration of local linguistic modality.

CHAPTER III - THE HIGHEST Language Council of Aragon

SECTION 1a. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 7. - Establishment

The Highest Language Council of Aragon is established as a County (*Departamento*) body with the powers in the area of cultural heritage executing its functions with organ and functional autonomy with the aim to guarantee its objectivity and independence.

Article 8. - Statutes

1. The Statutes deal in details with the organisation, powers, procedures and functions of the Highest Language Council of Aragon.
2. The Highest Language Council of Aragon has the power to elaborate the Statutes approved subsequently by the Government of Aragon being entitled to introduce changes it finds important.

SECTION 2a. Members of the Highest Language Council of Aragon

Article 9. - Composition

The Highest Language Council of Aragon consists of 9 members that are experts in languages and linguistic modalities of Aragon, esteemed scientific, pedagogic or literary personalities with the achievements in the area of Aragon culture.

Article 10. - Appointment

Members of the Highest Language Council of Aragon are appointed by the President of the Autonomous Territory of Aragon based on the proposal by the Highest Language Council of Aragon in accordance with its Statutes.

Article 11. - Incompatibilities

Membership in the Highest Language Council of Aragon is incompatible with membership in the Parliament, in an executive organ or any other higher position within the Autonomous Community state authorities.

Article 12. - Revocation

The Highest Language Council of Aragon membership is irrevocable and it is ended by death, abdication, disqualification based on judicial decision, incompatibility or incapacity to exercise functions decided by the qualified majority voting of the Highest Language Council of Aragon.

SECTION 3a. FUNCTIONS

Article 13. - Linguistic Standards

1. The role of the Highest Language Council of Aragon is to identify and elaborate standard versions of Aragon and Catalan and their local linguistic modalities.
2. The Highest Language Council of Aragon supervises maintenance and development of adequate Catalan and Aragon terminology in the area of administration, economy, commerce, society, technology and justice.

Article 14. – Standards in Use

1. In accordance with the provisions of this Act and using one of the languages or linguistic modalities of Aragon, public administration applies respective standard versions within zones declared in Chapter II of this Act.
2. Without contradicting to the aforementioned provision, a municipal council may opt for local linguistic modality on its municipal territory according to the Article 6 of the Act in agreement with Chapter II of the Act.

CHAPTER IV - LINGUISTIC HERITAGE OF ARAGON

SECTION 1a. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 15. - Definition

Linguistic heritage of Aragon consists of all material and non-material elements, activities and equipment related to the history and culture of official languages and their linguistic modalities in Aragon that are subject to linguistic interest.

Article 16. – Scope of Powers

All measures shall be adopted to guarantee language and linguistic modalities protection with special focus on those aiming at promotion of cultural activities and objects connected with linguistic heritage protection.

Article 17. – Zones of Effectiveness

The objects of linguistic heritage may be situated in the co-official zones as well as in the rest of the Autonomous Community territory, in case of non-material valuables and activities even outside this territory.

Article 18. - Attribution

The County institution responsible for cultural heritage shall guarantee Aragon linguistic heritage protection and co-ordinate local corporation actions concerning the matter.

SECTION 2a. PRESERVATION

Article 19. - Valuable materials

Documents, prints, publications and other printed materials are included in the linguistic heritage of Aragon and protected in accordance with the acts on archives, libraries and museums of Aragon or with the Act on Cultural Heritage of Aragon.

Article 20. - Non-material Valuables

Customs, habits, pieces of arts, traditions, etc., create non-material linguistic heritage of Aragon and are preserved by means of research, scientific documentation, complete collections and materials of reference in order to guarantee their transmission to future generations.

SECTION 3a. LANGUAGE PROMOTION

Article 21. - Co-official Zones

Concerning cultural activities and objects especially those concentrated in libraries, video-collections, culture centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres, cinemas, pieces of literature and cinematography, folk culture expressions, festivals, cultural industry within co-official zones of the languages and linguistic modalities Public Administration of Aragon shall:

- a) support expressions and initiatives in the languages and their linguistic modalities and be in favour of ensuring access to pieces of work in those languages;
- b) support different ways of access to works provided in the Aragon and Catalan languages and their linguistic modalities as well as access to those in Castilian;
- c) support interpretation of works provided in other languages in all the languages of Aragon, support and develop translation, interpretation, dubbing and subtitling activities;
- d) get the entities responsible for cultural support to ensure in a proper way practical knowledge of the languages and their modalities within culture activities carried out by them or the activities helped by them;
- e) show preference for such entities responsible for cultural support that hire personnel dominating Castilian and other languages and modalities of Aragon;
- f) show preference for direct participation of the native speakers of the languages and their linguistic modalities within the cultural activities and programmes;
- g) support establishment of such entities that would be in charge of collecting, exhibiting and publishing of works done in the languages of Aragon and their modalities.

Article 22. - Non-Predomination Zones of Use

Throughout the rest of the Autonomous Community territory out of co-official zones Public Administration of Aragon will support cultural activities and objects in accordance with the aforementioned Article if the existing interest justifies them to do so.

CHAPTER V - LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Article 23. - Voluntary Principle

Education of the languages of Aragon and their linguistic modalities as well as education in those languages is always based upon voluntary decision of the person and in case of children of his/her parents or tutors.

Article 24. – Preparatory and Elementary Education

Within the co-official zones of the languages and their linguistic modalities, preparatory and elementary education in the languages of Aragon or their linguistic modalities shall be provided to pupils in case of parental or tutors' interest whenever the number of interested parties justifies to do so.

Article 25. - Education

Within the co-official zones of the languages and their linguistic modalities, language and linguistic modalities education is included in school timetable, at preparatory, elementary, secondary and professional schools.

Article 26. - Special Education

At special schools for handicapped pupils the most suitable language is applied taking into consideration each pupil's individual needs, as well as his/her family and social circumstances with the aim to guarantee the best possible.

Article 27. - Adult Education

Within the co-official zones of the languages and their linguistic modalities, adult's education of Aragon languages and their linguistic modalities and a significant part of courses organised for adult's permanent education are held in respective languages.

Article 28. - University Studies

Appropriate measures are taken for incorporating philological studies of the languages and their linguistic modalities as a part of university programmes.

Article 29. - Professorship

1. It is guaranteed to create professorship positions necessary for language and linguistic modalities education.

2. With the aim to contribute to forming professorship in the languages and linguistic modalities and to prepare projects and education materials connected with different pedagogic tasks in the subjects, the Government of Aragon will establish public administration organs with the seats in the co-official zones of Aragon and Catalan.

Article 30. - Non-Predomination Zones

Out of the co-official zones of the languages and their linguistic modalities the Government of Aragon may support and carry out standards of Aragon and Catalan language education if the number of interested justifies such an action.

CHAPTER VI - USE OF LANGUAGES

Article 31. - Administrative procedures within co-official zones

1. The language of procedures carried out either by the Autonomous Community administration or by local entities within the co-official zones is equally Castilian or other official language.

2. Municipal Councils specified in the Article 6 of this Law may apply Castilian or any respective linguistic modality as a language of their procedures.

3. In application of the aforementioned provisions, parties appealing to the public administration organs within Autonomous Community or to the entities having seats in the co-official zones may use Castilian as well as respective language or linguistic modality.

4. Referring to the previous paragraph, the language of procedure is selected by the interested party. In case that language discrepancy occurs among interested parties involved, procedure is carried out in Castilian, documents and testimonies are elaborated in languages selected by the parties.

5. Public Administration shall translate into Castilian documents and files written in the languages and linguistic modalities if they have effect out of co-official zones or if interested party wishes so. If the documents worked out in Catalan have effect within the Autonomous Community territory where Catalan is a co-official language, translation is redundant.

Article 32. - Administrative Procedures within Non-Predomination Zones

Out of co-official zones interested parties may appeal to the Community Administration in any language or linguistic modality of Aragon, though administration procedure is carried out exclusively in Castilian.

Article 33. - Official Publications

1. Directives, resolutions and agreements of the Autonomous Community institutions, as well as House of Aragon decisions may be published in any official languages of Aragon in a separate edition of the "Official Bulletin of Aragon". The consent for publishing is given by the organ or institution ordering publication.

2. The House of Aragon decisions and provincial disputes publication is treated in the same way as other official publications.

Article 34. - The House of Aragon

1. The House of Aragon being a representative body of multilingual towns in Aragon may use any official language of Aragon in course of their internal and external actions.

2. The citizens may appeal to the House of Aragon in any official language or linguistic modality of Aragon.

Article 35. - Justice of Aragon

1. Justice of Aragon exercising its powers shall protect linguistic rights acknowledged by this Act and the enforcement of its provisions within public organs.

2. The Justice of Aragon may issue information and other documents in the languages and linguistic modalities of Aragon.

3. The citizens may appeal to the Justice of Aragon in any official language or linguistic modality of Aragon.

Article 36. - Local Corporations

1. Within the co-official zones of languages and linguistic modalities local corporations may lead their debates in any of the languages including Castilian.

2. Official files and documents of local corporations in co-official zones may be worked out in Castilian or any co-official language or languages.

3. Municipal Council taking the option according to the Article 6 of this Act may elaborate files and other official documents of municipal character either in Castilian, other linguistic modality or both.

Article 37. - Geographical Names

1. Within the co-official zones official geographical names are bilingual - in one of the co-official languages and Castilian.

2. The County body responsible for cultural heritage taking into account the opinion of the Highest Language Council of Aragon shall determine geographical names of the Autonomous Community including official names of territories, town and city parts and inter-city roads.

3. Municipal Council shall determine the names of urban roads.

Article 38. - People's Names

1. The people of Aragon have the right to use correct standard form of their names and surnames in Catalan and Aragon.

2. People interested in getting to know the correct form of their names and surnames in Aragon and Catalan listed in Civil Register shall be provided a written statement of the matter appealing to the person in charge with documents proving linguistic correction.

3. The Highest Council of Languages in Aragon shall determine correct forms of names and surnames in Aragon and Catalan and the Government of Aragon responsible for cultural heritage shall submit documents for linguistic corrections.

Article 39. – Civil Servants

Concerning civil servants of the Autonomous Community and representatives of local corporations especially within co-official zones of languages and linguistic minorities:

- a) official language education is supported;
- b) exams and tenders are used as a method of supervising language domination;
- c) language domination may be required in a form of an order.

Article 40. - Public and Social Services

1. The administration offering public services within the co-official zones shall guarantee to maintain the service in the language required by the client.
2. Concerning private social services, such as hospitals, children and elderly homes etc. located in the co-official zones public organs will encourage them to use the language chosen by the client.

Article 41. – Mass Media

The Department responsible for cultural heritage shall adopt measures supporting TV and broadcasting creation and programmes, papers and article publication in co-official languages throughout the co-official zones.

First Transitory Directive - Election and Re-election of the Highest Council of Languages in Aragon Membership

1. Nine members of the Highest Council of Languages in Aragon are appointed for the period of fifteen years and they can be re-elected. Three of them are proposed by the House of Aragon by qualified majority voting, three of them by the Government of Aragon Department responsible for cultural heritage and the rest by the University of Zaragoza.
2. Every five years since the previous designation the Highest Council proceeds re-election of the third of the members.
3. Vacancies occurring in the transition period are covered by the Highest Council being included within the next third election. They are selected in secret ballot of that third of the members which needs to be completed.

Second Transitory Directive - Linguistic Standards

1. In the course of one year since this Act is put into effect the Highest Council of Languages in Aragon shall determine and work out standards and rules of Aragon and Catalan as well as of local linguistic modalities.

Third Transitory Directive - Gradual Application of the Act

1. Implementation of Aragon and Catalan languages as well as of local linguistic modalities within the Autonomous Community administration and local administration, their entities and institutions in terms of this Act, shall not be put to practice later than 3 years ahead.

2. Education of Aragon and Catalan as well as of local linguistic modalities in terms of this Act shall not be implemented later than 3 years ahead.

Fourth Transitory Directive - Local Varieties and Modalities Option

Municipal Council declaration of zones with predominating language or local linguistic modality according to the Article 6 of this Act shall take place in course of maximum one year since this Act is put into effect.

Derogatory Directive

Final second directive of the Act 3/1999 of 10th March on Cultural Heritage of Aragon is derogated.

First Final Directive - The Government of Aragon Powers

The Government of Aragon is entitled to issue any directives necessary for implementation and application of this Act.

Second Final Directive - Effectiveness Date

The Date of Effectiveness of this Act is three months since its publication in the Official Bulletin of Aragon.

ANNEX I

List of municipalities that are entitled to declare zones of use of predominating language or linguistic modality or zones of use of predominating standard Aragon.

Provincia de Huesca: Abiego, Abizanda, Adahuesca, Agüero, Aínsa-Sobrarbe, Aísa, Albero Alto, Albero Bajo, Alberuela de Tubo, Alcalá del Obispo, Alerre, Almudévar de Cinca, Almunia de San Juan, Alquézar, Angüés, Ansó, Antillón, Barbastro, Barbués, Barbuñales, Bárcabo, Benasque, Berbegal, Bierge, Biescas, Bisaurri, Biscarrués, Blecua-Torres, Boltaña, Borau, Broto, Caldearenas, Campo, Canal de Berdún, Canfranc, Capella, Casbas de Huesca, Castejón de Sos, Castejón del Puente, Castiello de Jaca, Castellazuelo, Colungo, Chía, Chimillas, Estada, Estadilla, Fago, Fanlo, Fiscal, Fonz, Foradada de Toscar, La Fueva, Gistaín, El Grado, Graus, Hoz de Jaca, Hoz y Costeán, Huerto, Huesca, Ibieca, Igriés, Ilche, Jaca, Jasa, La Sotonera, Labuerda, Laluega, La Perdiguera, Lascellas-Ponzano, Laspuña, Loarre, Loporzano, Loscorrales, Lupiñén-Ortilla, Monflorite-Lascasas, Monzón, Naval, Novales, Nueno, Olvena, Palo, Panticosa, Peñas de Riglos, Peraltilla, Perarrúa, Pertusa, Piracés, Plan, Pozán de Vero, La Puebla de Castro, Puente la Reina, Puértolas, El Pueyo de Araguás, Quicena,

Robras, Sabinánigo, Sahún, Salas Atlas, Salas Bajas, Salillas, Sallent de Gállego, San Juan de Plan, Sangarrén, Santa Cilia, Santa Cruz de la Seróz, Santa Liestra, San Quílez, Santa María de Dulcis, Secastilla, Seira, Senés de Alcubierre, Sesa, Sesué, Siétamo, Tardienta, Tella-Sin, Tierz, Torla, Torralba de Aragón, Torres de Alcanadre, Torres de Barbués, Valle de Bardají, Valle de Lierp, Vicién, Villanova, Villanúa, Yebra de Basa, y Yésero.

Provincia de Zaragoza: Ardisa, Bagüés, Biel-Fuencalderas, El Frago, Longás, Mianos, Murillo de Gállego, y Santa Eulalia de Gállego.

ANNEX II

List of municipalities that are entitled to declare zones of use of predominating language or linguistic modality or zones of use of predominating standard Catalan.

Provincia de Huesca: Albelda, Alcampell, Altorricón, Arén, Azanuy-Alins, Baells, Baldellou, Benabarre, Bonansa, Camporrels, Castigaleu, Castillonroy, Estopián del Castillo, Fraga, Isábena, Lascuarre, Laspaúles, Monesma y Cajigar, Montanuy, Peralta de Calasanz, Puente de Montañana, San Esteban de Litera, Sopeira, Tamarite de Litera, Tolva, Torre la Ribera, Torrente de Cinca, Velilla de Cinca, Vencillón, Veracruz, Viacamp y Litera, y Zaidín.

Provincia de Teruel: Aguaviva de Bergantes, Arens de Lledó, Beceite, Belmonte de San José, Calaceite, La Cañada de Verich, Cerollera, La Codoñera, Cretas, Fórnoles, La Fresneda, Fuentespalda, La Ginebrosa, Lledó, Mazaleón, Monroyo, Peñarroya de Tastavins, La Portellada, Ráfales, Torres de Arcas, Torre del Compte, Torrevelilla, Valderrobres, Valdetormo, y Valjunquera.

Provincia de Zaragoza: Fabara, Fayón, Maella, Mequinenza, y Nonaspe.

Note: We acknowledge with thanks data from the Mercator-Legislation, CIEMEN.

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