

Hon. Mr President of the European Parliament,
Dear David Sassoli,

Since March, when the outbreak of COVID-19 intensified in Europe, the functioning of the European Parliament (EP) has changed dramatically, due to the sanitary measures applied. We understand the inevitability of the contingency plan, taking into account the need to prevent infection and the spread of the virus and to protect the health and lives of people. Six months later, the functioning of the EP is gradually returning to normal. However, there are services whose unavailability seriously impairs parliamentary work, namely the interpretation service.

The European Union (EU) has 24 official languages and all deserve the same respect and treatment. We recognize that the number of languages available in committee meeting rooms has been increasing, but even so, more than half of the languages still have no interpretation. Multilingualism is a right enshrined in the Treaties that allows Members to express themselves in their own language. Now, that is not happening and we are concerned that the situation will continue, even taking into account the expected workflow in the commissions after these atypical six months.

In this sense, we appeal, once again, to you, the President of the EP for the application of the letter and the spirit of the principle of multilingualism, finding solutions that respect this principle and that allow the use of any of the 24 official languages of the EU. The expression of each deputy in her/his own language is a priority so that there can be conditions to fully exercise the mandate for which she/he was elected and a condition of respect for the citizens who elected her/him.

Sincerely,

João FERREIRA

Sandra PEREIRA

Asim ADEMOV

Clara AGUILERA

Andris AMERIKS

Konstantinos ARVANITIS

Petras AUSTREVICIUS

Traian BĂSESCU

Benoît BITEAU

Malin BJORK

Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ

Franc BOGOVIČ

Manuel BOMPARD

Milan BRGLEZ

Damien CARÊME

Isabel CARVALHAIS

Sara CERDAS

Leila CHAIBI

Miroslav ČÍŽ

David CORMAND

Clare DALY
Salvatore DE MEO
Özlem DEMIREL
Pascal DURAND
Laurence FARRENG
Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ
Alexandra GEESE
Giorgos GEORGIO
Sunčana GLAVAK
Francisco GUERREIRO
José GUSMÃO
Robert HAJŠEL
Romana JERKOVIĆ
Petra KAMMEREVERT
Niyazi KIZILYUREK
Łukasz KOHUT
Stelios KYMPOUROPOULOS
Maria Manuel LEITÃO MARQUES
Miriam LEXMANN
Nathalie LOISEAU
César LUENA
Chris MACMANUS
Marisa MATIAS
Emmanuel MAUREL
Costas MAVRIDES
Karen MELCHIOR
Roberta METSOLA
Martina MICHELS
Cláudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR
Ville NIINISTÖ
Demetris PAPADAKIS
Jutta PAULUS
Mauri PEKKARINEN
Anne-Sophie PELLETIER
Manu PINEDA
Manuel PIZARRO
Peter POLLÁK
Sira REGO
Eugenia RODRÍGUEZ PALOP
Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO
Bronis ROPÉ
Isabel SANTOS
Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK
Ivan Vilibor SINČIĆ
Romana TOMC
Marie TOUSSAINT
Miguel URBAN CRESPO

Idoia VILLANUEVA RUIZ
Nikolaj VILLUMSEN
Mick WALLACE
Salima YENBOU
Juan Ignacio ZOIDO ÁLVAREZ
Carlos ZORRINHO
Željana ZOVKO
Milan ZVER