



President of France, Emmanuel Macron,
Palais de l'Élysée
Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris.
FRANCE.

28th May 2021

Dear President Macron,

Tomorrow, member organisations and partners of the **European Language Equality Network** (ELEN), the international NGO for the protection and promotion of European lesser-used languages, will hold 48 separate demonstrations across the French state in support of their territorial languages following the controversial censuring of the Molac Law on “regional” languages by the Constitutional Council, despite the National Assembly voting for it with a huge majority.

We broadly welcomed your May 26th statement on social media underlining the contribution of immersion education to "securing the future" of “regional” languages and support your call to the Government and Parliament to find ways to "guarantee the transmission of this linguistic diversity in accordance with the widely recognized educational frameworks."

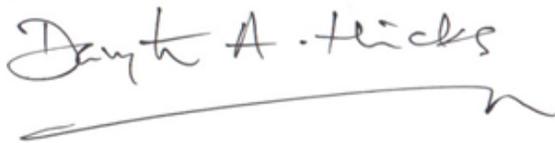
However, while these warm words are welcome, we are still waiting for the governing LREM party to deliver on their written commitment to us from 2017 to ratify the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**, the European benchmark for language protection, a Charter which all EU accession States, for example, are obliged to ratify.

Furthermore, if we are to "secure the future" and "guarantee transmission" we will need to go further than merely modifying Article 2 of the Constitution. We

urgently need to see some visionary language planning that is based on substantive language legislation which ensures: official status for each “regional” language in its territory; that gives support to full language recovery; that increases and ensures societal use; that embeds immersion education into the education system; and which will eventually deliver language normalisation.

We know how to regenerate endangered and minoritised languages, and there is a wealth of best practice available on how to proceed. But it also requires political will. Can we be assured that you and your Government will deliver on the political will and language legislation required that will ensure the future for our languages?

On behalf of ELEN,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Davyth A. Hicks". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a decorative underline.

Davyth Hicks, ELEN Secretary-General (Bruxelles).

ELEN is the international NGO that works for the promotion and protection of European lesser-used languages. It represents 46 languages with 166 member organisations in 23 European states. It has consultative status with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO, FRA, and the EESC.