

Multilingualism: some Dates and Key Documents

Since 2000, multilingualism is increasingly appreciated throughout the EU Commission and the Member States of the European Union.

When Leonard Orban took up his post as Commissioner for Multilingualism in January 2007 he stated: "Promoting multilingualism in the different Policies of the European Union, such as culture, education, communication and employment is at the centre of my objectives. I want to make a real contribution to the competitiveness of the European economy." http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/orban/index_en.htm

Already in February 2007 "A political agenda for multilingualism" was announced.

Since then, a number of policy documents have been prepared:

- 09/05/2009 - Multilingualism - A bridge to mutual understanding
- 26/03/2009 - Joint Declaration European Commission-People's Republic of China on the reinforcement of co-operation and dialogue in the field of multilingualism
- 06/03/2009 - Joint Declaration European Commission-India on the reinforcement of co-operation and dialogue in the field of multilingualism
- 05/03/2009 - Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training: Final Report
- 18/09/2008 - Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment
- 11/07/2008 - LANGUAGES MEAN BUSINESS, Companies work better with languages Recommendations from the Business Forum for Multilingualism established by the European Commission
- 15/02/2008 - A Rewarding Challenge – How the Multiplicity of Languages could strengthen Europe
- 25/09/2007 - Report on the implementation of the Action Plan "Promoting language learning and linguistic diversity"
- 09/2007 - High Level Group Report on Multilingualism. Final Report. Brief version
- 14/08/2007 - Lingua Brochure - 30 Projects for Promoting Language Learning
- 13/04/2007 - Communication from the Commission to the Council - Framework for the European survey on language competences
- 23/02/2007 - ELAN: Effects on the European Economy of Shortages of Foreign Language Skills in Enterprise http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/Focus/docs/elan-sum_en.pdf

Following the above ELAN study, the EU Commission established the "Business Forum for Multilingualism" in 2007, which formulated a number of recommendations:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/pdf/davignon_en.pdf

As results of these recommendations two platforms are being established in 2009:

- Business Platform for Multilingualism (launched on 22 Sep. 2009)
- Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (to be launched in Brussels on 23 Oct. 2009).