

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): BAUER Edit, SÓGOR Csaba, Ana Miranda and 17 MEPs more	
SUBJECT: Catalan Civil Service Bill (please specify)	
<p>TEXT:</p> <p>Civil Service Bill passed on 16/3/2012 removed the need for civil service candidates in the Balearic Islands to have knowledge of both official languages, Catalan and Spanish. The bill changes legislation adopted unanimously in 1986.</p> <p>In protest at this new measure a respected retired teacher of Catalan, Jaume BONET, began a hunger strike. The pensioner has widespread support; demonstrations on his behalf are held in most Majorcan towns. So far he has lost 20 kilos and is getting weary.</p> <p>The measures adopted by the regional government contravene European standards on lesser used language protection found in the EU Lisbon Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, all ratified by Spain.</p> <p>The measures also break cross-party political consensus on Catalan promotion and undermine successful language regeneration.</p> <p>As the 'Guardian of the Treaties' does the Commission consider that the measures adopted by the Balearic government undermine "respect for linguistic diversity" and constitute discrimination on the grounds of language, which under EU law is prohibited?</p> <p>What does the Commission intend to do in order to protect national minority rights in this region?</p>	
Signature(s):	Date: 23/03/2012