

**Brussels, January 22, 2020**

**President of the European Parliament, Mr. David Sassoli**  
**President of the European Commission, Mrs. Ursula Von Der Leyen**  
**President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel**

We are writing to you because we are concerned with the translators' situation.

Europe is its diversity of peoples and cultures. Our languages and linguistic wealth and diversity lie on this reality and legacy.

The European Union has 24 official languages. All of them deserve the same respect and equal treatment, including by the European Parliament.

Citizens of each of our Member-states elect European Parliament Members to represent and defend them. According to the letter and spirit of the *acquis communautaire*, we have the right to work from and into our own languages in our parliamentary work and citizens have the right to read clear and unambiguous legislation and resolutions in their own languages too. Still, MEPs see every day that their right to full multilingualism is under threat.

European Parliament undoubtedly has one of the best multilingual interpretation and translation service in the world, which is able to deliver timely and high quality interpretations and translations between all 24 official languages of the EU. Why are we not making better use of it?

It is mandatory to assure that in-house interpreters and translators have good working conditions and reasonable workloads with enforceable limits.

Interpretation and translation needs should take into account the inevitable peaks and troughs of the working rhythm of an active parliament.

Syphoning off translation staff to other tasks, which have nothing to do with translators' core business, as well as increased outsourcing of legislative documents, will certainly not improve the situation.

**We call for the following claims to be resolved as soon as possible:**

1. Apply the letter and spirit of the EPs code of conduct on multilingualism
2. Ensure full linguistic coverage for all 24 languages on an equal footing
3. Guarantee adequate staffing levels in translation teams at DG TRAD
4. Listen to our linguists - they are the experts.

Yours sincerely,  
Sandra Pereira, MEP, PT  
João Ferreira, MEP, PT