

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

**Recommendation RecChL(2005) 3
of the Committee of Ministers
on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
by Spain**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 September 2005
at the 938th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the declarations submitted by Spain on 9 April 2001;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts on the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Spain;

Having taken note of the comments made by the Spanish authorities on the contents of the Committee of Experts' report;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Spain in its national report, supplementary information provided by the Spanish authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Spain and information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its "on-the-spot" visit;

Recommends that the authorities of Spain take account of all the observations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. take the necessary legal and practical measures needed to ensure the implementation of the undertakings under article 9 of the Charter, in particular by ensuring that an adequate proportion of the judicial staff posted in the autonomous communities concerned by the application of Article 9 of the Charter has a working knowledge of the relevant languages;
2. review the recruitment, career and training schemes for the staff of the State administration offices with a view to ensuring that an adequate proportion of the staff in this field posted in the autonomous communities concerned by the application of Article 10 of the Charter has a working knowledge of the relevant languages;
3. strengthen the offer of education in Basque in the Basque Country, in particular with regard to secondary education and technical and vocational education;
4. adopt a structured approach, with a view to strengthening the use of Basque in the private electronic media in the Basque Country and in broadcasting in general in Navarra;
5. consider the possibility of applying an appropriate form of Part III protection to the Basque language within the "mixed zone" as defined by the legislation of Navarra;
6. strengthen the protection of Aragonese ("Fabra") and Catalan in Aragon, including establishing an appropriate legal framework.