



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

**Recommendation RecChL(2008)5
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 10 December 2008
at the 1044th 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 second periodical 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 to ensure that an adequate proportion of the judicial staff posted in the autonomous communities concerned by the application of Article 9 of the Charter have 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 posted in the autonomous communities have a working knowledge of the relevant languages;
3. ensure the presence of all regional or minority languages in state owned public services;
4. consider in collaboration with the Asturian speakers, the possibilities of improving the current level of protection provided by the Statute of Autonomy to Asturian;
5. take steps to adopt a specific legal framework for protecting and promoting Aragonese and Catalan in Aragon;
6. clarify the status of, and where appropriate adopt measures, in co-operation with the speakers, to protect and promote the following languages: Galician in Castile and León, Portuguese in the town of Olivenza, Berber in the Autonomous City of Melilla and Arabic in the Autonomous City of Ceuta.