

22nd International conference of Europeanists

Paris, France – July 8-10, 2015

Organized by the Council for European Studies, to be held at Sciences Po, Paris.

Conference theme: Contradictions: Envisioning European Futures

Mini-symposium: What future for multilingualism in Europe?

Organizers:

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Abstract

Since the beginning of the European integration process, the principle of a multilingual language regime for the European community has been enacted by the different member states. In 1958, the European Economic Community adopted a regulation making Dutch, French, German and Italian its official languages. Over the last decades, the subsequent enlargements have led to increase the number of official languages to 24 in order to allow for the EU to communicate directly with its citizens in their own language. Despite the repeatedly renewed commitment to multilingualism expressed by the different European institutions, the increase of the number of official languages has led to strengthen the position of English not only as working language inside the institutions, but also as *lingua franca* allowing communication between the citizens of the different member states.

In the eye of this evolution, our panels seek to address the question of the future for multilingualism in the EU. Bringing together perspectives from different subfields of political science, such as political sociology, public policy analysis, political economy and political theory, presentations will investigate and sketch out the conditions of possibility of maintaining a multilingual language regime in the EU: What implications does the commitment to multilingualism entail on the level of different policy sectors, such as translation and language education, and in terms of costs? To what extent does the choice of a multilingual language regime benefit from support by the citizens of the EU and the different political elites? Panels will more largely seek to organize a lively debate between defenders of multilingualism and supporters of an “English only” – by fact or by choice – language regime.

Deadline

For all paper proposals, the title of the paper and an abstract (250 words max.) should be submitted to the organizers by October 7th 2014.