

Valencian

1. The Valencian Language Academy of the Valencian Community supported the organisation of Valencian language courses in Murcia. The Committee of Experts was not informed about any formal agreements between Murcia and Valencia.
2. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, some good practice examples of cooperation are available such as the promotion of the edition of the Writer of the Year dedicated to Enric Valor, an itinerant exhibition which was taken to Mallorca (University of the Balearic Islands), Ibiza and Formentera (Government of the Balearic Islands and City of Ibiza) and the city hall of Tortosa (Catalonia). This exhibition was scheduled to visit the city hall of Manacor (Mallorca), the city of Alghero (Sardinia), the Ramon Llull Institute in Barcelona, the Museum of Rural Life in L'Espluga de Francolí and the city hall of Tarragona (Catalonia).

Valencian in Murcia

3. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts encouraged the authorities to make available Valencian education at primary school level in the Carche district. No information was provided in the fourth periodical report and the Committee of Experts asks the Spanish authorities to provide information in the next periodical report.
4. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the Academy of the Valencian Language provided courses in the region. In 2011 and 2012, the number of courses increased to two per year.
5. The Committee of Experts has not received any additional and up-dated information regarding this undertaking and asks for information in the next periodical report.

3.2.5 Valencian in Valencia

Preliminary remarks

6. According to the information provided in the third periodical report, the linguistic zoning determined by the 1983 Law on the Use and Teaching of Valencian, into Valencian and Castilian-speaking areas (based on historical criteria) only refers to the field of education. According to the same law, Valencian is a co-official language in the whole territory of Valencia, and in practice local authorities choose their language of preference in line with this zoning (either monolingual Castilian or Valencian, or bilingual). All citizens have the right to use Valencian before authorities in the entire territory of Valencia.

7. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report, in 2010 a general survey was conducted into the use and knowledge of Valencian. A summary of the data obtained in this survey is available at: http://www.cece.gva.es/polin/docs/sies_docs/encuesta2010/index.html. The most important outcome is that 96.1% of the population within the Valencian-speaking region understand Valencian. It was also found that 76.7% of the entire population can speak Valencian (this proportion rises to 82.4% in the Valencian-speaking region). The most important factors in acquiring proficiency in the spoken language are family and school. In the whole region, 85.9% of the population, and 89.3% in the Valencian-speaking region, understand written Valencian.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:

- a. i. to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- b. i. to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- c. i. to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*

8. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertakings partly fulfilled and encouraged the authorities to take measures so that the introduction of the compulsory trilingual model does not disproportionately affect Valencian-medium education. The Committee of Experts strongly urged the authorities to make Valencian-medium education available throughout the territory of Valencia where Valencian is used, and especially to ensure continuity from primary to secondary education.

9. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report, in 2012, the Decree 127/2012 of 3 August of the Valencian Council, regulating trilingual education in non-university education in Valencia, was approved (Valencian Official Gazette (DOCV) No. 6834).

10. The Valencian educational administration allows parents the full freedom to choose the principal language they deem appropriate for their children's education, either Valencian or Castilian. All demand for education in Valencian will be met. In the academic year 2013-2014, another 38 schools will begin to apply the Multilingual Teaching Programme in Valencian (PPEV).

11. Furthermore, the fourth periodical report provided new data on the percentage of students attending the Programme to Teach in Valencian (PEV) and the Programme in Language Immersion (PIL) and, for both models, the share of pupils taught in Valencian for the academic year 2011-2012 were as follows: a total of 222,907 students were enrolled in programmes of education in Valencian (PEV and PIL), in pre-school education and in primary, secondary and high schools. This figure represents 31.22% of all students enrolled in these schools.

12. Under current legislation, the Programme to Teach in Valencian (PEV) is characterised by the fact that all or most subjects are taught in Valencian. The Language Immersion Programme (PIL) is restricted to pre-school and primary education. This is a programme for education in Valencian, and is designed for students who are mainly non-Valencian speakers, and whose families voluntarily choose this programme.

13. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by the NGOs that, since 2012, the offer of immersion programmes devoted to teaching in Valencian has decreased substantially.
14. The Committee of Experts concludes that these undertakings remain partly fulfilled and asks the authorities to provide specific information about the developments and the application of trilingualism in non-university education.

d. i. to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages;

15. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled and urged the competent authorities to develop an educational model essentially in Valencian for technical and vocational education and to make it available throughout the relevant territory.

16. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the bilingual and multilingual programmes implemented within the education system in Valencia are also applicable to technical and vocational education. Therefore, the schools offering this model of education also implement the programmes referred to above. According to the authorities, the Education in Valencian Programme (PEV) assures the provision of education in Valencian in all or most of the modules of technical and vocational education.

17. Considering the estimated low numbers of students actually included in this education, the Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking remains only partly fulfilled.

h. to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party;

18. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking fulfilled.

19. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, almost 90% of teachers are proficient in Valencian. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of people with certified knowledge of Valencian, especially among teachers and regional civil servants. Currently, most of the teachers in the Valencian education system hold a certificate of Valencian-language proficiency.

20. During the fourth monitoring round, the Committee of Experts was informed that the Valencian citizens holding university diplomas in Catalan Philology are faced with difficulties in selection competitions for teaching positions in Valencia. The Valencian Government has continued to ignore relevant court sentences (some 46, state: October 2014) that confirm the unanimous position of the academic world which says that “Catalan” and “Valencian” are two names that refer to the same language.

21. During the on-the-spot visit, according to the information provided by NGOs to the Committee of Experts, only 33% of the Valencian teaching staff have a formal diploma.

22. The Committee of Experts considers this undertaking fulfilled. It nevertheless asks the authorities to clarify how the diploma in Catalan Philology can, in practice, be validated.

**Article 9 – Judicial authorities
Paragraph 1**

The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:

a. in criminal proceedings:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

b. in civil proceedings:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

c. in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

23. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts pointed to some legal and practical difficulties concerning Article 9. In the previous monitoring rounds, the Committee of Experts identified Article 231 of the Organic Law of Judicial Power as one of the most prominent obstacles to the full implementation of Article 9 of the Charter in Spain. That article states that in any judicial procedure, judges, magistrates, prosecutors, clerks and other officers will use the Castilian language. The co-official language will only be allowed if neither of the parties objects to it. It therefore has not been made clear that the criminal, civil and administrative judicial authorities will conduct the proceedings in any of the Autonomous Communities in the co-official language at the request of one party.

24. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee was informed by NGOs that if a party decided to use Valencian in its documents, courts would *a priori* pose no problems, but in 99% of cases, courts write all resolutions of both proceedings and actions in Castilian. It seems that in 20 years of practice only one judgment has been issued in Valencian.

25. The Committee of Experts was informed by non-governmental sources in the fourth monitoring round that court employees, including judges and prosecutors, were not obliged to have a knowledge of Valencian, meaning that people who wanted to use their own language had to rely on the good will of the civil servant or on a translation. The use of Valencian in courts was not ensured and had to be demanded by citizens at every turn, which formed an important obstacle to the normal use of the language in courts.

26. Based on the information at the Committee of Experts' disposal and despite remaining difficulties concerning the implementation of Article 9, paragraph 1. a ii, iii, iv; b ii and iii; and c ii and iii, the Committee of Experts concludes that those undertakings remain fulfilled. The undertakings under Article 9, paragraph 1. a i; b i; c i remain partly fulfilled.

The Committee of Experts strongly urges the Spanish authorities:

- to amend the legal framework with a view to making it clear that the criminal, civil and administrative judicial authorities in Valencia will conduct the proceedings in Valencian at the request of one party;

- to take the necessary measures to ensure, as appropriate, that the parties to a proceeding are specifically informed of the obligation of the judicial authorities in Valencia to conduct the proceedings in Valencian if one of the parties so requests, in conformity with the undertakings entered into by Spain under Article 9 para. 1.a.i, 1.b.i and 1.c.i of the Charter;

- to take the necessary measures to increase the proportion of judicial staff in Valencia, at all levels and particularly among judges and prosecutors, who are competent in the use of Valencian as a working language in courts;

- to develop adequate training schemes for judicial staff as well as for lawyers.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraph 1

Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:

a. i. to ensure that the administrative authorities use the regional or minority languages; or

27. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled.

28. No specific information was provided in the fourth periodical report.
29. The Committee of Experts maintains its previous conclusion that the undertaking is partly fulfilled.

The Committee of Experts urges the Spanish authorities to substantially increase the number of Valencian-speaking staff in the relevant state administration offices and to develop adequate training schemes.

b. to make available widely used administrative texts and forms for the population in the regional or minority languages or in bilingual versions;

30. In the third evaluation report, the Committee considered the undertaking partly fulfilled.

31. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, there are some improvements in several bodies of the General State Administration, most of them related to the presence of Valencian on ministerial websites.

32. While acknowledging some positive developments, the Committee of Experts observed, during the on-the-spot visit, that there is still an inadequate proportion of state administration texts and forms available in Valencian, as well as an inadequate proportion of bilingual texts and forms.

33. The Committee of Experts concludes that the undertaking remains partly fulfilled and asks the authorities to provide information in the next periodical report.

c. to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

34. In the third evaluation report, the Committee considered the undertaking partly fulfilled.

35. No information was provided in the fourth periodical report.

36. The Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking remains partly fulfilled and asks the authorities to provide information in the next periodical report.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:

a. the use of regional or minority languages within the framework of the regional or local authority;

37. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled as regards local authorities and fulfilled as regards regional authorities. The Committee of Experts lacked information about the extent to which Valencian was used within the framework of local authorities.

38. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report with respect to regional authorities and concerning the use of languages in administrative proceedings, staff employed by the regional authorities in Valencia reply in the same language used by citizens when addressing them. Any written action to be carried out in Valencian is forwarded for translation to the Valencian Translation and Advisory Service. In the case of proceedings brought by applications presented in a bilingual format, if no express reference is made to the language to be used, the proceedings are conducted in Castilian.

39. As regards administrative texts and forms in Valencian, most of the forms used in government financial offices in the region are bilingual. Finally, it is notable that at present 77% of public employees within the regional administration have an officially recognised knowledge of the Valencian language.

40. According to information made available in the fourth periodical report, a questionnaire was sent to 542 local authorities in Valencia, inquiring about issues related to the use of Valencian. Replies were obtained from 114 municipalities, representing 1,981,518 of the 5,129,266 current inhabitants of the region (38.63% of the population). In this questionnaire, taking into account data obtained from 102 municipalities concerning the knowledge of Valencian among municipal employees (with a total of 10,508 employees), 41.39% are recognised as having some knowledge of Valencian, 6.51% are certified as having the level of language competency equivalent to A2 (under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages); 14.3% are certified as B1; 15.64% as C1; and 4.91% as C2.

41. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the Valencian Government and its ministries, departments and agencies have web portals and means of electronic communication to ensure the publication of content in Valencian: this content includes procedures, services, forms, organisational structure and job announcements. On the portal of the Valencian Government, one of the most important areas is the “PROP Guide”¹. There is also an alert service enabling users to choose the language in which they wish to receive information. In addition, online instruction in Valencian is provided.

42. The Directorate General for Information Technology provides all the technological resources offered on the portal of the Valencian Government². This is in compliance with Act 3/2010 of 5 May on e-Government in the Valencian Community, as regards the use of official languages, foreign languages and sign languages, which stipulates that websites owned by entities referred to in it should allow access to their content and services in both Valencian and Castilian, including the complete performance of bureaucratic procedures and the availability of normalised e-documents in both languages.

43. The Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking remains partly fulfilled as regards local authorities and fulfilled as regards regional authorities.

b. the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;

44. In the third evaluation report the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking formally fulfilled and urged the authorities to take measures of encouragement to increase the use of Valencian.

45. Moreover, all PROP offices (Valencian Government public information bureaux) receive the public in either of the two official languages of the Valencian Autonomous Community. Information is also provided by means of remote-access channels, such as the 012 service (provided both as a voice channel and as a chat service). In this case, the user chooses the language in which the information requested is to be supplied. In 2012, information was requested of the 012 service in the following language percentages: Voice: 35.34% in Valencian and 64.66% in Castilian; Chat: 15.32% in Valencian and 84.68% in Castilian. The voice channel received a total of 1,654,053 queries.

46. According to information in the fourth periodical report with respect to this undertaking, Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Valencian Parliament (Les Corts) states that “the two official languages are Valencian and Castilian”, that “the Deputies may use either or both languages” and that “the official publications of Les Corts shall be bilingual”.

47. The Committee of Experts concludes that the undertaking is fulfilled for regional administration. It received no further information on the use of Valencian in local administration. It encourages the authorities to provide information on the possibility to submit oral or written applications in Valencian in the next periodical report.

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² ⁹ “Formacion on line gratuita” (free online training) - http://www.gva.es/va/inicio/atencion_ciudadano/buscadores
<http://saps.gva.es>

f. the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;

48. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled. It strongly urged the Spanish authorities to provide information on the use of Valencian by local authorities in debates in their assemblies in their next periodical report.

49. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report, the above-mentioned questionnaire shows the following results for the 114 Valencian municipalities that responded: the spoken language used in local assemblies is Valencian-only in 42 cases (36.86%), Castilian-only in 32 cases (28.07%), usually Valencian in 21 cases (18.42%), usually Castilian in 7 cases (6.14%), and either or both in 12 cases (10.53%). Records of proceedings are published in Valencian-only in 44 cases (38.60%), in Castilian-only in 26 cases (22.81%), usually in Valencian in 22 cases (19.30%), usually in Castilian in 11 cases (9.65%) and in either or both in 11 cases (9.65%).

50. The Committee of Experts concludes that the undertaking is fulfilled.

Paragraph 3

With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:

a. to ensure that the regional or minority languages are used in the provision of the service;

51. According to the third periodical report, the Committee of Experts lacked information about the proportion of staff in the public services in Valencia with an adequate command of Valencian. It considered this undertaking not fulfilled.

52. Within the Ministry of Development, the website content of Spanish Airports and Air Navigation (AENA) is available in all co-official languages. Moreover, it has been possible to buy tickets and obtain train service information in co-official languages from the Spanish National Railway Network (RENFE) since 2009.

Paragraph 4

With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

a. translation or interpretation as may be required;

53. In its third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled with regard to public services and fulfilled in relation to paragraphs 1 and 2.

54. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the technical staff and linguistic advisers of the public administrations and institutions within the Autonomous Community perform translation functions in addition to those related to education, counselling and language promotion. The numbers of translators currently employed in this capacity are as follows: Valencian Parliament - 14; Academy of the Valencian Language - 14; Local authorities - 82; Provincial councils - 8; universities - 65.

55. Some trade unions and civic organisations have full or part-time staff who perform these linguistic functions. In addition, some companies and self-employed persons are engaged in translation and language consulting activities, although no official record is kept of these companies.

56. According to additional information provided in the fourth periodical report concerning the Ministry for Employment and Social Security, 72% of the website content of the General Social Security Treasury was translated into co-official languages in 2010 and around 96% in 2013. Moreover, the State Public Employment Service translated all employment contract

templates into co-official languages at the start of 2013 and provided translations in these languages of most of the static information on unemployment benefits on its website.

57. Within the Ministry of the Interior, a considerable proportion of electoral information and material, referred to above, is presented in co-official languages through the corresponding websites designed by the Ministry of the Interior. Equally important is the use of co-official languages on the Government Office for Gender Violence website. Similarly, the Civil Guard website can now translate all the home menus and sub-menus up to the fourth navigation level into co-official languages. Furthermore, the Directorate General of Police is working on a computer application for receiving and processing reports of crimes in co-official languages.

58. Within the Ministry for Finances and Public Administrations, 99% of the website content of the State Secretariat for Budgets and Expenditure and of the General State Comptroller is translated into co-official languages. Moreover, the web portal of the State Secretariat of Public Administration is available in co-official languages and currently has over 200 pages translated into these languages.

59. Based on the information received, the Committee of Experts revises its previous conclusions and considers that the undertaking is now partly fulfilled for the state administration and public services under its competence. It is fulfilled for regional and local authorities.

b. recruitment and, where necessary, training of the officials and other public service employees required;

60. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking fulfilled with respect to regional authorities, and partly fulfilled with respect to the state administration. The Committee of Experts could not reach a conclusion regarding local authorities and public services. It urged the Spanish authorities to provide information on the recruitment and training of civil servants and officials in public services and local authorities.

61. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the Plan to Promote Knowledge and Use of Valencian includes language training, both general and specialised, for employees of the Valencian Government. The plan addresses the training activity itself, the role of Valencian in career progress, the generalisation of the SALT (Diccionario Traductor Valenciano) translator³, and the online programme "Learning Valencian".

62. The Committee of Experts concludes that the undertaking is fulfilled with respect to regional authorities. Nevertheless, it remains partly fulfilled with respect to state administration bodies. No conclusion can be reached for local authorities and public services.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 1

The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:

a. to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:

i. to ensure the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in the regional or minority languages;

63. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking fulfilled. It nevertheless urged the Spanish authorities to find a viable solution for the question of retransmission of programmes in Catalan from Catalonia in the spirit of the Charter.

64. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, from 1987 to 2012

³ <http://traductor.lasprovincias.es/>

the Autonomous Community of Valencia had a public broadcasting company, RTVV S.A. This company was abolished by the Act 3/2012 of 20 July on the Statute for Valencian Broadcasting, which created the new public company Radiotelevisión Valenciana SAU. Under this framework, TV broadcasts in Valencian were to be made by the channels Canal 9 and Nou24, and radio broadcasts by Ràdio 9 and Sí Ràdio. The above-mentioned act stated that the new public broadcaster should preferentially use Valencian in the provision of audiovisual media services.

65. However, in the initial implementation of the new public company an employment regulation order was made, but subsequently annulled by the High Court of Justice of Valencia on 4 November 2013. The regional government, taking into account the difficult economic situation, decided to liquidate and abolish the public company Radiotelevisión Valenciana SAU. In consequence, public broadcasts in Valencian are currently made only by Radio Televisión Española (RTVE) in regional programmes.

66. The Committee of Experts reconsiders its previous conclusion and concludes that the undertaking is now not fulfilled.

The Committee of Experts urges the Spanish authorities to take the necessary measures to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of one public TV channel and a public radio station in Valencian.

b. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station in the regional or minority languages;

67. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled. It urged the authorities to clarify the number of private radio stations broadcasting and offering programmes in Valencian.

68. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, in Valencia, twelve private radio stations currently broadcast local programmes primarily in Valencian.

69. In accordance with Valencian legislation, in November 2011, the Valencian Government convened the final round of the procedure to award FM radio broadcasting licences, within which the contract documents specified that the use of Valencian in radio programming would be a preferential criterion.

70. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by NGO representatives that there was currently no regional radio station in Valencian and that the range of broadcasting through local radio was very limited.

71. The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude and invites the authorities to provide additional information in the next periodical report.

c. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one television channel in the regional or minority languages;

72. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled.

73. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report, in 2010, the Autonomous Community of Valencia had 28 local television stations broadcasting in TDT: two entirely in Valencian, five mainly in Valencian, one bilingually, four mainly in Castilian and four entirely in Castilian. The remaining twelve re-transmitted, in Castilian, the programmes of the national chain to which they belonged.

74. The channels that broadcast a significant proportion of their programmes in Valencian were Televisió de Castelló, Nord, C. 56-TV, Comarcal, Ribera Televisió, Levante TV (50% in

Valencian) and TV Mediterráneo.

75. In this respect, in the competition for the awarding of licences to provide digital terrestrial television with local coverage in four areas of the Autonomous Community of Valencia, which was resolved in February 2011, a clause in the tender documents stated that the company awarded the licence should devote a certain proportion of the programme time to broadcasting in Valencian. In addition, the proposed airtime in Valencian was positively weighted in the adjudication process.

76. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by some NGOs that there was still no regional television available in Valencian and coverage by local channels was very limited.

77. The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude and asks the authorities to provide information on the geographical coverage of private TV broadcasting in Valencian.
e. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages;

78. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled. It urged the authorities to take the necessary measures to encourage and/ or facilitate the creation of at least one newspaper in Valencian.

79. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, it should be underlined that there is no daily newspaper that is specific to the Autonomous Community of Valencia, not even in Castilian (in this language, there are only provincial papers and regional editions of national titles). Furthermore, the Valencian language is well represented in local and district-wide publications, as well as in those related to festive activities.

80. The main public funding for the promotion of Valencian in the press is made by the Academy of the Valencian Language (AVL). This organisation's funding has been gradually increasing: since 2006, it has started broadcasting activities on the radio, and since 2013 it has also created a digital press component. These funding offers have always been excellently received, and very significant sums have been set aside by the AVL for this purpose.

81. The Committee of Experts usually considers newspapers to be publications that bring general news and are issued at least once a week.

82. The Committee of Experts invites the authorities to provide more information on whether the local and district wide publications qualify as newspapers.

Paragraph 3

The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.

83. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled.

84. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, the Valencian Government undertakes to ensure that the interests of Valencian-language speakers are represented or taken into account within the framework of the structures that are created in accordance with the law, in order to guarantee the freedom and pluralism of the media. However, no particular information was provided.

85. The Committee of Experts invites the authorities to provide more specific information on which institutions or bodies exist and in what way Valencian language speakers are represented or their interests taken into account.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraph 1

With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:

f. to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;

86. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled and urged the Spanish authorities to include more specific information on this undertaking in the next periodical report.

87. No further information was provided in the fourth periodical report.

88. The Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking remains partly fulfilled and urges the Spanish authorities to include specific information on this undertaking in their next periodical report.

Paragraph 2

In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

89. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled. It looked forward to receiving additional information from the authorities on the promotion of cultural activities and facilities outside the Valencian-speaking areas.

90. The Committee of Experts has not received any relevant information under this undertaking.

91. The Committee of Experts maintains its conclusion and considers that the undertaking is partly fulfilled.

Paragraph 3

The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.

92. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled. It asked the authorities to provide more information and updated examples.

93. According to the information provided in the fourth periodical report, collaboration activities, as well as language and culture courses, have been developed between the Autonomous Community of Valencia and the University of Leipzig in Germany. Two courses were initiated in 2011 on “Castilian and Valencian Media” and “The Languages of Valencia”. In 2012, the AVL extended this collaboration to add another four courses, on “Valencian-German translation and text analysis”, “Valencian Territory and Society Today. Sociolinguistics and language policy”, “Structures and developments in verbal inflections” and “Currents and authors

in mediaeval literature". In 2013, another four courses were held, on "Language and the world of dubbing", "German-Valencian Translation", "Language in Television and Journalism" and "Valencian in Specialised Areas".

Based on this information, the Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking is now fulfilled.

Article 13 – Economic and social life

Paragraph 2

With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:

- a. to include in their financial and banking regulations provisions which allow, by means of procedures compatible with commercial practice, the use of regional or minority languages in drawing up payment orders (cheques, drafts, etc.) or other financial documents, or, where appropriate, to ensure the implementation of such provisions;***
- c. to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons;***

94. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertakings 13.2 a and c not fulfilled. It urged the Spanish authorities to include specific information with regard to these two undertakings.

95. No information was provided in the fourth periodical report related to Article 13.2 a or c.

96. The Committee of Experts considers that Article 13.2. a. and c remain not fulfilled, since there is no clear indication that the Valencian authorities pursue a policy to ensure that social care facilities offer the possibility of receiving and treating persons in Valencian. It urges the Spanish authorities to include specific information with regard to these two undertakings in their next periodical report.

d. to ensure by appropriate means that safety instructions are also drawn up in regional or minority languages;

97. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking partly fulfilled. It asked the authorities to submit more specific information and concrete examples of other safety instructions in Valencian, as well as on whether such practice has any kind of regulatory or legislative basis.

98. According to information provided in the fourth periodical report, without prejudice to the application of national legislation on the subject (instructions, data, labelling, etc.), it should be noted that most of the safety instructions expressed in the Autonomous Community, especially in government offices, are in Valencian.

99. The Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking is now fulfilled.

Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

The Parties undertake:

b. for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.

100. In the third evaluation report, the Committee of Experts considered the undertaking not fulfilled. It strongly urged the authorities to provide specific information on possibilities for cross-border co-operation in the sense provided by this provision.

101. No information was provided by the authorities in the fourth periodical report.

102. In the absence of any information on this undertaking, the Committee of Experts considers that the undertaking remains not fulfilled. It strongly urges the authorities to provide specific information on possibilities for cross-border co-operation in the next periodical report.