



Declaration of Vienna 4 April 2009

The European AEDE Board at its meeting in Vienna (Austria) on April 4th, 2009, wants to express its firm attachment to a federal and strong Europe with full respect for all national and regional differences which constitute its richness and its originality.

The AEDE Bureau wants to set up a training project aiming at an active European citizenship. They emphasize that this project does not substitute national citizenship of the feeling to belong to a cultural or linguistic community, but completes it.

AEDE strives for a United Europe, united respecting its diversity.

The European Parliament, in spite of all the difficulties and the huge costs of this policy, gives equal rights to all languages in Europe, as well in preparatory work as in the debates, as in the dissemination.

That's why AEDE regrets that certain important documents are published by the Commission on its website only in English; the website being a privileged mean of information for teachers. This is the more regrettable as it relates often to educational programmes as GRUNDTVIG or YOUTH, essential programmes as for citizenship education. A lot of teachers, and consequently students and pupils, do not have direct access to European information.

AEDE notices that important meetings, organized by the Commission or the Presidency of the Union, are in English without interpreting. Representatives from associations, specialists in the subjects dealt with, do not have always a thorough knowledge of the English language and have to give up participation.

This evolution is strongly harmful for the participation of the Civil European Society and thus for the construction of a "common European conscience". It also impoverishes the debates because the knowledge of the English language is not the only guarantee of competence regarding European citizenship.

The AEDE, which uses all its influence actively for the teaching of living languages and the development of a true plurilingualism of the European citizens in our multilingual Europe, invites all European organizations to join it to require:

- the return to multilingual European information, sole condition to commit all its citizens to Europe's construction.
- the possibility for all Europeans concerned to express themselves in their own language in events organized by the European Union.

Unanimously carried on April 4th, 2009