

EN

E-000395/2021

Answer given by Vice-President Jourová
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.4.2021)

The Judgment of the General Court of 24 September 2019¹ upheld the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/652² in which the Commission registered nine of the eleven proposals of the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack – one million signatures for diversity in Europe'. In this way, it confirmed that legal acts could be adopted with regard to those nine proposals. Once the initiative secured the required support, the Commission examined it in accordance with the requirements of the European Citizens' Initiative Regulation³ and set out its conclusions in the Communication of 14 January 2021⁴.

The respect of the rights of persons belonging to minorities and of the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe is an important priority for the Commission.

The Communication sets out the different legislative and non-legislative initiatives under way that are relevant to the nine areas set out in the European citizens' initiative and implement policies aimed at respecting and promoting regional and minority languages. Examples of non-legislative action include the network of Creative Europe Desks, the Commission's brochure 'Linguistic diversity in the EU – the case of regional and minority languages' and the various linguistic-cultural heritage and minority languages projects funded under Horizon 2020. This shows that funding and programmes offer important tools to implement these policies.

¹ Romania v Commission, Case T-391/17.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017D0652>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R0788>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2021/EN/C-2021-171-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>