



**Oriol JUNQUERAS VIES**

Diputat al Parlament Europeu

Dear President of the Province of Rome, **Mr. Zingaretti**,

I would like to contact you in order to address **the situation of the Catalan language in the tourism sector in Rome.**

I have been informed that tourist guides no longer receive Catalan language accreditations, despite that public authorities in Rome used to issue them. I would like to stress that Catalan is not only spoken by more than 11 million people but also is an official language in Catalonia, the Valencian Country and the Balearic Islands. I would specially like to stress that Catalan, as the 13<sup>th</sup> most spoken language of the EU, has been recognised by the European institutions with a special status and, therefore, all European legislation adopted by codecision is translated to Catalan; moreover, all citizens can address the European institutions in Catalan; last but not least, Catalan ministers can use Catalan in the meetings of the Council of the EU, among other prerogatives.

Therefore, it goes without saying that Catalan is a thriving language, with institutional recognition, widely used by the media, businesses and government. Thus, I believe it would be for the benefit of the Province of Rome and also of the Catalan citizens if you could reconsider your position and issue Catalan language accreditations for tourist guides in the Province of Rome. By reinstating Catalan as a tourist language in the Province of Rome, Catalans would improve their experience of Rome and, therefore, tourism would receive a boost.

I am at your disposal to further inform you on this important subject.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Oriol Junqueras i Vies  
Greens-EFA MEP  
29th March 2011  
European Parliament, Brussels