European Free Alliance

Motions

Motion number	
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Anke Spoorendonk
Member party	SSW & SP
Title (of the Motion)	**Protection of Regional and Minority Languages in EU Trademark Law: Ending Unequal Treatment**

The European Free Alliance calls on the European Commission to take concrete steps to better protect and promote regional and minority languages within the EU, particularly in the context of trademark practice. This includes:

- strengthening trademark law to ensure that commonly used terms in the respective regional and minority languages are excluded and cannot obtain commercial trademark protection
- ensuring that the assessment of the registrability of designations is not based solely on the perspective of national official and state languages, but also takes into account the linguistic communities of regional and minority languages within the EU
- examining an amendment to Article 7 of the EU Trade Mark Regulation in order to include expressions in minority and regional languages as grounds for refusal of registration

Reasoning:
Regional and minority languages must be better protected in the examination of EU trademark applications. In recent years, there have been repeated cases in which companies have registered generic terms—such as place names, names of languages, words, or slogans in minority languages—as EU-wide or national trademarks, and subsequently prohibited other actors from using them.

The lack of consideration for regional and minority languages in the implementation of the EU trademark regulation is unacceptable and constitutes unequal treatment.