

TO THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

(Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages — Council of Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France)

Carles Prats Ferrer, councillor of the Town Council of Cabassers, Catalonia, Spain as per attached credential in Document 0, holder of National Identity Card (DNI) XXXXXXXXXX, with address for notifications at Carrer Major, No. 29, 43373 Cabassers, and email address cpratsf@cabaces.altanet.org, appear before this Committee of Experts and, as best fits in law,

STATE

FIRST. Framework of application of the European Charter and commitments assumed

The Kingdom of Spain ratified the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (ECRML) on April 9, 2001 (instrument of ratification published in the Official State Gazette, BOE No. 222, of September 15, 2001). By virtue of this ratification, the Spanish State and its territorial Administrations (including the Autonomous Community of Catalonia) are obliged to comply with the commitments under Article 7 (principles of protection and promotion of languages) and Article 10 (administrative authorities and public services).

Specifically, Article 10.2.g) of the ECRML imposes on States the obligation to "*guarantee the use or adoption of correct and traditional forms of place-names in regional or minority languages*".

SECOND. Systematic and continuous violation of the traditional and official place-name in Catalan

In the case of the municipality of Cabassers (Priorat, Catalonia), the public Administration (both the local Town Council and the Generalitat de Catalunya) stubbornly maintains and officially uses the distorted Spanish spelling "Cabacés", to the detriment of the native, traditional, normative, and legally established form by the academic authority (the Institute for Catalan Studies, IEC): **Cabassers**.

This situation directly violates domestic linguistic protection legislation (Article 18.1 of Law 1/1998, on Linguistic Policy of Catalonia, which establishes that place-names have as their sole official form the Catalan form according to the IEC rules).

THIRD. Documentary evidence of the unlawfulness and institutional passivity

As evidence of the violation and institutional contradiction, the following proven facts are submitted:

1. **Document 1, Spelling error recognized by the academy:** Page 54 of the *Manual d'Ortografia Catalana* (Catalan Spelling Manual) of the IEC explicitly cites the spelling "Cabacés" as an example of a spelling error (*Cabassers*, not **Cabacés*).
2. **Document 2, Recognition of the Spanish name by the Administration:** The Department of Justice and Democratic Quality of the Generalitat de Catalunya itself has formally admitted in writing (Report dated 01/10/2026) that the maintained form "Cabacés" is a "*municipal denomination in Spanish*".
3. **Document 3, Passivity and silence of the authorities:** Despite the numerous administrative complaints and requests submitted to reverse this imposed Spanish form and restore traditional Catalan toponymy, the competent authorities both in the Town Council and the Catalan autonomous administration endlessly rely on administrative silence or procedural inactivity.

FOURTH. Failure to comply with the mandate to protect the minoritized language

It is a severe anomaly that an Administration whose constitutional and statutorily mandated duty is the protection of the Catalan language maintains and imposes a Spanish exonym derived from historical administrative Spanishization, denying citizens the right to see the place-names of their community reflected in the correct and traditional Catalan form, directly violating the spirit and letter of the ECRML.

Therefore,

I REQUEST THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS:

1. **To accept this complaint** regarding the continuous violation of Article 10.2.g) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the municipality of Cabassers (Catalonia, Spain).
2. **To include this specific violation** in the next evaluation and monitoring report on compliance with the Charter by the Kingdom of Spain.
3. **To address a formal recommendation** to the competent authorities (Kingdom of Spain and Generalitat de Catalunya) requesting the immediate adoption of the necessary administrative and legal measures to correct the official name, ensuring the exclusive prevalence of the traditional and normative Catalan form: **Cabassers**.