

Foundation of the Flemish Commision

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Abstract

Establishment of the Commission charged with seeking ways to regulate the use of the Netherlandic (Flemish) Language in its relation to the different parts of the Public Administration.

SIRE!

When it seemed appropriate to Your Majesty, by decree of 6 September 1836, to open a competition with the aim of helping to restore uniformity in the Netherlandic (Flemish) language, the honourable minister, my predecessor, expressed himself, in the report he submitted to Your Majesty, in the following manner:

“The government must lend its assistance to the practice of the Netherlandic (Flemish) language, the language of a large proportion of the country’s inhabitants; and this not only for reasons of justice, but also in order to revive the glorious memories of the old Belgian provinces; and to cultivate more and more love for the fatherland.”

With such thoughts, I submit today, SIRE, for your Majesty’s approval, a new proposal. Recently, the House of Representatives sent numerous petitions to my department demanding a series of measures in favour of the Netherlandic (Flemish) language and literature.

The questions raised in the petitions need, once and for all, to be examined by competent persons, with all the care that is required by the importance of the interests involved.

I therefore have the honour to propose to Your Majesty the establishment of a Commission to investigate and recommend to the State Government measures to ensure the development of Netherlandic (Flemish) literature, and to regulate the use of the Netherlandic (Flemish) language, in its relation with the different parts of the public administration.

SIRE, the establishment of this Commission will provide a new proof of the affection of the government of Your Majesty, for the national language, whose preservation so closely concerns the future of the country, and whose vitality is supported by the remarkable products of Dutch (Flemish) literature.

*The Minister of Home Affairs,
P. De Decker*

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