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“Subsidiarity is a word”

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The Assembly of European Regions (AER) has asked for the inclusion of the word ‘subsidiarity’ in all of the linguistic dictionaries in the world. It launched a campaign, on 19 May, titled ‘Subsidiarity is a word’, which saw a first series of open letters sent to 71 dictionaries - covering 23 European languages - which did not include the word in their latest edition. The AER also wrote to Microsoft to ask for the removal of the red correction line which appears when the word is typed into some language versions of MS Word (the English and Italian versions). It also launched a ‘Subsidiarity is a word’ group on the networking site Facebook.

Subsidiarity - or the principle according to which decisions must be taken as closely as possible to the citizen - is at the centre of the EU’s political action. “We are therefore puzzled that the word, despite its frequent use in European politics and law in particular, has been excluded from numerous dictionaries in languages across Europe and the world,” says the AER’s open letter. The campaign is based on the idea that respecting the principle must begin with recognising the word.

The AER’s open letter is available at <http://www.a-e-r.org/>

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