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## **Function of civil organizations in the European Union**

First of all I would like to apologize because I can't express myself any of your languages. But in my part of Europe we consider that English is somewhat a common language which is an opinion what I don't share too much and when you travel

you discover that English is not the common language, anyway I suppose it is probably the language many of you understand.

I would like to thank you this invitation to this European project. I want to thank you very much this attention for me about different studies on my national language, Catalan, made by the University of Szeged. As I told you I have come from Northern Catalonia and that is the part of Catalonia which is inside the French state. Catalonia is in both states French and Spain the main part, of course, Barcelona is in the Spanish side. I have come from the French side that means I have a French passport. But as I know Béla mentioned that I was elected to the European Parliament in 1999 in the Spanish side. For me, whose country belongs to two European states, Europe is a solution.

I want to congratulate you on this Tisza Basin Project I know that it is an outstanding event to work together. As a French citizen I was thought that rivers could be borders and as you know France is a very centralized state there is the opinion that this natural border opinion that mountains, rivers have to be borders and France's international policy was to get these natural borders, these so called natural borders. But today it is ruined, over no more natural borders, rivers are links between people. The Rhine, which divided France and Germany, is a link now, there is no more border.

I was in Strasbourg a few weeks ago and there was a festival from Strasbourg and Kehl and now they make a European district. Rivers are no more borders, rivers are links and that is why I appreciate your fully European project. This project, for me asks, another interest in that links states which belong to the European Union and states do not belong to the EU, that is a link between the EU and neighbours of the EU.

All I wanted to say is long live your project because it is a model to the others.

