Ljouwert, March 15, 2012

**Fryske Akademy presents results of language project MELT at European Parliament**

What are the results of the MELT (Multilingual Early Language Transmission) project, which focused on minority language acquisition in the early years? Alex Riemersma (Mercator/Fryske Akademy) will talk about this in his presentation to the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Thursday March 15. The MELT project was carried out by the Mercator Research Centre of the Fryske Akademy in cooperation with partners from Brittany, Finland, and Wales (2009-2011).

As a guest speaker Riemersma will present the products of the MELT project. These include a pamphlet for parents about multilingualism and a guide for pre-school practitioners with practical examples that are theoretically-founded. Both publications are available in eight languages. Furthermore, a research paper has been published, written by Idske Bangma (Mercator) and Alex Riemersma, which includes contributions by three international experts. This year the products of the MELT project will be further disseminated in the province of Fryslân, in cooperation with the SFBO (Centre for Frisian-medium child care provisions) and the Afûk (foundation to promote the knowledge and use of the Frisian language as well as the interest in Fryslân and its culture).

**Follow-up project**
The Fryske Akademy has submitted a new project proposal to the EU for 2013-2015: Promotion of Early Linguistic Diversity (PELD). This new project will put more emphasis on pre-service and in-service training of pre-school practitioners. The Institut für Niederdeutsch, located in Bremen, which represents 2.5 million speakers of Low-German, is a new project partner.

END OF THE PRESS RELEASE

Note for the editor, not for publication:
Spokesman on behalf of the Mercator Research Centre is Alex Riemersma,
E ariemersma@fryske-akademy.nl
T +31 58 234 3028
M +31 6 5133 4778

The Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, hosted at the Fryske Akademy, is already 20 year an independent and recognised centre for policymakers, researchers and educators in the sphere of multilingualism and language learning. Because of that the Mercator Research Centre is an important supplier of the social cohesion and social durability from multilingualism regions through Europe. The Mercator Research Centre brings Europe to Fryslân en Fryslân to Europe.

Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning c/o Fryske Akademy
P.O. Box 54
NL-8900 AB Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden
T +31 58 213 1414
E mercator@fryske-akademy.nl
W www.mercator-research.eu