

**Question for written answer E-002788/2018/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: Discrimination against the Russian-speaking minority in Latvia

A few weeks ago, Latvian President Raimonds Vējonis appended his signature to a law that severely restricts the use of ethnic minority languages in schools. In the future, education will, in principle, be bilingual from pre-school level, but only on an optional basis until the sixth school year. Up to the ninth school year, 80% of subjects will have to be taught in Latvian, and from the tenth to the twelfth school year this will apply to all subjects. The use of ethnic minority languages will be limited to subjects relating to the identity and culture of those minorities. The law is scheduled to come into force in 2020, affecting the large Russian-speaking minority (making up around 30% of the population) in particular.

- 1) What is the Commission's position on this discriminatory law?
- 2) Will it be engaging in dialogue with the Latvian authorities on this topic?