

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Adrian Severin, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Silvia Ciornei, Radu Podgorean
and Corina Crețu

on the need for measures to protect the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Joseph
in Bucharest, Romania - an endangered historical and architectural monument

Lapse date: 27.9.2007

Written declaration on the need for measures to protect the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Joseph in Bucharest, Romania - an endangered historical and architectural monument

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Article 151 of the Treaty establishing the European Community establishes a basis for Community action in the field of culture aimed at promoting and protecting the cultural heritage of the Member States,
- B. whereas a skyscraper with four basement levels and 20 storeys is being built only eight meters from St Joseph's Cathedral in Bucharest, inside the protection area laid down for this historic monument under Romanian law,
- C. whereas the competent authorities in Romania are systematically refusing to apply either the provisions of national law on protecting historic monuments, or the provisions of Community law on protecting the cultural and architectural heritage in this case,
 1. Firmly condemns the illegal construction of this building, which is endangering two buildings belonging to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bucharest: St Joseph's Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Palace, both of which figure on the list of historic architectural monuments in Romania;
 2. Calls on the Commission and Council to firmly condemn the attitude of the Romanian authorities and initiate the necessary legal proceedings in order to persuade the relevant authorities to fulfil their Community obligations under Article 151 of the Treaty establishing the European Community as regards conserving and protecting the cultural and architectural heritage;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Romanian Government and the institutions responsible for protecting the European cultural heritage.