

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on the need to re-establish the state-funded Hungarian-language Bolyai University

Lapse date: 25.10.2007

0061/2007

Written declaration on the need to re-establish the state-funded Hungarian-language Bolyai University

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is crucial for the survival and development of indigenous national minorities in EU Member States that the state provide them with opportunities to exercise their cultural and linguistic rights,
- B. whereas the disadvantages arising from the situation of minorities require special treatment (see Parliament's resolution 2006/2083(INI) of 15 November 2006 on multilingualism),
- C. whereas paragraphs 17 and 18 of the OSCE's 1996 Hague Recommendations regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities and Explanatory Notes are in force,
- D. whereas 2007 is the Year of Equal Opportunities,
- E. whereas the indigenous Hungarian community in Romania, numbering 1.5 million, is rightly calling for an independent, state-financed Hungarian-medium university; whereas, given that the Hungarian community comprises 6.6% of the population, it would be entitled to four state-funded universities,
- F. whereas out of 29 000 ethnic Hungarian students – comprising 4.4% of the student body – only 10 000 are able to study in their mother tongue,
- G. whereas in 1959 the Communist regime in Romania abolished the independent Hungarian-medium Bolyai University and forcibly merged it with the Romanian-medium Babeş University,
- H. whereas Romania refuses to contemplate the re-establishment of an independent Bolyai University, even though this would be partly funded by ethnic Hungarian taxpayers,
- I. having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and Articles 21 and 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 1. Roundly condemns the dismissive and discriminatory behaviour of successive Romanian governments and the attitude of the university's leadership;
 2. Calls on the Commission and Council to condemn the Romanian government's attitude, and initiate the legal procedures necessary to enable them to comply with their above-mentioned obligations, so that the Bolyai state-funded Hungarian-language University can be re-established;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission and to the government, Parliament and President of Romania.