

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1277/03  
by Dana Scallon (PPE-DE)  
to the Council

Subject: Uniates in Romania

On 7 February 2002, after having gained legal title in the courts, the Greek Catholic minority (also called Eastern Rite Catholic, or Uniates) was able to to recover their Church of Ocna Mures, Transylvania, Romania.

A few weeks later, on 16 March 2002, they informed me that they were driven out of their church by a mob led by three Orthodox priests, aided and abetted by the local police.

I'm further informed that a similar case happened a few years ago. In the town of Ardud, the police warned the Greek Catholic priest that he would be arrested then called the members of the congregation one by one and told them the same. Also in 1995, in the city of Craiova, the Orthodox Bishop had the Greek Catholic church demolished, with the involvement of the army and the police.

Is the Council aware of such discrimination against the Uniate minority in Romania?

In the context of accession negotiations, will the Council raise the issue of religious persecution?

Is the Council ready to demand an end to such religious discrimination against the Catholic minority or any other religious minority in Romania?