

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1278/03  
by Dana Scallon (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

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) Church of Ocna Mures, Transylvania, Romania, could recover their church. A few weeks later, on 16 March 2002, they were driven out of their church by a mob led by three orthodox priests, aided and abetted by the local police.

Another 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.

In 1995, in the city of Craiova, the orthodox bishop had the Greek Catholic church demolished, with the help of the army and the police.

Is the Commission aware of any discrimination against the Uniate minority in Romania?  
Could you please tell me what action the Commission has taken or is aiming to take in order to avoid religious persecution within applicant countries? In this case, in what way? Could the Commission detail the action taken or to be taken?