

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3055/08
by Michl Ebner (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Bilingualism in the Medical University of of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures

Romania is a multiethnic state in which the Hungarian minority accounts for up to 85% of the local population in some districts.

The University in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures is officially bilingual (Romanian/Hungarian). Yet Hungarian students have to be able to speak Romanian, while it is not compulsory for Romanian students to speak Hungarian. That has led to a situation in which Hungarian patients cannot inform medical staff of their medical condition in their mother tongue. A further difficulty is that after 1989 many Hungarian doctors emigrated from Romania, which means the staff in doctors' practices and hospitals are now almost exclusively Romanian-speaking.

This vital area of medical care must not be disadvantaged on the grounds of language. The medical consequences for the Hungarian minority are not foreseeable at this stage and are potentially serious. Measures to counter this unequal treatment must begin at the universities and consistently aim to ensure that Romanian and Hungarian medical students are bilingual. What support measures does the Commission plan to take to ensure the provision of medical care, without linguistic discrimination, for all ethnic groups in Romania?