

Question for written answer E-005275/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Andrea Bocskor (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Hungarophobia in Ukraine

Ukraine, which has an association agreement with the EU, has declared its commitment to European integration and respecting minority rights countless times. However, tendencies rather more perceptible in the country nowadays are a growth in Ukrainian nationalism and pressure on people to assimilate. The threat posed by Russia is invoked to justify the violation of fundamental minority and civil rights and to intimidate and harass people using secret service methods.

A confrontation has arisen due to the language clause of the Education Act which was passed in September 2017, since when feeling has been whipped up against the ethnic Hungarian minority. The Ukrainian media portray the Hungarian community in a negative way to the majority ethnic group and accuse it of separatism, which generates tensions in society. Ethnic Hungarian intellectuals, journalists and municipal councillors from Carpathian Ruthenia are harassed at the Ukrainian national border. The personal data of public servants belonging to the Hungarian minority, who are accused of having dual nationality and are called enemies of the people, have been uploaded to the public database of the far-right Ukrainian website 'Myrotvorets'. Even the Foreign Minister of Hungary has been included in the list! This is unlawful and grossly violates the personality rights and the protection of the personal data of those concerned.

Moreover, a petition has been posted on the website of the Supreme Council calling for Hungarians with dual nationality to be stripped of their Ukrainian citizenship and deported! This is clearly agitation against the community, and the EU cannot stand by and let this go on either!

1. How could the High Representative for Foreign Affairs reduce the tension and induce Ukraine once again to respect the Copenhagen Criteria and the provisions concerning the protection of minorities that it has accepted in the Association Agreement?
2. What will she do to protect the Hungarian minority in Ukraine?