

Question for written answer E-001335/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ruža Tomašić (ECR)

Subject: Discrimination against the Croatian language in the EU institutions

At its sitting of 12 March Parliament voted to extend Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure and hence to depart from Rule 158, which stipulates that Members have the right to speak, and to receive documents, in each of the EU's 24 official languages.

A proposal to the same profoundly discriminatory effect was placed on Parliament's agenda more than five years ago, more precisely in February 2014. As a result, Croatian has not been fully covered for the whole of the eighth parliamentary term.

The proposal adopted, whereby the discrimination is to continue into the ninth parliamentary term, does not even hint as to when the shortfall in capacity for Croatian will be made good and exactly why Croatian is again being made subject to the transitional arrangements.

Bearing in mind that translators and interpreters are recruited to the Commission, Parliament, and the Court of Justice by a common procedure, what is the exact extent, in percentage terms, of the shortage of Croatian-language translators and interpreters in the EU institutions?

Does the Commission have a specific systematic plan to resolve this problem and provide full coverage as soon as possible? Or does the real reason for the discrimination against Croatian lie in the fact that the Commission is waiting for Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro to join the EU in order to bring the languages of all these countries, together with Croatian, under a common denominator?