

**Question for written answer E-002833/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Discrimination against Roma children in Slovakia

In 2015, the Commission launched infringement proceedings against Slovakia for violation of the Racial Equality Directive. The reason for this was discrimination against Roma children and their unjustified placement in special schools on account of the fact that they come from a socially disadvantaged environment and on the basis of incorrectly diagnosed mild mental disabilities.

The Slovak Government has taken several measures to guarantee that a child cannot be admitted to a special school or class simply because that child has a disadvantaged background. School authorities are granted an allowance for each pupil from such a background if that pupil is enrolled in an ordinary class, not a special class. From 2020, the last year of pre-primary education should also be compulsory. However, experts say that this is clearly insufficient for better inclusion.

Most of the measures taken are therefore merely *pro forma*, and discrimination and misdiagnoses still occur in practice. According to the Commission, no real progress has been made and the participation of Roma in inclusive education is still at a very low level. Moreover, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic does not keep statistics that could allow one to evaluate the application of these rules and their effectiveness.

What is the current state of play of the proceedings initiated by the Commission against Slovakia in 2015?

Does the Commission plan to address specific recommendations to Slovakia based on best practices from other Member States on how to address this issue effectively?