

**Question for written answer E-003689/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eugen Tomac (PPE)

Subject: Serbia and respect for the rights of national minorities

A detailed analysis, carried out together with NGOs and national councils representing ethnic Romanians in Serbia, reveals the following: 1. The Romanian-Vlach divide, which has no social or historical justification and was created artificially by the Serbian State, is leading to considerable disparities and disregard for the rights of ethnic Romanians in Vojvodina and the Timoc Valley; 2. The Romanian Orthodox Church in Serbia does not enjoy recognition as a traditional church and, unlike other traditional churches, is therefore not entitled to a VAT refund from the Serbian State; 3. Ethnic Romanians in the Timoc Valley do not enjoy state recognition for their religious beliefs and are not entitled to build churches or attend services in Romanian; 4. Outside of Vojvodina, public broadcasting services in Romanian are extremely limited; 5. Access to education and church services in Romanian is subject to restrictions; 6. Romanian language classes for ethnic Romanians at school are offered on an optional basis only, thereby weakening the sense of identity of this national minority.

In view of this, how does the Commission intend to address these issues and give Serbia the necessary support and inducements to comply with Chapters 23 and 24 of the *acquis communautaire*, thereby ensuring respect for the rights of national minorities in line with European and international standards?