Question for written answer E-001390/2023/rev.1 to the Commission

Rule 138

Andrea Bocskor (NI), Kinga Gál (NI), Lívia Járóka (NI), Ádám Kósa (NI), Edina Tóth (NI)

Subject: Discrimination against Hungarian university students

The main objective of the Erasmus+ programme is to strengthen European identity, a tool of which is individual and group mobility for educational purposes; at the same time, this also strengthens the sense of belonging to the cultural community. The programme focuses on ensuring that disadvantaged, Roma or other minority students can participate in mobility. The EU's vision of the future involves developing the European educational space, which makes it possible for our communities to be created by European citizens with a strong European identity and a clear sense of the values and cultural heritage. Because of the provisions of Council Decision (EU) 2022/2506, countless Hungarian students have contacted us because, years ago, they had applied to a university which, from one day to the next – without any time for preparation – was denied fundamental EU rights by a single decision; they wanted to know what opportunities they, as students, will have to exercise their rights and use the opportunities guaranteed by the European Union in contracts and legislation. This problem is felt particularly acutely by disadvantaged young Roma people who have no other opportunities for international experience. We call on the Commission to take immediate action to ensure that these political battles are not fought in universities, and to stop punishing Hungarian young people!

- 1. Does the Commission agree that students should be punished, while a political debate is under way with a Member State, and, rather than efforts being made to resolve that political debate with the country in question, students are being deprived of opportunities and prevented from availing themselves of those opportunities?
- 2. In the view of the Commission, which EU fundamental value is compatible with a procedure by which Hungarian students are downgraded to second-class citizens of the European Union?

Submitted: 27.4.2023