

ORAL QUESTION H-0657/05
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Zsolt Becsey
to the Commission

Subject: Conflict in Vojvodina

Will the Commission change its attitude towards Vojvodina - an attitude which violates Community principles? It clearly does so because the Commission and the Commissioner in person have said they know that the ethnic minorities living in Vojvodina, especially the Hungarians, are constantly exposed to physical violence and non-physical abuse merely on account of their not being Serbs. This being so, and in the light of other incidents which similarly indicate ethnic cleansing, the multiethnic character of Vojvodina, which has survived for 1000 years, and its traditional cultural diversity are manifestly in danger. Despite this, the Commission is prepared to open negotiations with Belgrade on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Moreover, Interreg III/A does not recognise Vojvodina as a European region: indeed, adopting a similar line to Belgrade, it undermines the possibility that Vojvodina might regain its full and genuine autonomous status, of which Milosevic stripped it in 1989.

Tabled: 14.07.2005
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