

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2726/03  
by Nelly Maes (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Russian minority's schools in Latvia

Languages are part of the richness of Europe. Several international charters recognise the right of citizens to maintain and develop their own languages.

In Latvia, the significant Russian-speaking community is struggling against the Government's intention to eliminate minority educational systems. In its resolution on Latvia's progress in the accession process (2002) the European Parliament called for a study into possibilities of retaining secondary education in minority languages.

Does the Commission consider this attitude compatible with the European values of fundamental rights and cultural and linguistic diversity? Has the Commission asked for any information from the Latvian authorities on this issue?

Does the Commission consider that a People's Europe should promote the protection and development of all languages? Would the Commission consider supporting projects from organisations acting in support of the Russian language and other minority languages in Latvia?