

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0352/08  
by Péter Olajos (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Discriminatory draft law in Romania

According to media reports, Dan Voiculescu, President of the Romanian Conservative Party, has submitted a draft law to the Romanian Senate which, if it were adopted, would make it compulsory for all citizens living in Romania – including the several million-strong Hungarian minority, the largest indigenous minority in Europe – to learn Romanian. The draft allows 2 years to obtain certification of knowledge of the language; anyone failing to do this would lose their Romanian citizenship.

If this draft law were passed, it would have an extremely detrimental effect on the Hungarian minority living in Romania.

The draft has also been studied by the Romanian Anti-Discrimination Council. In their opinion it does not overstep the bounds of freedom of expression and does not conflict with the provisions of the government decree defining instances of discrimination.

Since, according to Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 'The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity', and as the draft law contravenes the European Convention on Nationality on a number of points, my question is this:

Taking the above into account, what is the Commission's view of the draft submitted to the Romanian Senate, and what steps is it taking – or is it intending to take – in connection with this matter?