

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4921/08  
by Dragoş Florin David (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Violation of citizens' rights

Having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, I believe that this year the Romanian Government has systematically violated the rights of citizens living and working on Romanian territory through the preferential allocation of funds for local government in Romania, transforming the Romanian national budget and county budgets into a tool for exerting political pressure. The Romanian Government gives preference, when allocating local government funding, to county councils and town halls led by members of the governing party, which makes it impossible for counties and municipalities where the governing party does not hold the office of mayor or leader of the county council to access European funds, thereby preventing their balanced and sustainable development. In turn, county council leaders belonging to the governing party apply the same form of discrimination to citizens from places where the mayor does not belong to the governing party, in violation of Article 98 of Chapter 1 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Moreover, the authorities responsible for managing sectoral operational programmes, which form an integral part of the Romanian Government, are breaking the commitments given under the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013, in particular under the sectoral operational programme on economic competitiveness and growth, by failing to provide sufficient information and assistance to potential beneficiaries, local government and private investors.

On the basis of Article 99(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, can the Commission say how the European institutions might intervene in such cases of violations of citizens' rights and of the commitments given by the Member States?