

**Priority question for written answer P-004554/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kinga Gál (PPE), Tamás Deutsch (PPE), József Szájer (PPE), Livia Járóka (PPE), Andrea Bocskor (PPE), Andor Deli (PPE), Enikő Győri (PPE), András Gyürk (PPE), Balázs Hidvéghi (PPE), György Hölvényi (PPE), Ádám Kósa (PPE), Edina Tóth (PPE), László Trócsányi (PPE), Loránt Vincze (PPE), Iuliu Winkler (PPE)

Subject: Discrimination against the Hungarian minority in Romania

In June 2019, inter-ethnic tensions arose at the military cemetery in Úz Valley, Romania, in a region inhabited predominantly by the Hungarian minority community. During the violent events, a group of Romanians repeatedly shouted 'expel the Hungarians from the country!'. The case was investigated by the judiciary. The local prosecutor ruled the claim unfounded, stating that the statements did not target a whole community and were not addressed to a defined minority group, such as disabled people or sexual minorities. They therefore cannot be considered hate speech, even though they clearly targeted ethnic Hungarians. The Romanian NGO, Active Watch, condemned the ruling and called for Judicial Inspection to investigate the matter.

1. Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union enshrines the respect of the rights of minorities, non-discrimination and equality. Can discriminatory actions such as these be tolerated by a Member State?
2. In the light of the Commission's efforts to combat hate speech and discrimination, what is its opinion of the failure of a Member State's authorities to adequately support and protect victims of hate speech?
3. What steps does the Commission plan to take in order to combat discrimination and ensure that everyone in Romania is treated equally?