Priority question for written answer P-001405/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Karlo Ressler (PPE)

Subject: Undermining of minority rights in Serbia

Despite the opposition of the Croatian National Council, which is the highest representative body of Croats in the Republic of Serbia, the City of Subotica Assembly has approved an initiative which introduces the Bunjevac dialect into official use in the city, alongside Serbian, Hungarian and Croatian. Since the Bunjevac dialect is a Neoštokavian Ikavian dialect and one of the dialects of the Croatian language, this sort of politically motivated decision sets a dangerous precedent which seriously violates European and international standards for the protection of the rights of national minorities.

Respect for minority rights in an EU candidate country, however, is an issue that also requires European attention. It is vital that the EU responds to such an unacceptable political initiative, which is aimed at dividing a national minority in Serbia and is accompanied by threats and intimidation against the minority community. How will the Commission ensure the protection of the rights of national minorities in Serbia against the backdrop of the apparent absence of substantial progress towards meeting the requirements of negotiations on Chapter 23, which includes the protection of minority rights?