

**Priority question for written answer P-001080/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ensuring the rights of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine

On 13 December 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law on National Minorities (Communities) as a precondition to starting negotiations on Ukraine's EU accession. However, the new law does not contain guarantees of the enforcement and protection of the fundamental rights of national minorities. It cements, further, the rights restrictions caused by the 2017 Law on Education and the 2019 Language Law, which resulted in the closure of 99 Hungarian language schools. It fails to reflect the previous recommendations of the Venice Commission or take account of the requests of the national minority communities. This law is also contrary to the Constitution of Ukraine, which states that rights that have already been acquired cannot be restricted.

The war demands enormous sacrifices from Ukrainian citizens, with no regard to nationality. Hungarians, therefore, like other minorities living in the country, are victims of Russia's aggression and are fighting shoulder to shoulder with other Ukrainian citizens. It is therefore important to ensure that national minorities are not discriminated against or treated as second-class citizens.

What steps is the Commission able and willing to take in order to ensure the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities living in Ukraine, as required by the accession conditions and in accordance with the Copenhagen criteria?

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