

**Question for written answer E-001957/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Iuliu Winkler (PPE) and Csaba Sógor (PPE)

Subject: Why does the Commission's representation in Bucharest not communicate in Hungarian?

We, the undersigned, ask the Commission to ensure that its representation in Romania also use Hungarian in its communications. Its representation in Bucharest currently has no Hungarian-language media or political monitoring, and Hungarian is absent from its communications.

We represent the 1.3 million-strong Hungarian community in Romania at the European Parliament. We are concerned that the Hungarian-language media in our country receives no direct information from the Commission in Hungarian and is not monitored by the EU institutions, so that the Commission effectively neglects our community. The problem damages the interests not only of the Hungarian community in Romania. The Commission must not maintain a situation whereby it neither provides information to nor monitors directly the media channels in a community which has more members than some Member States have inhabitants. 1.3 million Hungarians live in Romania: as many as the population of Estonia and more than the combined populations of Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta. These countries have their own Commission representations. There are a number of instances of the Commission making a commitment through its representations to ethnic or minority communities in certain Member States – in Barcelona, for example, communication is in Catalan. In a number of cases the number of people in the communities in question is far lower than the number of Hungarians in Romania: in Helsinki the Commission communicates in Swedish with that language community (numbering 0.3 million), in Nicosia it does so in Turkish (0.3 million) and in Brussels, in German (0.08 million). The Hungarian community in Romania is one of the biggest and best-organised communities in the EU. It has its own media setup, with a countrywide private TV channel, Hungarian-language programmes on public service television, more than 10 regional channels, two national and more than 20 local radio stations, over 30 local/regional media bodies, and at least 10 popular online news portals.

The Hungarian community in Romania is entitled to information and monitoring (political information) at the same level and of the same quality as Romanian native speakers and the Romanian-language media. It is also important for the EU institutions that Hungarians in Romania be informed in their own language and via their own media channels of the EU issues and policies which affect their daily lives.