

Anti-democratic procedures in the Romanian electoral campaign

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Written Question by Kinga Gál (PPE-DE) to the Commission

In Romania general elections will take place on 28 November 2004. The Law on General Elections was published on 29 September 2004, including the same discriminatory provisions regarding the conditions of running for election of minority organisations as the ones in the Law on Local Elections.

The recent Regular Report on Romania's progress towards accession criticised the provisions of the Law on Local Elections and the procedures of the authorities as having placed 'considerable administrative obstacles to the registration of alternative political organisations of the national minorities for the elections', which resulted in the exclusion of a minority organisation from running in local elections.

Recently I have been informed about the discriminatory decision of the Romanian Central Electoral Committee and the regrettable measures by the authorities that preceded it. As a consequence the Hungarian Civic Alliance was excluded on 25 October 2004 from running in the general elections. The decision of the Romanian Central Electoral Committee was preceded by an unusual procedure by the Prosecutor's Office, as well as interrogation by the police and intimidation of those who signed the required list of this organisation. According to some members of this committee it should have been verified whether the possessors of the Romanian names indeed exist and whether or not they declared themselves Hungarian in the census of 2002 (Romanian Daily Adevarul, 21 October 2004).

I request the Commission to pay special attention to this recent case of discrimination since it is a showcase of an anti-democratic and anti-pluralistic measure. Whether against Hungarian, Romanian or other minority organisations, such kinds of discrimination and intimidation should simply not be tolerated in Europe under any circumstances.

Could the Commission inform me about the possibility of measures being taken in order to rectify the present situation and to prevent the occurrence of similar actions in the future?