



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Enlargement Directorate-General

Brussels, 09 JUN 2006
ML D(2006) 102812

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your email of 28 April.

The Commission attaches great importance to the protection of minorities in Romania.

In its 2005 Comprehensive Monitoring Report, the Commission provides a thorough assessment of the treatment of minorities in Romania and notes that *"the situation of the Hungarian minority has continued to improve, all the more so since the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians from Romania (UMDR) is part of the governing coalition. The enforcement of the legislation providing for access by the national minorities in one's mother tongue to administrative and judicial procedures is satisfactory in the case of the Hungarian minority, but more progress could still be made regarding the police. As regards education, the number of pre-university educational units remained roughly constant and a private Hungarian university continued to function with several branches throughout Transylvania. While there is no state Hungarian university, access to higher education is provided by Hungarians sections in Romanian universities."*¹ This assessment led the Commission to conclude that ethnic Hungarians have access to higher education in Hungarian and that Romania continues to fulfil the political criteria for membership of the EU. However, the Commission has continued to monitor carefully the fulfilment of the requirements arising from the Copenhagen political criteria in its progress Report on Romania's preparations towards accession that was released on 16 May. (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/report_2006/pdf/monitoring_report_ro_en.pdf)

I understand the importance that you attach to the question of academic rights. I know that you have already discussed this matter with Commission staff in some detail. However, as you know, responsibility for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity lies with the Romanian

The 2005 Comprehensive Monitoring Report is available under the following website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report_2005/pdf/SEC1354_CM_MASTER_RO_COLEGE.pdf).

Dr Peter Hantz
Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj, Romania

E-mail: hantz@general.elte.hu

government. This is not an area of direct Community competence. However, please note that people-to-people actions have been continuously financed under Cross Border cooperation (CBC) programme throughout the years and "Research and Technical projects linking existing universities and institutes" has been identified as a priority for the Phare CBC 2004-2006 programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", written in a cursive style.

Michael Leigh