

## Romania: 1,000 demonstrate over the sacking of Hungarian university lecturers



Bruxelles - Brussel, Monday, 11 December 2006 by Davyth Hicks



Over 1,000 demonstrators gathered in Kolozsvár - Cluj, Romania, last Thursday to protest over the sacking of two Hungarian lecturers, Dr. Péter Hantz and Dr. Lehel Kovács. The Transylvanian University Babes Bolyai, which prides itself on its "multilingualism", decided to sack the academics after they had erected some signs in Hungarian.

Dr. Hantz placed several Hungarian signs inside various buildings of the university. The signs, with the same size and design as the Romanian ones, were fastened below the latter. However, the security staff of the university prevented the placement of some signs, such as No smoking or Information. The Hungarian signs that managed to be displayed were removed and destroyed by order of the Rector.

On the 29th November the two Hungarian vice rectors of the University resigned over the issue.

24 Hungarian MEPs have since signed a letter calling for the reinstatement of the lecturers and call on the University's Senate to implement its own 2005 decision and put up Hungarian and German signs next to the existing Romanian ones. They add that, "The University should also reinstate the sacked lecturers and take concrete steps such that trilingualism is truly realised in the everyday life of the University."

Referring to the Romanian Commissioner designate for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban, they added that "the Commissioner should investigate the events at Babes-Bolyai without delay. Inasmuch as this does not occur within one month, the Hungarian

### News in Brief

[Belgium in a panic over fake declaration of Flemish independence](#)

[Welsh-language daily newspaper, Y Byd, announces appointment of editor](#)

[MEPs approve Leonard Orban as Commissioner for Multilingualism](#)

[Office of Gaelic Affairs launched in Nova Scotia](#)

[Complaints to the EU Ombudsman now possible in Basque, Catalan and Galician](#)

### Partners



### Support

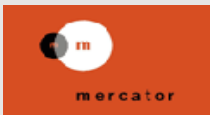
[SUPPORT Linguistic Diversity](#)

[Home](#)  
[Information](#)  
[Eurolang Team](#)  
[Magazine](#)  
[Letters](#)  
[Archive](#)  
[Funding](#)  
[Language data](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Documents](#)  
[Conferences](#)  
[Cultural Tourism](#)

English (en)

### Newsletter

Subscribe to our weekly newsletter



MEPs will use all available European fora to ensure multilingualism at the Babes-Bolyai University."

Out of Romania's 21 million inhabitants 1.5 million are Hungarians, being the second largest traditional national minority in Europe. Although Hungarians represent 6.6% of Romania's population, only 4.4% of students in higher education are ethnic Hungarians, and only 1.6% can study in Hungarian.

The Hungarian-language Bolyai University in Transylvania was forced to merge with the Romanian Babes University in 1959. After 1989, the representatives of the Hungarian community asked several times for the re-establishment of the Bolyai University, but their requests were repeatedly denied. (Eurolang 2006)

Szabadsag (Magyar)

<http://www.hhrf.org/szabadsag/uj/lap.php?datum=20061208#E14E2>

Details of protest <http://tablaugy.transindex.ro/>

[ Back ]