

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004304/25
to the Commission**

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(3 November 2025)

Subject: Hungary's 'Protection of Local Identity Law' and systemic racial discrimination

The Hungarian Law on the Protection of Local Identity, which entered into force on 1 July 2025, grants municipal authorities the power to decide who may move into a locality and under what conditions, under the pretext of protecting 'local self-identity.' Since its adoption, numerous municipalities have introduced decrees imposing arbitrary requirements as prerequisites for residence, such as a secondary education diploma, Hungarian language proficiency, proof of employment, or payment of settlement contributions, as prerequisites for residence.

These measures are expected to have a disproportionately negative impact on Roma communities and risk institutionalising racial segregation in housing. Legal experts, human rights organisations, and academics have warned that this law breaches EU law, runs counter to the objectives of the EU Strategic Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation, the 2023 Council conclusions on Measures to ensure equal access for Roma to adequate and desegregated housing, as well as the Council of Europe's legal framework and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights ⁽¹⁾.

1. Does the Commission consider this law and the resulting municipal decrees compatible with EU law?
2. What concrete steps will the Commission take to address this systemic discrimination, including, if necessary, launching infringement proceedings?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2026)

The Commission has followed the developments that led to the adoption of Hungarian Law on the Protection of Local Identity. It is currently assessing this legislation as well as the adoption by local communities of acts implementing these legal protection instruments on their possible impacts and implications on different areas of EU law. Given the many areas of EU law involved, this analysis is complex and requires time.

The Commission will remain extremely vigilant on the possible impacts on fundamental freedoms and possible discrimination against Roma.

¹ <https://www.errc.org/news/apartheid-by-stealth-errc-condemns-hungarian-law-on-the-protection-of-local-identity-as-discriminatory>.