

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000952/26
to the Commission**

Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE), Méliissa Camara (Verts/ALE), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)
(9 March 2026)

Subject: Hungary's 'Protection of Local Identity Act'

On 1 July 2025, Act XLVIII on the Protection of Local Identity ⁽¹⁾ entered into force in Hungary. The act allows municipalities to adopt decrees which restrict the establishment of residence or the acquisition of real estate based on conditions to protect their 'local identity'. These conditions include, for example, knowledge of Hungarian, employment or regular income, educational or professional qualifications or settlement fees ⁽²⁾. In total, 229 municipalities have adopted such decrees, with 29 more expected to enter into force soon.

1. Does the Commission consider the concept of 'local identity' to violate the principles of predictability and legal certainty, considering its broad and interpretable meaning?
2. Several conditions disproportionately impact low-income communities and people of Roma origin. Does the Commission consider this act and related decrees to violate the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, Article 18 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 21 of the Charter?
3. Will the Commission assess the compliance of this act with EU law, paying special attention to the aforementioned points, as well as to the free movement of capital, the right to freedom of movement and residence and the right to vote ⁽³⁾, and will it initiate an infringement procedure in case of non-compliance?

Submitted: 9.3.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2026)

The Commission has followed the developments regarding the adoption of Act XLVIII on the Protection of Local Identity and the related local decrees. The Commission is currently assessing these measures including their possible impacts and implications on EU law and stands ready to take action, as appropriate.

¹ <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a2500048.tv>.

² https://www.amnesty.hu/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/251222_European-Commission_complaint_local-identity-law_Hungary.pdf.

³ The right to vote is understood to include voting rights in elections to the European Parliament, as well as in municipal elections in the Member State of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State.