

Declaration of the Romanian social-democrat MEPs on the EC justice report regarding Romania

Brussels, 22 July

- ***The justice report presented on Wednesday by the European Commission, within the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM), cannot be accepted by the European Parliament*** since it promotes an ***antiparliamentary, anti pluralist and antidemocratic vision***, in contradiction with the fundamental principles of the ***rule of law***. We shall engage into a ***debate*** on this topic between the ***European Parliament and the EC***, since ***the current position of the Commission cannot remain un-amended***. We shall use even the ***audition of the candidate for the President of the EC, Mr. Barroso***, in order to find out if he shares, at a personal level, the position according to which the right to defense should practically disappear (in order not to be "abused" of), the parliamentary pluralism abolished and the verification of a law's constitutionality reduced to a symbolic ritual.
- The report shows that, ***by its declarations and actions, the Commission induces into error both the EP and the Romanian Government regarding the true causes of corruption in Romania and the correct measures*** that should be taken in order to insure a better act of justice. This is why the ***Commission is co-responsible for the lack of progress in the field of justice and the fight against corruption in Romania***.
- ***The report has a clear political character and does not treat the big problems of the judiciary in Romania***, which truly affect the Romanian society: ***the unjustified delay in procedures, the lack of unity in judicial decisions, the difficulty of access to justice for ordinary citizens, the lack of security for judges, the politicizing of criminal investigations in cases of high level corruption, the legislative instability and the lack of clarity of laws*** etc. Also, even though some of these aspects are mentioned passing by, like the ***fundamental issue of prevention***, it is clear that the ***authors of the report are focusing on some particular cases with certain political connotations***. As a consequence, ***the report does not contribute with anything to the improvement of the situation and cannot be taken into consideration***.
- ***It is necessary that the Romanian Government does not adopt an obedient position towards this report***, and that it ***collaborates with the European institutions in order to replace the current Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (MCV) with another one meant to facilitate the tackling of the real problems the Romanian justice system faces*** and to offer ***concrete solutions*** in this sense. Otherwise, the current situation and approach shall undoubtedly lead, in the future, to the ***most unexpected and unhappy connections, precluding Romania's entry in the Schengen space and the euro zone, its access to EU funds or significant European positions in the EU decision making process***.
- ***We took act of the amendments brought by the EC to the draft report of the Commission***. Even though we welcome them, we consider ***they are insufficient in order to change our conclusions on it***. ***The future Commission*** will have to provide solutions so that ***proceedings and reports harmful to the credibility of European institutions shall be avoided***.