SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN IN ROMANIA

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Tweederangsburger in Roemenië

... Als lid van de Hongaarse minderheid of afkomstig uit een andere Europese lidstaat, ben je in Roemenië een tweederangsburger. Ruim vijf jaar na de toetreding tot de Europese Unie ziet het er in Roemenië in vrijwel alle opzichten slecht uit.

In 2007 is de Europese Unie uitgebreid met twee nieuwe lidstaten: Roemenië en Bulgarije. Ten tijde van de toerteding klonken er louter positieve geluiden over de toetreding. Deze zou wederzijdse politieke en economische voordelen brengen, zoals economische groei door open grenzen en een verregaande Europese politieke integratie. Zelf was ik in 2007 ook laaiend enthousiast dat Roemenië lid was geworden van de Europese Unie. Ik vertrouwde erop dat de toetreding de randvoor-



As a member of the Hungarian minority or from another European Member State, you are a second-class citizen in Romania. More than five years after joining the European Union, Romania is looking bad in almost all respects.

In 2007, the European Union was enlarged to include two new Member States: Romania and Bulgaria. At the time of accession, there were only positive comments about accession. It would bring mutual political and economic benefits, such as economic growth through open borders and far-reaching European political integration. In 2007, I was also very enthusiastic that Romania had become a member of the European Union. I trusted that accession would create the preconditions for transforming Romania into a European constitutional state like the Netherlands or Belgium is. Now, more than five years later, it is time to evaluate.

There is no proper public administration in Romania. For example, letters or complaints are simply not answered by authorities. There is no proper infrastructure; the roads are full of holes due to overdue maintenance. There is overt corruption. With an envelope full of money, the necessary permits are drawn up at a town hall afterwards. There is also a ridiculous bureaucracy. For example, companies still have to provide certain tax data on a floppy disk. There is no medical care as we know it in the Netherlands. Furthermore, European language rights are not respected.

Hungarian, for example, is an official language in Romania, but that right exists only on paper; in practice, you can't use it. The Romanian civil service is almost entirely monolingual even in multilingual Transylvania; an official who speaks an international language such as English, German or French is an exception. Open incitement against the autonomous Hungarian-speaking population in that area is still doing well in Romanian politics. The alive and kicking state chauvinism feeds through carefully directed smear campaigns prevailing feelings of fear among the Hungarian-speaking population, which was still openly discriminated against at the time of the Ceausescu dictatorship.

An example of such a smear campaign is the fifteen-year-old schoolgirl Sabrina, who during class refused to take off her hairband in the colors of the Romanian flag and openly declared to hate Hungarians. She became a national hero and starred in the Romanian press. These reflexes of the communist dictatorship, which are unknown to us, are unfortunately very much alive in Romania. Roma live in appalling conditions and are openly discriminated against. Romanian society is openly racist and xenophobic. The colonialism that the Netherlands renounced more than half a century ago is still alive in Romania. For example, the government gives Romanian passports as a gift to the Romanian speaking inhabitants of the multilingual Moldovan republic. This is on the basis of open aspirations for a greater Romanian empire to be formed. A salient detail is that the legitimate demands for selfdetermination rights of the Hungarian-speaking population are denied.

As a qualified Hungarian translator, I am financially disadvantaged by the fact that the Romanian authorities hardly comply with the applicable language laws, which make the use of Hungarian as a co-official language compulsory. Legally valid judgments of the Anti-Discrimination Council in Bucharest, where I have successfully litigated, are not being complied with. All other rights I have exist only on paper, not in practice. The most basic facilities are lacking, unless I take care of them myself. Moreover, legal certainty is lacking because of Romania's unique blend of corruption, bureaucracy, chauvinism and the unstable political climate.

On the other hand, a Romanian citizen in the Netherlands can enjoy the good infrastructure, the services of an honest judiciary and a helpful police and civil service. In case of emergency, he is rescued by an ambulance within fifteen minutes. The political climate is stable and European civil rights can be used anywhere. No language threshold is raised for him, because he can go anywhere with a little English, and therefore does not have to put energy into learning one of the two official languages of the Netherlands, Dutch or Frisian. In addition, he can make use of social services that do not exist at all in his country (Romania or the Moldovan Republic)

There are more than 30,000 Romanians living in the Netherlands. Their number is growing. The number of Dutch people in Romania can almost be counted on one hand. Romanian crime is overrepresented in the Netherlands. How many Dutch people are now in Romanian prisons because of skimming, raids or violent robberies? How many Dutch self-employed people are currently working in Romania? The proportions are totally lost. Equality in the European Union? A deal is a deal? Apparently, this does apply to Romanians, who are allowed to use their rights in the Netherlands. The same European rights and benefits that a Romanian citizen can invoke in practice exist in Romania only on paper. That is why I am calling for a debate on the consequences of Romania's accession to the EU.

Drs. G. Landman Chairman Foundation European Language Rights ND 3 juli 2013

English : https://www.language-rights.eu/EUROPEANS ARE SECOND RANG CITIZENS IN ROMANIA.pdf Dutch : https://language-rights.eu/EUROPEANEN ZIJN TWEEDERANGSBURGERS IN ROEMENIE.pdf Hungarian: https://language-rights.eu/igentessek/ITK2013DECEMBER AZ EUROPAI POLGAROK MASODRENDUEK ROMANIABAN.pdf Romanian : https://languagerights.eu/Cetatenii europeni sunt cetateni de rangul doi in Romania Landman2013.pdf



 Inada to peen hand te tellen, De Bozoververtegewoordigd, Hoereek Nederoververtegewoordigd, Hoereek Nederwargenissen van worge skimmen, maar en stander stimmen, maar en stander stander stimmen, er na in Roemenik aan de tag. 7 De verer na in Roemenik aan de tag. 7 De verdige stander stimmen, maar en stander stander stander Afspraak in aspraak? Bijkbaar gedrif di wed voor Roemenen, die gebraak mogen Diecedlike turgese rechten en voorzieter ingen waarng een Roemens staatbaar oer de geotogen van die twoeren hat over de geotogen van die twoeren hat over de geotogen van die toerterding.