



European Parliament
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Cornelia Ernst, Member of European Parliament (GUE/NGL)
Renate Weber, Member of European Parliament (ALDE)

To:
Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6.
Hungary

István Tarlós, Mayor of Budapest
Városház u. 9-11. "F" Building - I./121.
1052 Budapest
Hungary

Brussels, 7 April 2014

Closing of "Roma Parliament" in Budapest

Dear Prime Minister Viktor Orbán,
Dear Mayor István Tarlós,

In April 2011 the European Commission adopted the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and its endorsement by EU Heads of States and Governments indicated that Roma inclusion is becoming an important priority for all Member States, despite the economic and financial crisis. In June 2009 the Council of the European Union adopted the conclusions on inclusion of Roma stating that "active participation of Roma", their full involvement in the inclusion process and the development of their human resources is of utmost importance.

For this reason we learnt with dismay that the local administration of the city of Budapest plans to terminate or has recently terminated **the rental agreement with the "Roma Parliament"**, the most important organisation ensuring the self-government system of Roma in Hungary.

Founded in 1990 the "Roma Parliament" is the first independent Roma organisation in Hungary which attracted many newly-formed Roma organisations, became a centre for intellectual exchange, published the Roma-journal "Amaro Drom", hosted a Roma academy for vocational training and exhibited an impressive collection of 250 paintings by Roma artists.

We, Members of the European Parliament, call on you to render possible the renewal of the rental agreement with the "Roma Parliament", to fight discrimination and hate speech against the Roma minority in Hungary and to fully implement the European Roma Framework Strategy.

We kindly expect your answer.

Yours sincerely,

Cornelia Ernst, Member of European Parliament, Group of the European United Left / Nordic Green Left (Germany)

Renate Weber, Member of European Parliament, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (Romania)