Comprehensive monitoring report on the state of preparedness for Union membership of Romania

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The committee adopted the report on Romania 's state of preparedness for EU membership, drawn up by Pierre MOSCOVICI (PES, FR) in response to the Commission's latest monitoring report. MEPs noted that "significant advances" had been made in Romania 's preparations for accession, but they pointed out that progress had not been satisfactory in several areas. Citing "persistent delays" in the fight against corruption and the implementation of legislation on agriculture, public contracts and the environment, the committee called on Romania to take "immediate steps to make good the shortcomings identified as particularly serious" in order to join the Union on 1 January 2007. MEPs supported Romania 's efforts to accede on that date but warned that the safeguard clauses would be activated if the Romanian authorities were unable to fulfil the commitments made in the accession treaty.

The committee concluded that one of the highest priorities must be to combat corruption, at every level of the judiciary, law-enforcement services and the public administration. It also complained about discriminatory measures still contained in Romanian electoral laws and repeated in the draft law on minorities, and called for legislation on minorities to be adopted as soon as possible, in line with the Copenhagen criteria. MEPs stressed that "additional measures need to be taken to ensure the protection of the Hungarian minority in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and self-governance", and called on the Romanian authorities to fully sustain higher education for the Hungarian minority by providing the necessary financial resources.

Other areas of concern included the situation of children in Romanian orphanages, the care of people with learning disabilities and mental health problems, the restitution of property, ill-treatment of the Roma by law-enforcement personnel, drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings.

The report reiterated the priorities highlighted by the Commission, which stressed that Romania must continue the course and pace of reforms. MEPs supported the Commission’s plan to reach a decision on whether or not to postpone the date of accession on the basis of the results obtained by Romania by the spring of 2006.