

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3966/03
by Gian Gobbo (NI)
to the Council

Subject: Compensation for expropriated property of Istrian refugees in Croatia

In view of the impending decision by the Council to open negotiations with Croatia, does the Council not believe it desirable and necessary to raise the sensitive issue of the expropriations suffered by Italian citizens and other Europeans who were obliged after the Second World War, by the new Yugoslavian authorities, to abandon their property and land?

Does the Council not believe that the legislation invoked by the Croatian authorities to justify their refusal to return this property to the Istrian refugees is contrary to the principles of both the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights?