

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4991/06

by Elly de Groen-Kouwenhoven (Verts/ALE) and Milan Horáček (Verts/ALE)
to the Council

Subject: Non-adoption of act regarding public access to the archives of the former totalitarian secret services in Bulgaria

In its answer of 27 June 2006 to Written Question E-0468/06, the Council stated that it would continue to follow closely the progress achieved by Bulgaria, in particular on the basis of the Commission monitoring reports.

In May, during the visit of the Green delegation to Bulgaria, Interior Minister, Rumen Petkov promised to open the archives of the former secret service, starting this process before summer 2006.

After an international conference on the subject in July in Sofia, three draft laws on the opening of those archives were discussed and adopted at first reading (29 August) in the Bulgarian National Assembly. In the meantime a joint proposal has been formulated for the second reading, but further progress has been lacking in the legislative process.

Is the Council of the opinion that the Bulgarian Government is meeting the expectations raised on its way to democracy and transparency?