

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3416/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Lack of transparency concerning the disclosure of the former totalitarian secret service Darzhavna Sigurnost files

The Copenhagen criteria require that the EU candidate country must have achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and human rights. In December 2006, before the accession of Bulgaria to the EU, the National Assembly (NA) adopted a law on the disclosure of the files of the former totalitarian secret service, Darzhavna Sigurnost (DS). As recommended by the European Parliament resolution on the accession of Bulgaria to the EU (P6_TA(2006)0511), a non partisan commission to control such disclosures was elected by the NA on 6 April 2007. There are files about cases of the state-sanctioned killing on the Bulgarian borders of Germans from the GDR trying to flee Bulgaria during the Cold War.

The Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director of the National Intelligence Service, the Director of the National Security Service, the Director of the National Investigation Service, the Chair of the General Department of Archives and The Director of the Central Military Archive are obliged by law to provide the newly-elected commission no later than 18 August 2007 with all the files of the former Darzhavna Sigurnost, including the aforementioned files on state-sanctioned killings of Germans on the Bulgarian borders /, but they have not so far met this obligation. Only a very small proportion of the files regarding the killings were submitted on 3 April 2008 by the Interior Ministry to the commission for disclosure of the archives. This means that the Government of Bulgaria is not respecting this particular law, which is very important to guarantee the democracy and the human rights. The tendency of Bulgaria, an EU Member State to ignore democratic values must be treated as a matter of higher concern by the EU.

What will the Commission do to ensure that the Bulgarian Government respects the right of Bulgarian and German citizens and researchers to gain access to all files about the activities and the crimes of the former totalitarian secret service, Darzhavna Sigurnost?