

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3417/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Bulgaria and the democratic values of the EU

The Copenhagen criteria require that an EU candidate country must have achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. In December 2006, just before the accession of Bulgaria to the EU, the National Assembly 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 National Assembly 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 aforementioned law is very important for guaranteeing democracy and human rights in the country.

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 the aforementioned law to provide the newly elected commission no later than 18 August 2007 with all the files of the former totalitarian secret service, Darzhavna Sigurnost. 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 and not meeting the Copenhagen criteria. Bulgaria's tendency to ignore democratic values and neglect the universal character of the Copenhagen criteria must be treated as a matter of greater concern by the EU.

What will the Commission do to ensure that the Bulgarian Government fulfils its obligations as an EU Member State in the area of the justice and home affairs? If this does not happen, will the safeguard clause in the Treaty of Accession of Bulgaria to the EU be activated in good time?