

**Question for written answer E-003788/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elżbieta Kruk (ECR)

Subject: Lenin statue in Gelsenkirchen

On 20 June 2020 in Gelsenkirchen, North Rhine-Westphalia, a more than two-metre high statue of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, was unveiled. It is scandalous that Lenin, the first leader of Soviet Russia and a criminal estimated by historians to be responsible for the deaths of up to six million people, has been honoured in a supposedly democratic Germany which took part in bringing him and the revolution to Russia. In its resolution of 18 September 2019 on the importance of historical memory for the future of Europe, the European Parliament pointed out that many European countries have banned the use of Nazi and communist symbols and called for a common culture of remembrance that condemns Nazi, Stalinist and other totalitarian crimes. It is worth recalling that communist regimes are guilty of the deaths of some 100 million people altogether, which makes communism one of the most murderous systems in the history of humanity. In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission take the view that communist symbols should be banned in the EU?
2. Will the Commission take steps to remove this statue of the communist criminal?
3. Does this not give rise to concerns that Germany is returning to its totalitarian traditions?