

**Question for written answer E-003262/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE), **Diana Riba i Giner** (Verts/ALE), **Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE), **François Alfonsi** (Verts/ALE), **Tatjana Ždanoka** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Discriminatory practices against minorities in Slovakia

The Slovakian Parliament declared the uninterrupted legal validity of the so-called 'Benes Decrees' in 2007. These presidential decrees, adopted in 1945, institutionalised the discrimination on the basis of ethnicity against Slovak citizens of German and Hungarian origin. It deprived persons belonging to German and Hungarian minorities of their property and citizenship and introduced measures such as forced labour, seriously violating the fundamental human rights of the persons affected. Unfortunately, still today – more than 15 years after Slovakia's accession to the EU – the Slovakian authorities continue to implement these discriminatory decrees. In many cases the Slovakian authorities retroactively enforce property and land confiscations without compensation, referring to the Benes Decrees (see *Bosits v. Slovakia*, European Court of Human Rights (75041/17)). The right to property is not only a fundamental right, among others recognised by Article 17 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, but land property may entitle its owners to benefit from EU financial programmes such as the common agricultural policy. In such cases, the application of a discriminatory law is not only a human rights issue, violating Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, but may also have implications for the implementation of EU law.

Is the Commission considering investigating these discriminatory practices and the apparently blatant violations of EU law in Slovakia?