

**Question for written answer E-004103/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Yet another desecration of the Bulgarian flag in the Republic of North Macedonia

For the second time this year, the Bulgarian flag has been desecrated by persons unknown. This time the flag was removed from the Economic and Trade Representation at our Consulate General in Bitola, in an arrogant act of hatred.

The fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia has 'condemned' this act seems highly hypocritical given that so little has been done to combat hate speech and impunity for acts of hatred against Bulgaria. Let's remember that no one has yet been held responsible for the desecration of the Bulgarian flag in the village of Vevchani earlier this year.

What we typically have is a 'Comintern-style' reaction for the outside world, while inside the country acts of hatred continue against Bulgarians and Bulgaria.

That hatred is being fuelled by politicians and public figures whose anti-Bulgarian rhetoric is based on historical fabrication.

We want two simple things from the authorities in Skopje: an end to hate speech against Bulgaria and an end to the expropriation and falsification of history. This is the way to put a stop to anti-Bulgarianism.

Can the Commission state:

1. Whether it has taken account of these crimes?
2. What action it might take to oblige the authorities in Skopje to adhere to the Treaty on Friendship and Good-Neighbourliness with Bulgaria?