

**Question for written answer E-000577/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Nikolov Delchev

4 February marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Nikolov Delchev, a Bulgarian revolutionary, who fought for the freedom of Bulgarians in Macedonia. The Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia states that the parties shall organise joint celebrations of common historical personalities. Unfortunately, the North Macedonian authorities did not organise any such celebration.

Despite this, wreaths and flowers were laid by the Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Ms Teodora Genchovska. During the ceremony, however, offensive chanting directed against Bulgarians and the representatives of the Bulgarian authorities could be heard. Shortly afterwards, as can be seen in this video link, the Bulgaria ribbons were torn off the wreaths and removed.

This hate, which is fuelled by the anti-Bulgarian ideology of Macedonianism, has no place in the European Union. I should like to ask, in connection with this incident:

1. Whether the Commission thinks that this was done in the spirit of European integration?
2. Whether the Commission is monitoring the increasingly frequent violations of the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourhood and Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia?
3. Whether the Commission approves of the hate speech used by politicians and public figures, which finds reflection in behaviour such as that described above?