

**Question for written answer E-002445/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Hate speech from members of the Levitsa political party

The North Macedonian Party 'Levitsa;' has made yet another unacceptable statement and demands. This time, in addition to the endless lies, defamation and hate speech spread by the party's representatives, it has continued its provocations by making the unreasonable demand that the Bulgarian ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia be declared *persona non grata*, that talks with the Republic of Bulgaria immediately be broken off and that the work of the Joint Multidisciplinary Commission between the two countries be suspended.

I would point out that on 24 June 2022 the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted a decision that made it possible for the Republic of North Macedonia to open negotiations after fine-tuning the relevant texts and guaranteeing compliance with the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourhood and Cooperation.

Despite this, their provocations, hate speech, the falsifying of history and use of anti-Bulgarian propaganda continue. In this case, the people voicing these positions are members of parliament who, rather than instigating hatred, should be looking for ways of bringing the sides together. This means not closing the Joint Multidisciplinary Commission, but on the contrary giving a spur to accelerating the process of adopting a common view of the history of the two countries.

In view of this, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it does not consider the anti-Bulgarian statements made by North Macedonian politicians to be unacceptable?
2. What action it will take to put a stop to hate speech against Bulgaria?
3. How the work of the Joint Multidisciplinary Commission will be guaranteed free of political interference?