

**Question for written answer E-000260/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: New anti-communist law in Poland

The Polish Government has recently adopted amendments to the Criminal Code imposing prison sentences of up to three years on anyone who publicly promotes, produces, registers, imports, possesses, sells, offers, stores, holds, presents, transports or displays communist, symbols and ideas, either in printed form or online.

It also seeks to equate the monstrous excesses of Nazism with socialism/communism, which is both unacceptable and historically inaccurate.

The new rules enter into force at the beginning of March 2023 and anyone found in possession of books or posters, even those providing a recent take on Poland's 20th-century history, will be potentially in breach of the law.

Communist parties are now being banned and deprived of the right to freedom of political expression, debate and exchange of ideas in over one-third of EU Member States.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of the criminalisation of those seeking to exercise the right to freedom of political expression and action, amounting to nothing less than a communist witch-hunt in one-third of the EU Member States, including Poland?
2. What view does it take of the effective ban on communist ideology and action and, by extension, the Communist Party itself, which has historically fought to uphold the interests of working people?
3. What are its feelings regarding calls for an immediate end to all actions targeting communists, along with the abolition of all anti-communist laws that are effectively undermining fundamental freedoms in Poland, the Baltic countries and other Member States?

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