

**Question for written answer E-000019/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Political prosecution of leading figure of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, Josef Skála

Josef Skála was sentenced by a Prague court to eight months' imprisonment with 18 months' suspension for having expressed doubts in a radio broadcast about the Czech authorities' claim that the Soviet Union was responsible for the mass grave of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest, during which he presented research results and university sources defending the opposite view.

On 13 April 1943, a mass grave of Polish officers was discovered in the Katyn Forest. Both the Czech authorities and the EU, with the backing of capitalist Russia, claim that the Soviet Union was responsible.

However, there are findings that have been substantiated by academic research and documentary evidence, not only on the part of the USSR but also on the part of the US, France and Poland, among other countries, which claim that what came to be known as the 'Katyn Massacre' was a Nazi fabrication and provocation under the guidance of Goebbels which, after the dissolution of the USSR, became accepted by the leadership of capitalist Russia based on evidence proven to be fabricated.

In the light of this, what is the Commission's view of the call for the immediate cessation of any prosecution against Josef Skála as well as the rest of his co-defendants, recognising the inalienable right to freedom of opinion and expression on historical events?

Submitted:6.1.2024