

**Question for written answer E-001030/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Slovak Beneš decrees and the right to property

In 2007, the Slovak Parliament declared the uninterrupted legal validity of the laws known as the Beneš decrees. Adopted in 1945, these decrees institutionalised discrimination on ethnic grounds against of Slovak citizens of German and Hungarian origin, deprived persons belonging to the German and Hungarian minorities of their property and citizenship, and introduced measures that violate fundamental human rights, such as forced labour. The Slovak authorities still retroactively enforce property and land confiscations without compensation, referring to the Beneš decrees (see the case of *Bosičs v. Slovakia* before the European Court of Human Rights). More recently, a similar case was taken to court regarding the retroactive confiscation of private lands by the Slovak Land Fund in Most pri Bratislave. Not only is the right to property a fundamental right, recognised, among others, by Article 17 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, it may also entitle property owners to benefit from EU financial programmes, such as the common agricultural policy. In such cases, the application of a discriminatory law is not only a human rights issue, violating Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, it may also have implications for the implementation of EU law.

Is the Commission willing to investigate possible violations of the fundamental right to property in Slovakia?

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