

ORAL QUESTION H-0774/02
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2002
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Efstratios Korakas
to the Council

Subject: Persecution of communists in countries which have applied to join the enlarged European Union

In many EU applicant countries, the activities of certain political parties are subject to restrictions or even prohibited. For example, in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Hungary the activities of communist parties are outlawed. They are barred from competing in elections and freely circulating their ideas. In certain cases these restrictions are based on constitutional provisions which underpin the historically inaccurate association of Nazism with communism. Party members face prosecution or heavy prison sentences on fabricated charges (Latvia, Slovakia, Lithuania) while former members of worker collectives (Latvia) are subject to restrictions regarding the type of employment they are authorised to take up.

Does the Council not agree that this is a blatant contradiction of its expressed view that the countries in question have made great progress regarding respect for the rule of law and human rights and does it intend to take the necessary measures to ensure the free movement of ideas, freedom of activity for all political parties and an end to the persecution of communists and discrimination against them in the countries concerned?

Tabled: 07.11.2002
el