

ORAL QUESTION H-0504/03  
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Konstantinos Alyssandrakis  
to the Council

Subject: Criminalisation of political activity in Latvia

Latvian legislation prohibits any former member of the Latvian Communist Party - which continues to be outlawed - from standing as a candidate in any elections. Significantly, this rule also applies to the chairman of the Socialist Party of Latvia, Mr Alfred Rubiks, who cannot stand for election despite the fact that his party is represented in the national parliament and, as an observer, at the Council of Europe.

What steps will the Council take to ensure that all restrictions imposed on Latvian citizens because of past political activity are lifted to enable them to stand as candidates for election and to allow all parties wishing to participate in European and national elections, including the Latvian Communist Party, to do so lawfully and freely?

Tabled: 17.07.2003  
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