

ORAL QUESTION H-0505/03

for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Efstratios Korakas

to the Council

Subject: Persecution and sentencing of Lithuanian Communist Party cadres for their political activities

According to a recent interview with Ceslovas Jursenas, First Deputy Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, published in the Rizospastis newspaper, the Lithuanian Communist Party is still illegal and is not allowed to engage in political activities or take part in elections. Furthermore, Lithuanian Communist Party leader Mikolas Burokevicius and the Lithuanian Communist Party cadre Juozas Kuolelis are in prison after being sentenced for their political activities and have already served two thirds of their sentence, while scores of other CP cadres are being persecuted for political reasons.

What measures does the Council intend to take to ensure that all parties in Lithuania, including the Lithuanian Communist Party, are allowed to engage freely and without hindrance in political activities, to secure the release of the above-mentioned cadres who are in prison and to put an end to this persecution, especially in view of the forthcoming European Parliament elections which must take place without political restrictions or exclusion measures?

Tabled: 17.07.2003

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