

ORAL QUESTION H-0850/07

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2007
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Danutė Budreikaitė
to the Council

Subject: Fate of the Villa Lituania

It is already sixteen years since Lithuania regained its independence from the Soviet Union. Ever since, Lithuania has been waiting in vain for the return of its embassy building in Rome, the Villa Lituania, which has been its property since 1937. Disregarding the note handed over by the then Lithuanian Ambassador, Stasys Lozoraitis, the Italian authorities allowed the Soviets to occupy the Villa Lituania. The Russian flag now flies outside the building.

Although Rome has always stated that Lithuania has not lost the rights to the Villa Lituania, the Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema has now declared that Lithuania will never have its property restored to it. In 1999 Lithuania was offered the chance to rent the Stozzi Palace on the outskirts of Rome. However, this does not solve the critical diplomatic issue – the restoration of Lithuania's lost embassy building. The Villa Lituania is now worth 20 million euros.

How, in the opinion of the Council, can Lithuania assert its justified claims?

Tabled: 25.10.2007

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