

ORAL QUESTION H-1008/08  
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2009  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Tunne Kelam  
to the Council

Subject: The rule of law and the judicial system in Russia

As a value-based community, the EU should make the rule of law and respect for human rights the cornerstone of its relations with third countries. The judicial system in Russia is being politicised and is openly being used as a tool in the hands of Kremlin rulers. Lawlessness and corruption should therefore be on the list of priority for the EU when it seeks to pursue future relations.

In view of the latest spectacular cases concerning Khodorkovsky, Lebedev and Bachmina, my question to the Council is: How does the Council respond to Russia in cases of such unlawful and corrupt court decisions? How will the Council handle this issue in the EU-Russia relationship and what measures will the Council take to ensure that Russia makes changes to its judiciary system?

Tabled: 02.12.2008  
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