

ORAL QUESTION H-0246/09
for Question Time at the part-session in May 2009
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Georgios Toussas
to the Council

Subject: Unacceptable anti-Communist legislation in Lithuania

A drawing of portrait of the historic leader of the October Revolution, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, was found recently in the village of Svirplyay in Lithuania. The police immediately launched an investigation to prosecute the 'perpetrators' on charges of 'publicly exhibiting Communist symbols'. This measure has been taken under the notorious anti-Communist legislation which was used to outlaw the country's Communist Party as early as 1991 and to ban the use of Soviet and Communist symbols in 2008.

These actions form part of - and stoke - the anti-Communist hysteria in which the EU's institutions play a leading role, characterised by historically misguided efforts to equate Fascism and Communism, the attempt to criminalize Communist ideology and the prohibition of the use of Communist symbols and the actions and operations of the Communist parties. History has demonstrated that anti-Communism and the persecution of Communists are invariably the precursors of a general assault on working people, democratic rights and popular freedoms.

Will the Council say whether it condemns this unfolding anti-Communist campaign and indeed the very existence of this unacceptable anti-Communist legislation which seeks to prevent the free movement of ideas and unhindered political activity in Lithuania, and also in other EU Member States?

Tabled: 16.04.2009
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