

ORAL QUESTION H-0287/09
for Question Time at the part-session in September 2009
pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure
by Athanasios Pafilis
to the Council

Subject: Criminalisation of communist ideology in Lithuania

On 9 June, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted amendments to the Penal Code providing for a sentence of up to three years' imprisonment for 'spreading propaganda about, denying or justifying the genocide carried out by communism and fascism' and 'publicly slandering members of the movement for the freedom of Lithuania who fought against the Soviet occupation between 1944 and 1953'. These provisions are an attempt, by way of penal measures, to falsify history and to equate communism with fascism. They require the recognition of the fascist collaborators of the Nazis, who were responsible for crimes against humanity. They criminalise communist ideology and prohibit and punish freedom of speech and a different view of history.

What is the Council's position on the rehabilitation - in particular through the imposition of penal measures against dissenters - of fascism and nazism, the banning of freedom of speech and the criminalisation of communist ideology in a number of EU Member States, particularly the Baltic States, where the Communist Party is banned and its members and other anti-fascist democrats are persecuted?

Tabled: 31.08.2009
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