

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0017/09/rev.1  
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, on behalf of the UEN Group  
to the Commission

Subject: Names used to describe concentration camps

In the course of its activities, the European Parliament devotes special attention to the protection of human rights. In the resolutions it adopts it firmly opposes all restrictions on freedom and condemns cases of genocide in particular. Genocide is the most serious of all crimes and must be condemned whenever and wherever it occurs. Unfortunately, all too often in recent times the perpetrators of crimes against humanity have attempted to shift the blame to the victims of those crimes. This tendency must be firmly opposed, as must all other attempts to pervert history. The practice of describing German concentration camps as 'Polish' or 'Latvian' concentration camps has caused upset and widespread concern in many countries. This has happened in the case of the camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Trawniki, while the German daily *Die Welt* recently described Majdanek as a 'Polish concentration camp'.

Bearing in mind that millions of people were killed in the 12 000 concentration and extermination camps operating within the territory of the German Reich and occupied countries during the Second World War, the question of how these camps are described needs to be settled once and for all.

Is the Commission aware of this problem and what measures does it plan to take?

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