

Priority question for written answer P-004948/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 138
Inese Vaidere (PPE)

Subject: Glorification of Stalin in Georgia, one of the EU's Eastern partner countries

On 23 August 1939 the USSR and Germany signed the non-aggression pact and additional secret protocols unlawfully dividing Europe into two spheres of interest. These agreements gave Joseph Stalin, the USSR dictator, complete freedom of action, allowing him to occupy Latvia and other European states. This led to serious crimes being committed against the residents of these states and to millions of deaths.

The European Parliament has condemned the crimes of the Stalin regime, declaring 23 August the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism.

The EU supports Georgia's ambitions for closer ties with the EU. On 1 July 2016, the EU-Georgia association agreement, with its deep and comprehensive free trade area, came into force. Within the framework of the Eastern Partnership the EU supports Georgia's goals to improve the quality of life of its citizens and provides aid of more than EUR 120 million annually.

Unfortunately, new monuments to Joseph Stalin are still being erected in Georgia, most recently in the city of Zestafoni. Furthermore, in Gori, the city where Stalin was born, a museum glorifying his life is still operating.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. Is the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy aware of these monuments glorifying totalitarianism?
2. Has the High Representative asked Georgia's Government to deal with this problem, indicating that the placement of these monuments is deeply offensive to many EU residents whose families suffered, directly or indirectly, from Stalin's crimes?