

**Priority question for written answer P-002865/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Inese Vaidere (PPE)

Subject: Next steps in remembering and investigating the crimes of totalitarian communism

On 14 June 2021 it will be 80 years since the Soviet Union exiled tens of thousands of innocent people from the Baltic states to Siberia, including many children. This was, however, just one of the brutal crimes of totalitarian communism.

So that these events will never be repeated, we must foster an understanding of history as part of the education of Europeans. The European Parliament's resolution of 2 April 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism states that support must be given for the documentation of, and accounts testifying to, Europe's tragic past, in order to strengthen awareness of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, and Parliament's resolution of 19 September 2019 on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe calls on the Commission to provide effective support for projects of historic memory and remembrance in the Member States. I would therefore like to ask:

1. What is the Commission's view of what has been achieved to date to eliminate the double standards that may be observed in different forms, such as in debates concerning totalitarian regimes – Nazism and communism – since both inhuman dictatorships merited equally strong censure?
2. How effective have the education measures implemented to date been in explaining the crimes of totalitarian communism in Europe, and how will they be further improved?
3. What specific steps does the Commission plan to take in the coming years to support projects to promote the historic memory and remembrance of the crimes of totalitarian communism, as well as further investigation? How much finance will be allocated from EU funds for this objective and what specific events are planned?