

**Priority question for written answer P-000746/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Loránt Vincze (PPE)

Subject: Land confiscations in Slovakia under the Beneš decrees – activities of the Slovak Land Fund

The 2020 Report of the Slovak Land Fund¹ reveals that hundreds of people have recently had confiscated what the Fund itself describes as land of incalculable value. It did so in 2018, 2019 and 2020 on the basis of decrees² adopted in 1945 with reference to collective guilt. The Land Fund admitted that it based this action – launched at its own initiative – on archival data and confiscation decisions. Without informing the owners or heirs, the confiscation(s) have been carried out randomly, searching for minority surnames, thereby creating uncertainty in the real estate market and proving that the Beneš decrees are still in force and have legal effect.

I recommend that the Commission examine the facts revealed by journalists³ in addition to the official Slovak position.

1. What is the Commission's view of Slovakia calling its Hungarian and German ethnic citizens and their heirs enemies of war and traitors based on ethnic discrimination, and depriving their descendants in neighbouring Member States of their land ownership?
2. The D4 motorway around Bratislava is partly financed by EU funds, and the land there would also be reclaimed by the Land Fund from the heirs of minority owners through litigation based on the Beneš decrees (now executing the confiscations ordered in 1945). Is it possible to provide EU funding in such cases, and is the Commission aware of this fact?
3. When will the Commission open an investigation into this matter?

¹ 113.o. Konfiskáty <https://pozfond.sk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SPF-v%C3%BDro%C4%8Dn%C3%A1-spr%C3%A1va-2020.pdf>

² č. 108/1945, nariadenia č. 104/1945 Zb. SNR a násl.

³ Latest relevant news: https://www.magyarszo.rs/hu/4846/kozelet_kitekinto/259169/Magyar-f%C3%B6ldter%C3%BCleteket-koboznak-el-Bene%C5%A1-nev%C3%A9ben-Szlov%C3%A1kia.htm, <https://uj szo.com/benes-dekretumok>, <https://index.hu/kulfold/2022/02/16/benes-dekretumok-szlovak-allam-foldelkobzas-fiala-butora-janos/>, https://www.valaszonline.hu/2022/02/16/fiala-butora-janos-benes-dekretumok-szlovakia-interju/?fbclid=IwAR2pxHlpB3G3xdXBcZItSSvLV00wCb3Tnx4dY1I-s2Mvr_nareM_skLKUk8