WRITTEN QUESTION P-6646/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Commission action regarding the evaluation of the crimes of the totalitarian regimes at EU level

On 8 April 2008 a high-level conference was organised in Brussels following the initiative of Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini to evaluate the crimes of the totalitarian regimes at EU level. More than 100 history and law experts and representatives of national governments and civil society participated in these debates, and several MEPs were also present. After the EU Council of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs agreed a position and goals for the future regarding racism and xenophobia, the Council in its Declaration of 19 April 2007 asked the Commission to organise a series of such discussions on the issue of totalitarian crimes.

No joint statement was adopted at the conclusion of the High-level Conference of 8 April, but 40 of its participants signed an appeal to set up an international commission to investigate crimes of Communist regimes and a foundation that would inform the public about these crimes, as well as to declare 23 August the day of remembrance for victims of totalitarian regimes in Europe and equalise the treatment of victims of all totalitarian regimes. On 22 September this year the European Parliament adopted the written declaration on the proclamation of 23 August as European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism.

After the meeting, representatives of the Commission promised that the Commission would continue to make recommendations and give advice as to how to inform the public more fully about these crimes as well as presumably present its ideas for further moves to the European Union's Justice and Home Affairs Council, including organising such conferences again.

What has the Commission done so far regarding its commitments and plans indicated at the Conference of 8 April? What progress has been made with the further evaluation of the crimes of totalitarian regimes at EU level?