

Reconciliation of European Histories

For a better understanding of Europe's shared history

« Selected Texts

Commemoration of the 70 year anniversary of the occupation of the Baltic's takes place in the European Parliament »

16 November 2010, there will be a Public Hearing in the European Parliament, in Brussels, on Young Europeans Knowledge about Totalitarianism

Draft program

MEPs: Sandra KALNIETE, Tunne KELAM, Andrey KOVATCHEV, Vytautas LANDSBERGIS, László TÖKÉS, and Milan ZVER

Public Hearing in the European Parliament: Young Europeans Knowledge about Totalitarianism
Brussels, 16.11.2010, 2.30 – 6.30 PM

Providing objective comprehensive information about the totalitarian past leading to a deeper understanding and discussion is a necessary condition for sound future integration of all European nations.

There is a need of adjustment and overhaul of European history textbooks and curriculums so that children and young people could learn and be warned about Communism and its crimes in the same way as they have been taught to assess the Nazi crimes.

Session I: Holocaust, Gulag, Katyn, Laogai – what do the young Europeans know about them ?

Chair: László Tökés, MEP, Romania

- Jana Hybášková, former MEP, Czech Republic
- Camilla Anderson, founder, Institute for Information on the Crimes of Communism, Sweden
- Jan Björklund, Minister for Education, Sweden
- Raluca Groseanu, Head of the Research and Documentation Office, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania
- Dr. Anna Kaminsky, Director, The Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur, Germany
- Simon Panek, Director of the NGO People in Need, Czech Republic
- Alejo Vidal-Quadras, MEP
- Andrei Kovatchev, MEP, Bulgaria

Debate with: Andreja Valič, Study Centre for national Reconciliation, Slovenia; Vasil Kadrinov, Hannah Arendt Center, Bulgaria; Elbert Roest, Senior Advisor, European Association of History Educators; Emanuelis Zingeris, Deputy, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania;

Coffee break: 4.30 – 5.00 PM

Session II: Need of study on the opinions of the young Europeans about totalitarianism and introduction of adequate textbooks and curriculums

Chair: Tunne Kelam, MEP, Estonia

- Martin Mejstřík, former Senator, Czech Republic
- Sandra Kalniete, MEP, Latvia
- Milan Zver, MEP, former Minister of Education, Slovenia
- Antonis Papacostas, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate General Communication Public Opinion Analysis sector
- Heidi Hautala, MEP, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Human Rights
- Doris Pack, MEP, Chairwoman, Committee on Culture and Education
- Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth