

Society for the Promotion of the European Human Rights Model

Viviane Reding, Vice-President EUROPEAN COMMISSION -

Justice, Rights and Citizenship

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Madam,

We are honored by your reply and thank you. We actively fought for the liberation of the peoples of Eastern Europe victims of totalitarian regimes and we share and understand their legitimate aspiration to celebrate the memory of their suffering under these regimes.

The recognition of the Armenian genocide has taken far too long a time for diplomatic considerations despite clear evidences. We have also seen more recently, genocidal acts for racial or religious reasons in Rwanda and Yugoslavia and we were very disappointing by the weak response of developed countries.

Genocide is a dramatic action and this word cannot be overused. The attempt to make an equivalence between the suffering of peoples under communist regimes "as great they might have been," to a genocide comparable to the extermination of the Jewish people almost completely achieved in Europe, is not acceptable and seems to be an act of hostility.

Communist regimes needed their peoples who were even prevented to flee out of their countries and did not intend to fully exterminate them but could, but to control them through violence. We have thus a semantic and moral request, which is not related to the legitimacy of the suffering of Eastern Europe. However, I would have appreciated a word from you on the Holocaust.

If history of peoples must be respected, there should not be any exception not even for the Jewish people, who today mainly take refuge far from Europe. We are pleased that the Stockholm program did not take into account the concept of double genocide, but every European country is free to adopt legislation that suits them even if it is an affront to others that threatens their freedom of expression and movement and Lithuania and Hungary have adopted such law of double genocide.

In addition, Lithuania despite it is a provocation has rehabilitated in 2010 the Swastika and Nazi parades are openly tolerated on the Independence Day. We would not want the small remaining Jewish people still in Europe feel to live on a hostile continent and we wish that the memory of Holocaust shall be respected everywhere in Europe from West to East.

The Eastern countries must also respect the history of those in the West. Some Eastern countries have criminalized communism but it is also a fact that the USSR has allowed all allies to defeat the Nazis and the Communist Parties of the western European countries have participated to improvement of workers' welfare..

History viewed through subjectivity and nationalism has led Europe to the worst two world wars. It is preferable to organize specific information campaigns instead of enacting laws whose interpretation may jeopardize the principles of our European Charter and in particular the principle of a "a peaceful future" and the articles 10, 11, 12 and 45.

we must also noted that too many eastern countries do not seem to strictly enforce the Articles 30, 31, 34,35 and 36 of the same Charter regarding e work, social and health protection and then on the respect of the dignity of their citizens and impair consequently the work conditions and employment in the western countries.

Sincerely

Didier Bertin