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THEY WANT TO PUT AN EQUAL SIGN BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND NAZISM

European countries that have become free from the Soviet block are seeking to include an issue on the agenda of the European Union regarding the crimes of the Soviet regime – to evaluate them, also in the legal system of the Community, comparing them to the Nazi crimes. Last week in the European Parliament hearing were held on the topic of the crimes of the Communism, participants of the hearings on Wednesday adopted a declaration, which names the evaluation of the crimes of the totalitarian Communist regime at the EU level as one of the main goals.

Euro-parliamentarian conservative Vytautas Landsbergis, who took part in the discussion, highlighted that without evaluating its common heritage, including the crimes of the Soviets against humankind, Europe could not go forward, and denial of the crimes, would be further defilement of their victims.

V. Landsbergis stressed that the evaluation of the crimes of Communism was important not just to the countries that were formerly oppressed by the Soviet regime, but to all of the Europe.

“War and similar crimes that were carried out somewhere in Europe by the Europeans, is our common heritage. Denial of these crimes is the fault of Europe, including ignorance about those crimes or a wish to ignore them. With such lack of will to acknowledge our history we are exonerating comrade Stalin and become his heirs,” said V. Landsbergis during the hearings on Wednesday.

“I do not think that if tens of thousands of French officers were murdered in Katyn, which happened in 1939, President N. Sarkozy would be silent during his meeting with Russia’s President D. Medvedev,” said V. Landsbergis.

In 1940 NKVD, the Soviet repressive office, in Katyn murdered over 20 thousand of Polish retirees. In 1943, after discovering the mass graves, the Soviets at first tried to blame the Nazis. That the massacre was carried out by NKVD, the first Russian leader to admit was President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachov and Russia’s President Boris Yeltsin. The present-day Russia refuses to admit that the Katyn massacre was genocide.

In the declaration that was adopted on Wednesday it is proposed to that the EP should encourage the national Parliaments of the EU countries, which were formerly oppressed by the Soviets, to pass the laws that would bar the way to the European Parliament or to occupy positions in the Government to former employees of the Soviet security structure and their collaborators.

The hearings that were organized at the EP are another step forward, seeking to evaluate the crimes of the totalitarian regimes at the level of the European Union, by equating them to the Nazi crimes.

At the end of November, Council of EU Justice and Internal Affairs endorsed its underlying decision regarding racism and xenophobia, in compliance to which they obliged member states to criminalize criminal activities with regard to racism and xenophobia – public instigation of discrimination, violence and hatred against persons of various backgrounds, promotion of such materials, public approval to genocide crimes, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Even this decision did not include the crimes of the Soviet totalitarian regime, representatives from formerly oppressed countries, including Lithuania, started to act towards their inclusion into the EU's legal system.

At the endeavor of Lithuania and other congenial member countries in November they added to the underlying/basic decision a common declaration of the Council, in which the crimes of all the totalitarian regimes are condemned and it is indicated that the European Commission during two years from coming into force of the underlying decision shall analyze whether in this field an additional legal instrument is necessary.

In the meantime in the Lithuanian legal system activities regarding the denial of the Soviet genocide crimes, i.e. their denial, justification, are not criminalized, and this, according to experts, is an obstacle to seek to legally equate the crimes of the Soviet genocide to the Nazi genocide.

At the end of the last year, Parliamentarians threw out the project of the Amendments to the Penal Code, in which prosecution was foreseen for denial, derogation, and justification of the aggression and genocide that were being carried out by the Soviet Union.

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