

Brussels, 24 February 2016

Dear Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament,

I am writing to you referring to the letter that Milan Zver, MEP from Slovenia (EPP/SDS), sent you on the 9th of February.

Please, allow me to express my deep concern regarding its content which is – once again – causing new political and ideological divisions in Slovenia.

The arguments Mr Zver is using are not objective. The vast majority of the dead, mentioned in the letter, were members of the various occupying armies. After Hitler's army had capitulated, they did not surrender to the Allies and/or to the Yugoslav partisans. Their goal was to reach Carinthia (Austria) in order to surrender and then return to Slovenia. Apart from members of the German army and its allies, these soldiers were members of the quisling armies of the Yugoslav peoples: Home Guard, Chetniks, Ustashi and others who fought on the side of the occupiers.

It is true that Slovenia has not yet granted respective memorials to all of them. But these were not the members of the Home Guard who returned to Slovenia on the advice of their elders and Allied armies; many of them were extra-judicially killed. Slovenian Parliament adopted a special law which provides them with pious burial and memorials. In order not to renew a debate about the role of partisans (as part of the Allied armies) and the Home Guard (as a quisling military units subordinated to the occupying SS units of the German army), the law enabled placing a memorial to the victims on a square close to the National Assembly.

Public debate on these very sensitive issues in Slovenia is still on-going, but unfortunately it is often turning into a manipulated political debate, mostly because of one-sided and tendentious approaches. An example of this includes also a letter by Mr Zver.

Dear Martin, I believe we share an opinion that European Parliament should not become a place where domestic issues are being resolved. Moreover, it should not be abused for the promotion of populist and non-objective arguments disguised under the term 'democracy'.


More than only a letter is needed to describe all the elements of this complex issue. I regret to note that Mr Zver's writing does not lead to an objective reality, but to the political division.

Neither in Slovenia nor in Europe do we need more and more "symbolic messages" as Mr Zver stated. What we need are concrete steps that would bring us together, no matter of ideological differences.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and your reply.

With my kindest regards,

Tanja Fajon, MEP



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