

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000484/25
to the Commission**

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Francesco Ventola (ECR)**
(4 February 2025)

Subject: Removal of the ‘TITO’ inscription from Sabotin in Slovenia

For many decades, on the hill known as Sabotin in Slovenia, the word ‘TITO’ has been inscribed in huge letters clearly visible even from Italy. As well as being provocative towards Italy, the inscription is also a tribute to Josip Broz Tito, the Communist dictator responsible for brutal crimes against humanity, including the Foibe massacres and the persecution of thousands of Italians after the Second World War.

The EU promotes respect for human dignity, reconciliation between peoples and the protection of historical memory and condemns all forms of celebration of totalitarian regimes guilty of crimes against humanity. The continuing presence of this inscription is therefore clearly an obstacle to these values since it is not just a historical reference but a monument celebrating a bloody regime, in contrast with the principles of democracy and respect for fundamental rights.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider the continuing presence of this symbol, which is divisive and offensive to the victims of Communism, to be compatible with the Union's principles?
2. Will it ask the Slovenian authorities to remove the inscription, out of respect for the memory of the Italian victims and for cooperation between Member States?

Submitted: 4.2.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2025)

The EU is an area of shared values, which are incompatible with crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes, including crimes committed by totalitarian regimes.

Remembrance policies are primarily under the competence of Member States, who are responsible to deal with the sensitive and complex issue of addressing the horrors and crimes that have happened in the past as stated in the Commission Report on the memory of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes ⁽¹⁾.

The EU plays the role of facilitator and supports through funding ⁽²⁾ the promotion of remembrance of the crimes committed by totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, including Nazism, fascism, Stalinism, and totalitarian communist regimes.

⁽¹⁾ COM/2010/0783 final.

⁽²⁾ For further information: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview_en#:~:text=This%20programme%20aims%20to%20protect,regional%2C%20national%20and%20transnational%20level