

**Question for written answer E-003024/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Germany's support for the Turkish Christian genocide

Between 1915 and 1923, Christians in the Ottoman Empire were the victims of organised genocides. They included around 1 500 000 Armenians (1915-1923), 500 000 Greeks from Pontus, Ionia and Thrace (1914-1923) and 300 000 Assyrians (1914-1920). A number of historical sources document that German military and diplomatic officials, such as Liman von Sanders and Hans Humann, were aware of – and even tolerated – these crimes (see Lepsius 1919; Dadrian 1995; Kevorkian 2006). Lepsius published classified German documents recording silent complicity.

In politics, Matthias Erzberger (Centre Party) and Karl Liebknecht (SPD) have publicly condemned Germany's participation in the political and military support of the Ottoman Empire during the genocide; the Bundestag (Drucksache 18/8613) has made reference to this cooperation with the Ottoman Government; Die Linke has called for the 'unreserved recognition of the historical co-responsibility of the German Reich' in relation to the genocide; a joint proposal by the CDU/CSU, SPD and Greens (Drucksache 18/8613) has recognised that the 'German Reich bears a particular historical responsibility' and President Joachim Gauck has clearly referred to the genocide as 'the first genocide of the 20th century' and pointed to Germany's joint responsibility.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it recognise Germany's role in these genocides and does it consider that claiming historical responsibility would be an act of justice?
2. Does it support the release of all relevant European diplomatic and military archives for the period 1914-1923, and if so, in what way?

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