

Question for written answer E-004594/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)

Subject: Legislation obliging auction houses and galleries within the EU to report information about the sale of evidence of crimes and personal effects of victims of World War II

On 14 November 2025, the Munich-based auction house Hermann Historica planned to sell personal effects of victims of German Nazi concentration camps. Among the items up for auction were a prosthetic leg from the Dachau camp and a comb and spoon belonging to prisoners of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, engraved with the names and camp numbers of their owners. The auction was ultimately cancelled after a wave of outrage and protests from Polish and Jewish communities, as well as reactions from the President of the Republic of Poland and the Israeli Government.

In light of the above:

Does the Commission intend to propose binding EU legislation obliging auction houses and galleries operating within the Union to immediately report information about the sale of items from the Second World War, in particular personal belongings of victims and material evidence of crimes committed by German Nazis, to the relevant state authorities and memorial institutions (such as the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum)?

Submitted: 18.11.2025