

Question for written answer E-004678/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)

Subject: Recognition of the Yenish as a national minority in Germany and compliance with EU law

I am writing in relation to the discrimination that the Yenish people face in Germany. Numbering between 150 000 and 200 000 people, this group has a distinct language, culture, music and nomadic traditions in Europe that date back to the Middle Ages. Although the group was persecuted – interned and murdered – by the German Nazis for being ‘asocial’, the Yenish are not recognised as a national minority, preventing them from receiving any state support on the basis of their identity. A report from the Central Council of Yenish dated 18 November 2025 confirms that the group meets the criteria of a national minority, and thus calls for a debate to be held in the Bundestag.

This situation violates Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (non-discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin) and Article 22 (respect for linguistic and cultural minorities). Similarly, Directive 2000/43/EC requires equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, while the Minority SafePack initiative calls for strengthening the protection of minorities.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission monitoring the implementation of the above provisions in Germany in relation to the Yenish?
2. Does the lack of recognition constitute a breach of EU law and is the Commission considering investigating this matter?
3. What steps will the Commission take to support the rights of the Yenish under SafePack?

Submitted: 24.11.2025