

**Question for written answer E-004817/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Commission action concerning the return to Poland of the ‘Gaude mater Polonia’ manuscript, which was looted by the Germans

We are asking the Commission to take steps to obtain information from Germany on progress made in the return of the oldest record of the Polish medieval hymn ‘Gaude mater Polonia’, which was looted in 1941.

The manuscript was found at the end of 2023 in the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, among Polish collections looted during World War II. This find is of great importance for Poland’s culture and heritage.

Under EU law, in particular Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, which emphasises, inter alia, the protection of the cultural heritage of the Member States, and the rules on combating the illicit trade in works of art and the return of cultural objects, Member States are required to cooperate for the purpose of restitution of stolen artefacts.

Furthermore, in line with the Commission’s communications on the protection of cultural heritage, it is necessary, inter alia, to facilitate a bilateral dialogue and to remove administrative barriers to the return of such works.

In light of the above,

1. Does the Commission have any information on the status of the procedure for the return of the looted manuscript, in particular information about when the German side intends to return it?
2. Will the Commission monitor compliance with EU commitments on cultural heritage in bilateral relations between Poland and Germany, and provide any relevant information?
3. What specific action does the Commission intend to take to implement these two points?

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