

**Question for written answer E-003883/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)

Subject: Omission of ethnic and cultural criteria in German benefits for war victims

In its reply to Question E-003075/2026¹, the Commission stated that a person's nationality cannot, in itself, give rise to a presumption of belonging to a particular ethnic group. However, it did not address the eligibility criterion referred to in the question – based on research by Karl Heinz Roth and Hartmut Rübner – which refers to the 'German language and culture area'. Nor did it establish whether this criterion continues to have legal or financial implications.

The question did not concern the equating of nationality with ethnic origin, but rather the possible preferential treatment of a specific group of victims under German legislation on the basis of a linguistic and cultural criterion.

1. Will the Commission verify the existence, legal basis, period of application and current effects of this criterion, and assess whether it constituted direct or indirect discrimination within the meaning of Article 2 of Directive 2000/43/EC?
2. Do the benefits in question fall within the scope of social protection or social security referred to in Article 3(1)(e) and (f) of that Directive, and if not, what is the legal basis for the Commission's exclusion of them?
3. Will the Commission call on the German authorities to provide the relevant provisions, eligibility criteria and aggregated data concerning beneficiary groups and benefits still being paid?

Submitted: 28.9.2026

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-003075_EN.html.