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E-002002/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.7.2025)

The Commission confirms to have taken note of the proposal to establish a European day of remembrance for the victims of COVID-19 and will consider it, in cooperation with EU Member States. Discussions will also consider that the pandemic had a global dimension and thus it might be warranted to assess options for a remembrance for the victims at that level.

There are no specific and well-determined frameworks and procedures for the establishment of commemorative days in the EU. The establishment of a new European Remembrance Day could in principle be initiated by all EU Institutions (e.g. the European Parliament established the ‘European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism’) or by the Council of Europe (e.g. European Day of Languages). It is a political process requiring strong advocacy and communication efforts.