

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003752/25
to the Commission
Sergio Berlato (ECR)
(26 September 2025)**

Subject: Remembrance of those who died at Cima Cady

Operation Avalanche (Unternehmen Lawine) or the Tonale Offensive was a First World War military operation carried out by Austria-Hungary on 13 June 1918. Over a hundred young combatants died, and 82 bodies of Austro-Hungarian soldiers are buried in a mass grave on the Tonale Pass in Lombardy, Italy, something that could be seen as an insult to their memory, which should instead be rediscovered and passed on. Their bodies need to be recovered, both out of respect and to protect them from recent and frequent thefts by cowardly criminals.

With a view to supporting historical memory programmes raising awareness of past tragedies so as to build a European historical memory ⁽¹⁾:

1. Does the Commission intend to make representations to the countries in question to urge them to do their urgent and lawful duty to recover these Austro-Hungarian soldiers' bodies?
2. Can the Commission identify specific funds to establish museums of remembrance as a tribute to those who died in defence of their country?
3. Does the Commission consider recovering soldiers' bodies to preserve their memory for future generations to be in line with the aforementioned resolution?

Submitted: 26.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(17 December 2025)**

The Commission is committed to contributing, within the scope of its powers ⁽¹⁾, to the promotion of the shared memory of past conflicts in Europe.

Safeguarding such common memory is essential to support the EU joint commitment to safeguarding EU values of human dignity, fundamental rights, rule of law and democracy for current and future generations.

The Commission will continue to support projects across the EU that encourage remembrance and that foster a shared understanding of EU's history, notably under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme ⁽²⁾. Funding opportunities can be found on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ⁽³⁾ under the Remembrance calls for proposals.

In addition, the European Heritage Label (EHL) recognises sites that have played a significant role in EU's history and in the construction of the EU. The Label is awarded every two years, with the next selection foreseen in 2027. Organisations and entities are encouraged to engage with their national EHL coordinators to explore opportunities for future nominations.

The Commission recalls that remembrance policies and recovery and relocation of soldiers' remains within the competence of the Member States.

¹ European historical consciousness — European Parliament resolution of 17 January 2024 on European historical consciousness <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5721/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ See Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders/funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme_en.

⁽³⁾ EU Funding & Tenders Portal, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.