

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004031/25
to the Commission
Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR)
(15 October 2025)

Subject: Implementation of Article 14 of the UN Convention against Torture — lack of redress mechanisms in some Member States

Article 14 UNCAT requires states to ensure full compensation and rehabilitation for victims of torture, including access to medical, psychological and vocational support for reintegration. According to the conclusions of the UN Committee against Torture, legislative and institutional gaps persist in several EU Member States (including Romania, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Czechia): prevention mechanisms exist, but there are no functional redress and rehabilitation programmes.

With reference to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (Articles 1, 4, 47) and Directive 2012/29/EU on victims' rights, I would like to know:

1. How does the Commission assess Member States' compliance with the full compensation and rehabilitation obligations laid down in Article 14 UNCAT and in the EU Charter?
2. Does the Commission plan to include this matter in a thematic assessment on the rule of law/fundamental rights, in cooperation with the UN and the Council of Europe?
3. What technical support (guidelines, best practices), institutional dialogue and intergovernmental cooperation can the Commission arrange to develop national redress and rehabilitation mechanisms (including funding, specialised centres, regular provision of services) in line with international standards?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

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

The Commission highlights its commitment to ensure that EU legislative, policy and administrative measures adhere to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽¹⁾ which prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.

The Commission stresses that in individual cases, it is primarily for Member States, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and fulfilled ⁽²⁾.

Under the Victims' Rights Directive ⁽³⁾ all victims of crime, including victims of torture, are entitled to a set of rights. To strengthen those rights, the Commission adopted a proposal for the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾.

In addition, the 2004 Compensation Directive ⁽⁶⁾ obliges Member States to establish national compensation schemes to victims of violent intentional crimes and to guarantee access to fair and appropriate compensation. The modalities of those schemes, however, remain the responsibility of Member States.

The Commission supports and protects victims of crime through funding instruments, such as the Justice programme ⁽⁷⁾ and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme ⁽⁸⁾.

The EU is committed to eradicating torture globally as part of its internal and external policies, highlighted in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2027 ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, pp. 391 — 407.

⁽²⁾ The views of regional and UN human rights mechanisms, such as those of the UN Committee on Torture, offer important guidance on the gaps in national compliance with international standards and ways to strengthen the human rights enjoyment in practice.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57.

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, COM/2023/424 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Some of the proposed amendments specifically refer to victims of core international crime. The proposal includes amendments related to victims' right to compensation from the offender and right to legal remedies. It is currently under negotiations by the co-legislators.

⁽⁶⁾ Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims, OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 15.

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/justice-programme_en; Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme, OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21.

⁽⁸⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview_en.

⁽⁹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-action-plan-human-rights-and-democracy-0_en.

The EU promotes global initiatives like the Global Alliance for Torture-Free Trade and supports the United Against Torture Consortium ⁽¹⁰⁾, aiming for comprehensive measures against torture.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/united-against-torture_en.