(English version)

Question for written answer E-004490/25
to the Commission
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)
(12 November 2025)

Subject: Need for an internal EU instrument for transitional justice for victims of systemic 20th-century crimes — follow-up question

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the fact that my questions concern the crimes and aggressions of Nazi Germany, not stateless 'totalitarian regimes'.

In its answer to E-003059/2025 ([1]), the Commission referred to the Victim's Rights Directive 2012/29/EU and funding programmes (Justice, CERV, TSI), without addressing the fundamental issue: the lack of an EU mechanism for victims of systemic historical crimes in Member States where criminal proceedings are not pending or are impossible. Meanwhile, in external policy, similar activities are funded by the NDICI-Global Europe instrument.

How does the Commission intend to coordinate a potential internal instrument with Directive 2014/60/EU on the return of cultural objects (material restitution aspect) and with the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025), so as to ensure equal treatment of victims within and outside the EU? Please provide an interoperability plan and performance indicators.

Submitted: 12.11.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(26 January 2026)

With regard to the application of the Victims' Rights Directive ([1]) and the EU funding opportunities in the area of victims' rights, the Commission wishes to refer the Honourable Member to the response it had provided to parliamentary Question E-003059/2025 ([2]). There is currently no additional update.

Furthermore, the EU Policy Framework on Transitional Justice was designed to guide EU support to third countries emerging from conflict or authoritarian rule, and it does not operate as an internal legal instrument within the EU.

Nonetheless, the same victim-centred principles that underlie the Policy Framework — such as truth, justice and reparation — also inform the EU's approach to victims' rights inside the EU, notably through, the Victims' Rights Directive, interpreted in the light of the Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as through the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020 — 2025).

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[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003059_EN.html

([1]) 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.

([2]) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003059-ASW_EN.html.