

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002074/26
to the Commission
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Will the Commission encourage a Claims Conference-type mechanism for Polish victims of World War Two

Germany has, since the early 1950s, negotiated reparations with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), a non-governmental representative body. This facilitated bilateral framework requires neither legislation nor a formal treaty, and the Commission has never objected to it, implicitly endorsing it.

The Commission has also stated that within its competence it can ‘facilitate the process of remembrance by encouraging discussion and sharing of experiences’.⁽¹⁾ Poland formally requested dialogue on reparations in its diplomatic note of 3 October 2022, but Germany declined without substantive justification.

1. Does the Commission consider that encouraging the establishment of a similar negotiated mechanism between Germany and Poland for Polish victims of World War Two — modelled on the Claims Conference framework which Germany already operates — falls within its stated competence to facilitate dialogue between Member States?
2. If the Commission can encourage Holocaust remembrance, fund memorial sites, and support civil society engagement with World War Two history, why does it consider it outside its competence to encourage Germany to enter into a dialogue with Poland specifically about victim compensation, given that such a dialogue is already the stated demand of the Polish Government?
3. Will the Commission use its good offices to encourage Germany to respond substantively to Poland’s diplomatic note of 3 October 2022?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2026)**

The Commission remains firmly committed to preserving the memory of the victims of the Second World War, promoting reconciliation, and supporting initiatives that foster historical remembrance, dialogue and mutual understanding across the EU.

Questions relating to the consequences of historical events, including matters concerning reparations or compensation between Member States, are primarily the responsibility of the Member States concerned and fall outside the competences conferred upon the Commission by the Treaties.

Within the scope of its competences, the Commission supports projects and initiatives that contribute to remembrance, historical research, education and dialogue, including through relevant EU programmes such as the call on remembrance under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2024-002838-ASW_EN.html.