

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

The EU emerged from the horrors of World War II. The scale of the crimes, mass murders and genocides committed under the Nazi regime were unseen in human history. The memories of Europe's tragic past must be kept alive. Remembering the victims of World War II, researching and teaching about this darkest page of Europe's history, is essential for the unity of Europe and its citizens. This is the EU's joint responsibility. This is the basis for understanding the values that underpin the EU today: respect of human dignity, fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Commission has supported the Member States to maintain memorial sites of former Nazi concentration and death camps through EU funds. It will continue to do so. For instance, the EU Cohesion policy has funded different projects over the years in Poland, including the ones that provide support for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum¹.

The Commission is also supporting initiatives coming from civil society organisations and public authorities, to engage on European remembrance, including the crimes committed by authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, the Holocaust, through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and Erasmus+.

In addition, the Commission is committed to ensuring Holocaust education, research and remembrance as part of its EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030)².

¹ e.g. <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/781748/>, <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/746970/>, <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/717528/>, <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/722350/>

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2021:615:FIN&pk_campaign=doc&pk_source=EUR-Lex&pk_medium=tw&pk_keyword=No2Antisemitism