



**PREMIER
MINISTRE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

2024

Report to the Public on the Work of the

CIVS

Commission pour la restitution des biens et
l'indemnisation des victimes de spoliations antisémites

From Monday to Friday, between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. and between 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., the CIVS can be contacted by telephone on + 33 (0)1 42 75 68 32 to provide any useful information on the processing and follow-up of cases.

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As an advisory commission reporting to the Prime Minister, the CIVS is responsible for examining individual claims submitted by victims or their heirs for reparation for losses resulting from anti-Semitic spoliation that occurred in France between 1940 and 1944.

The Commission investigates these cases, in particular on the basis of the research that it conducts in various archive collections in France and abroad. To examine the spoliation of cultural property, it receives support from the Ministry of Culture's Mission for Research and Restitution of Cultural Property spoliated between 1933 and 1945. It makes recommendations for compensation and restitution to the Prime Minister.

Since the entry into force of the law of 22 July 2023, the CIVS also examines on its own initiative or at the request of the person concerned, cases of anti-Semitic spoliation of cultural property committed between 1933 and 1945 in a country influenced by Nazi Germany, where the cultural property is now in France in public collections or similar.

***In acknowledging the errors of the past, and the errors committed by the State;
in concealing nothing about the dark hours of our history, we are simply defending
an idea of humanity, of human liberty and dignity.***

Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, 16 July 1995

***While we know that no real reparation is possible for this unprecedented tragedy,
we believe it is only right that France should assume its responsibilities towards
those it mistreated and those who were dispossessed.***

Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister, 13 November 1999



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Foreword



Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter,
Chair of the CIVS

Appointed on 1 July 2024 to succeed Michel Jeannoutot, who had chaired the CIVS for thirteen years, I had nevertheless been able, as a member of the deliberative panel since 2017, to immerse myself in the values of justice and fairness and familiarise myself with the collegial decision-making procedures that characterise this commission. born of a non-partisan political will and entrusted to representatives of the highest courts of the State and the most eminent experts, under the aegis of the Prime Minister's office.

Although the decree of 5 January 2024, which repeals and replaces that of 10 September 1999, applies only to material spoliation, non-material damages being, in any case, considered irreparable, the claims brought before us all carry a symbolic weight to which our opinions give official recognition, sometimes the first that the victims and their heirs receive. Welcoming them with respect and compassion, and giving them the opportunity to speak during the session, if they so wish, is the foundation of our mission, regardless of the final content of our opinion.

The recent interest shown in spoliated cultural property—whether through the restitution of items held in French museums and libraries or the compensation for those lost in the turmoil—has, admittedly, increased the financial stakes and led to a certain degree of judicialisation, notably due to the involvement of lawyers and professional representatives, sometimes from abroad, acting on behalf of claimants. The presence of experienced lawyers within the deliberative panel makes it possible to deal with these situations.

In 2024, one of the main tasks was to support the implementation of the new provisions of the law of 22 July 2023, according to which the opinion of the CIVS constitutes authorisation to remove cultural property from public collections for the purpose of restitution. The application of these texts required collective reflection, some aspects of which remain to be clarified in light of the claims we receive. The first case concerned a book identified by curators at

the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* (BnF), modest in value, but which helped draw attention to the systematic spoliation of books, an issue that has been overshadowed in the public eye by Old Master paintings.

Adjustments also had to be made in response to changes at the head of the CIVS, as the departure of the President coincided with that of the Principal Rapporteur, Claude Bitter; fortunately, her role was taken over by Bénédicte Vassallo-Pasquet, First Advocate General at the Court of Cassation. A series of circumstances also led to a significant renewal of the rapporteur judges. The newly appointed members had to familiarise themselves quickly with their duties, supported by intensive training sessions and the dedicated involvement of the session secretariat.

Since my arrival, I have also been keen to continue and accelerate the digitisation of files to enable remote working for judges and staff working remotely, but also to allow claimants to consult their files, not only to monitor the proceedings but also to learn more about their family history. In this case, the work is far from complete...

It is partly dependent on shortening the time taken to process claims, which, it must be acknowledged, is sometimes excessive. With regard to cultural property in particular, these past few months have been used to strengthen the CIVS's coordination procedures with the Ministry of Culture's research and restitution mission (M2RS), as some files require a two-pronged investigation.

All this learning could only be achieved with the support of all the CIVS departments, its management team and its permanent staff in Paris and Berlin. Their commitment, with the support of

the government and the French Embassy in Germany, is essential to a role that I have had the honour and good fortune to perform at the end of my professional career, putting the legal experience I gained at the Court of Cassation to use in a cause that is particularly dear to me and in line with my family history.

Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter
Chair of the CIVS

KEY figures

77 
claims

Number of claims received in 2024

63
from **victims'** families

14
from **holders** of cultural property

217
claims

Number of claims being processed
as of 31 December 2024.
Of these:

176 claims relate
to **material** spoliation

85 claims relate
to **bank** spoliation

74 claims relate
to spoliation of **cultural property**

25,184 claims

Number of claims received since 1999

Compensation of €1.67 million

Amount of compensation
recommended to be paid by
the State in 2024



Compensation of €551.08 million

Amount of compensation recommended to be paid
by the State since 1999,

of which: **€24.2 million** (4,4 %)
has been set aside for unidentified heirs

\$46.4 million

Amount of compensation recommended
to be paid by banks since 1999,

of which: **\$1.8 million** (3,9 %)
has been set aside for unidentified heirs

15 sessions

Number of sessions organised in 2024



134 opinions

Number of opinions issued
by the CIVS in 2024



The case file process of the CIVS

Referring a case to the CIVS

Online since April 2024, the new website www.civs.gouv.fr provides easy access to information on the procedure to follow: cases can be referred to the CIVS simply by downloading a form online. Sending this questionnaire by post or email, together with the documents needed for the investigation, triggers the referral to the CIVS and the examination of the claim. During this registration phase, the claim is analysed to determine whether it is admissible, and the archives to be contacted to collect the documents needed for the investigation are identified.

Two referral forms

Since its creation in 1999 and until 1 February 2024, referrals to the CIVS were made by sending a single form, regardless of the type of spoliation. Decree no. 2024-11 of 5 January 2024 sets out the provisions for implementing law no. 2023-650 of 22 July 2023 on the restitution of cultural property that was the subject of

spoliation in the context of anti-Semitic persecution perpetrated between 1933 and 1945, and required some adjustments. In order to facilitate referrals to the CIVS, a second form dedicated to heritage institutions or private individuals holding cultural property that may have been spoliated and is restituted under this new law has been published.

Reception of claimants

These claims are received by the claimant reception unit, which listens to claimants and guides them through the process before forwarding their claims to the research coordination department (SCR).

The vast majority of referrals to the CIVS are initiated by the heirs of victims of spoliation. Although the last direct adult victims still able to file a claim have passed away, the CIVS continues to be contacted by claimants who experienced spoliation during their childhood.

The CIVS can be referred

to by a victim, their beneficiary or the holder of spoliated cultural property.

Of the 53 new cases opened in 2024, 12 were filed by claimants born before the Second World War, and 5 were filed by people born during the Occupation.

12 cases opened in 2024 were filed by claimants born before the Second World War

► Myriam Dupont, claimant support officer

"We provide information to claimants who contact the CIVS by telephone or email. We help them fill out the questionnaire that will enable them to open a case for their family. We help them identify the documents to be submitted with their claims and answer their questions about the process their case will follow: research, investigation and review by the deliberating committee. Families often have questions about the various mechanisms created for victims, and we provide them with guidance."



The second half of 2024 was marked by the digitisation of cases currently being processed to facilitate consultation by claimants and access to the documents they contain for Commission staff and judges working remotely. This project currently only concerns cases under investigation, with older cases being kept in paper form in the Commission's archives.

Consultation of case files

Individuals who consider themselves victims or heirs have access at any time to the file relating to their claim, as provided for in Article 6 of the decree of 5 January 2024. They may consult the physical file in person at the CIVS offices in Paris, but they can now also request digital access to the file.

***Based on the information provided by the claimant,
the case is thoroughly researched.***



Researching the archives

Fulfilling the mission of justice and remembrance entrusted to the CIVS requires precise and in-depth research. CIVS researchers gather all archival documents that can shed light on the material and financial spoliations reported by claimants. They work in close collaboration with a wide range of partners, without whom these investigations would not be possible. This collective effort draws on a broad range of expertise. Lastly, CIVS researchers are also responsible for identifying the rightful heirs of the victims of spoliation.

A growing number of claims

The gradual increase in referrals since 2022 requires the research coordination department (SCR) to exercise greater vigilance in handling these new claims. Moreover, claimants rarely provide written evidence and rely mainly on memories passed down orally from one generation to the next.

*90 requests for research
in the National Archives and
the Paris Archives*

The CIVS gathers together the documents needed to characterize a case of spoliation and identify the victim's heirs.

The CIVS carries out its own research in two main archive centres in France: the National Archives and the Paris Archives. This year, the research team handled nearly 90 claims across both centres, whose holdings are essential to the investigative work. In addition, CIVS researchers consult archives in Berlin relating to compensation claims submitted to the German authorities.

Renewed practices

The year 2024 provided an opportunity to rethink some of the research protocols in place. This update is an integral part of the SCR's work, which involves questioning its own practices. In particular, it questions the relevance of using more recent tools and new archival collections.

A toolbox brings together all the archival resources available to researchers. The SCR has begun work on a guide to the archival collections around which the CIVS's research revolves, in order to take a fresh look at the state of the sources used, thereby facilitating the work of the rapporteur judges. Focusing on the collections of the National Archives and the Paris Archives, this work will continue to incorporate the research carried out in other archive centres regularly contacted by the Commission, in particular the departmental archives.

► Cécile Poulot, Research Fellow

"The aim is to document the history of families and the fate of their property before and during the Occupation and in the immediate post-war period. Depending on the case and the information already gathered by all those involved in the research process, other archive centres are occasionally consulted. Cross-checking this information makes it possible to reconstruct life paths that are sometimes little known, or even entirely unknown, to the claimants. The archival documents collected are then sent to the judges to enable them to investigate the cases and can also be consulted by the claimants."



Identifying heirs

This work addresses another major challenge: tracing heirs, a task that is becoming increasingly demanding and time-consuming due to the widening generational gap between claimants and the individuals who were spoliated. This adds further complexity for the team members, who are faced with ever more intricate cases in their efforts to identify and locate these heirs.

The rapporteurs process the claims by examining the case files and meeting with the claimants.

Processing claims

The processing of claims by the reporting magistrate involves assessing the existence and extent of anti-Semitic spoliation, determining the resulting harm, and identifying the individuals entitled to receive compensation. Based on the information provided by the families and the archival documents, they formalise their analysis and proposals in a report which they submit to the claimants and present at a session of the deliberating panel, so that it can rule on all these points.

It is the rapporteur's responsibility to provide the deliberative panel with the information it needs to issue an opinion on the existence and circumstances of spoliation resulting from anti-Semitic persecution, to determine and assess the damage, to propose reparation measures and to identify the persons who may be considered eligible.

Reconstructing part of family history

Its work goes beyond the financial requirements of compensation or the restitution of cultural property, as it most often enables claimants to reconstruct a painful part of their family's history. In the reparation process, the rapporteurs therefore carry out an essential task.

► **Bénédicte Vassallo-Pasquet,** Principal Rapporteur at the CIVS

Since 1 November 2024, Bénédicte Vassallo-Pasquet, First Advocate General of the Third Civil Chamber of the Court of Cassation, has served as Principal Rapporteur at the CIVS. A member of the Court of Cassation since 2004, she was appointed *Maître des requêtes* in extraordinary service at the Council of State from 2012 to 2015.



"The Court of Cassation has been involved in the work of the CIVS since its creation, with its presidency entrusted to a magistrate from the Court. It was with great pleasure that I joined Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter, with whom I had previously sat in the First Civil Chamber. When I arrived at the CIVS, I found a highly committed, multidisciplinary team with a wide range of skills, whose in-depth research supports the claims of the claimants.

The work of the CIVS takes a different approach from that of the judicial judge, who is accustomed to responding only to the means available to him without going beyond them. This approach, which may seem disconcerting at first to a judge, is based on paying particular attention to the words of the heirs, with whom the rapporteurs meet regularly during the investigation of their claim.

The Commission is enriched by a wide range of legal, historical and cultural expertise, which is what makes it so interesting to me. Its composition and that of its deliberative body make it a unique institution; recognising the status of victims and shedding light on family history are just as important as the compensation offered."

The rapporteurs are judges from the regular court system or members of the administrative courts.

In 2024, 108 case files were submitted to the investigation department. Of these, 59 concerned material spoliation, 26 involved banking cases, and 23 related to cultural property, including two restitution claims falling under the provisions of the law of 22 July 2023.

► **Thierry Léon Damelincourt,** **rapporteur**

A magistrate of the judicial system, Thierry Léon Damelincourt has practised criminal, civil, and commercial law. He notably served as President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Montbrison, as well as of the Assize Courts of Rhône and Loire. He was a member of the Judicial Services Inspectorate before serving as President of the Investigation Chamber at the Paris Court of Appeal.



"Three reasons led me to turn to the CIVS: first, its legal dimension, which is in line with my professional and academic experience; second, contemporary history, which I developed a taste for during my studies; and finally, a keen interest in art and related legal issues.

The families of the victims are our primary contacts during the investigation of claims. Regardless of the reparations recommended by the deliberating committee, we conduct historical research to reconstruct the fate of the victims during the war. This research work fulfils a duty to remember, and the value of these historical investigations is immense for the families.

The CIVS occupies a remarkable and unique place in the landscape of administrative institutions. It is a model for other bodies responsible for recognition and reparations. The CIVS's long history is also one of its distinctive features, and its continuity is significant. It shows that recognition of the victims

and the responsibility of 'the French State' remain institutional necessities.

Collective awareness takes time. It is now often the children and grandchildren, in search of their family's memory, who turn to the CIVS. Fifty years passed between the end of the war and the founding speech by President Jacques Chirac in 1995. On that timescale, the work of the CIVS remains recent, while new prospects have opened up with the law of 22 July 2023, which expanded its mandate concerning spoliations of cultural property, now extended to those committed throughout Europe between 1933 and 1945."

The deliberative panel examines the claim during a session in which the claimant has the opportunity to speak.



Deliberating to make recommendations

At the end of the case review session, during which they will have heard and questioned the rapporteur, the experts, the government commissioner, the claimants, the ten members of the panel, joined by four additional qualified members in the case of spoliation of cultural property, deliberate in order to issue an opinion. The principle of equity underpins their discussions, particularly when determining compensation for losses where the archival records are incomplete. Their deliberations are not public.

15 meetings of the panel

The deliberative panel appointed on 1 February 2024 met 15 times during the past year. One session was devoted to its installation and the planning of its annual work. 12 sessions were devoted to the examination of claims for compensation representing 41 cases: 9 relating to cultural property, 11 relating to bank spoliation and 21 involving material damage.

New decree

In 2024, the deliberative panel examined issues raised by the implementation of the new decree governing the activities of the CIVS. In response to a claim submitted by an association, it reaffirmed that the compensation scheme is intended to apply to 'individual' claims from natural persons - men, women and children who suffered spoliation, or their heirs - but does not concern legal entities. It confirmed its decision not to accept compensation claims made on behalf of an association or group. Nevertheless, in the event of the implementation of the decree of 5 January 2024, it questioned the different treatment that could be reserved in the event of a referral by a legal entity for the restitution of cultural property.

Furthermore, on the determination of persons who may be regarded as heirs of the victim, the panel confirmed that if it is not possible to find the heirs to whom compensation should be awarded, it may only decide to allocate this share of the compensation to other heirs who are also entitled to inherit.

After examining a case, the panel deliberates to propose appropriate reparations measures.

► **Christophe Devys,
Vice-Chair of the CIVS**

“Although the CIVS is not a court, since its decisions are only recommendations to the government, the procedure applicable before it borrows heavily from that of the courts. However, its composition is unique in that, in addition to professional judges (judicial, administrative and financial), it includes law professors, history professors and researchers, a notary and, in cases involving cultural property, specialists in art history or the art market. Informed by the rapporteur’s analyses, the conclusions of the government commissioner and reminders from the session secretariat on the commission’s practices, the deliberations are exceptionally rich and respectful of the knowledge and experience of all parties. Very often, members leave with the feeling that they have learned a great deal.”



► **Xavier Perrot,
member of the deliberative panel**

“The organisational structure of the CIVS includes, alongside its executive and permanent departments, a deliberative panel. The very name of this body emphasises the originality of its functioning: deliberation. As an academic, this is what struck me first. The free exchange of ideas between members of the panel, who come from different professional backgrounds, is a unique collective, intellectual and emotional experience. It is also somewhat unfamiliar to a jurist like myself, due to the use of equity-based reasoning that guides the discussions. From this unique alchemy of deliberation emerges the commission’s opinion, all the more accurate for being the result of consensus.”



► **Grégory Méra-Goldberg,
claimant before the CIVS**

“In May 2018, we submitted a claim to the CIVS as part of research into our family who perished in the Nazi camps. Following the investigation, we were summoned in September 2024 to the hearing for case no. 24482, a date which also marked, to the day, the anniversary of our maternal grandmother’s death. She had remained traumatised and had chosen not to share this painful family history with all her descendants.



We were listened to with respect and were deeply moved by the attentiveness of the panel members. This solemn moment for us revived the memory of a long-silenced part of our family’s history and contributed to a mourning process for our relatives lost during the Occupation, a process that had not truly begun until then. On behalf of our family, now in its second and third generations since the Holocaust, we would like to thank the CIVS deliberating panel for its attention during the session.”

The CIVS then issues an opinion recommending appropriate compensation or restitution measures.

The opinion issued by the CIVS

The opinion issued by the Commission is a prerequisite for the decision on reparation, compensation or restitution, which is the responsibility of the Prime Minister. When the opinion is issued pursuant to the law of 22 July 2023, the decision on restitution is taken by the public entity concerned or by the private legal entity that is the owner. In banking matters, the opinions of the CIVS are implemented directly.

In 2024, the Commission adopted 134 opinions. It ruled 63 times on the existence and circumstances of spoliation resulting from anti-Semitic persecution. Thirty-five opinions concern material damage, 17 are banking recommendations and 11 relate to the examination of spoliations of cultural property, among which the commission ruled in favour of the restitution of four items of cultural property.

In 2024, the CIVS ruled in favour of the restitution of four items of cultural property.

Seventy-one opinions concerned the allocation of portions of compensation that had been reserved in earlier recommendations due to the inability to identify all rightful heirs. For the majority of these, the opinions were issued under the procedure whereby the Chair rules alone.

The commission's opinions are communicated to the government commissioner for transmission to the Prime Minister, the claimants and the individuals concerned.

► **Matthieu Charmoillaux,**
project officer,
session secretary

« Before the session, the role of the session secretary is to draft explanatory notes and assist the rapporteurs with the examination of cases and case law. He then prioritises the case files for scheduling. During the sessions, he serves as a point of reference for the members of the deliberative panel, the Government Commissioner, and the rapporteur. He recalls the Commission's doctrine and records the outcome of the deliberation. He is then responsible for preparing the opinions, which are submitted to the Chair and then sent to the claimants, as well as for statistical monitoring and the search for rightful heirs. »



*These opinions are sent to the claimants
and to the authorities responsible for taking a decision.*

The commission publishes on its website a selection of opinions on cultural matters, including all those taken pursuant to the law of 22 July 2023 (see appendix, p. 43).

The decree of 5 January 2024 specifies that the opinion of the CIVS may be challenged. The decision may be appealed before the competent courts.

► **Christophe Devys,
Vice-Chair of the CIVS**

"The claimants often say this during hearings, and when they don't, they imply it: their expectations are not financial (and in any case, the sums paid are usually modest). What they are seeking, on behalf of their parents or grandparents, is recognition of their status as victims of anti-Semitic spoliation. It is also, for families in which silence about the Occupation has often weighed like a lead blanket, a way to gain a better understanding of what their forebears experienced during that period and of the suffering they endured.

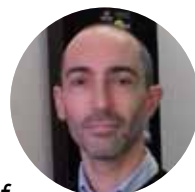
Countless sessions have been held during which claimants have expressed their gratitude to the commission departments for the research they have carried out and for the light they have shed on their family history. Will the extension of the CIVS's jurisdiction to cultural property change the nature of the proceedings brought before the commission? Only time will tell."



► **Sébastien Gaudelus (BnF)
submitted a claim to the CIVS
for the restitution of a book**

"The Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) has worked extensively in recent years on the provenance of documents from the selection committees and has published a report on this work on its website. In addition, it recently identified works originating from the Second Armoured Division after its passage through the Berghof. Among these was a book that had clearly been spoliated from its owner.

As early as July 2023, the library expressed its intention to return it. By fortunate coincidence, the framework law on the restitution of spoliated property was passed at the same time. Thanks to the preparatory work carried out in advance with the M2RS, the BnF was able to present the case to the CIVS in November 2024, an important and symbolic step as it was the first case dealt with by this body under the new legislative framework. The BnF will officially return the book to its owner in 2025."



In its opinions, the CIVS recommends appropriate reparation measures.

The recommendations of the CIVS

The CIVS, when referred a case by the rightful heirs of victims, recommends reparation measures for material, cultural, and banking spoliations of an anti-Semitic nature that took place in France between 1940 and 1944.

Upon referral by any individual concerned or on its own initiative, it rules on measures to compensate for anti-Semitic spoliations of cultural property that occurred in France between 1940 and 1944. It recommends the restitution of cultural property spoliated in the context of Nazi anti-Semitic persecution, including outside France, between 1933 and 1945, when such property is held in a public or similar collection.

Compensation

The CIVS compensates for anti-Semitic spoliations of a material and financial nature. This may include a spoliated apartment, business assets, confiscated art or furniture, money or jewellery. In such cases, the victims are compensated by the State upon the Commission's recommendation.

Spoliation may also be the work of banks and financial institutions (blocked accounts, unreturned assets, unclaimed life insurance policies, etc.). For these specific cases, compensation is awarded through funds provided by the banks.

The CIVS aims to offer material reparation. Non-material harm does not fall within its remit. The specificity and uniqueness of its mechanism lie in the broad range of losses it examines, which may be subject to reparation in the form of compensation or, more rarely, restitution.

When the Commission recommends compensation, it takes into account any previous payments made by the French authorities for war damages and/or by the German authorities under the BRÜG federal law, in order to avoid double compensation. Conversely, it may also recommend additional compensation where appropriate.

Decisions on compensation are taken by the Prime Minister, after consultation with the CIVS. These decisions are notified to the claimants. The National Office for War Veterans and Victims of War is responsible for implementing them. The settlement of bank compensation is governed by a specific mechanism determined by the Washington Agreement and managed by the United Jewish Welfare Fund.

The CIVS may, in particular, recommend compensation or restitution measures.

In 2024, the damages examined that were eligible for compensation were:

- ▶ the looting of apartments and the spoliation of musical instruments and radio sets found therein, the looting of a place of refuge,
- ▶ professional spoliation or the Aryanisation of businesses, represented by the loss of work tools, which could lead to the temporary or permanent closure of the business (sale, removal from the commercial register and the trades register, etc.) committed by a provisional administrator under the authority of the Commissariat-General for Jewish Affairs. While the Commission compensates for tangible and intangible property, it does not compensate for lost revenue or income related to the inability to carry out professional activities during the Occupation.
- ▶ Unpaid insurance policies and spoliation of bank assets,
- ▶ Confiscation of valuables held during internment in a camp,
- ▶ The payment of fees for smuggling to unoccupied France or across borders,
- ▶ Theft or forced sale of moveable cultural property when such property has disappeared. The CIVS recommends that it be compensated on the basis of its estimated value at the time of the spoliation. Claimed works may also have been the subject of previous compensation paid under the German Federal Act on the Settlement of Claims of Persons Affected by the National Socialist Oppression (BRÜG); as the amount of compensation awarded under this Act generally corresponds to 50% of the estimated loss, the CIVS's practice is to recommend compensation for such deductions.

Restitution

With regard to the restitution of cultural property, it is up to the holders of the spoliated property to implement the Commission's recommendation.

In 2024, the CIVS recommended to the Prime Minister the restitution of three oil paintings by Fédor Lowenstein, listed in the MNR (National Museums Recovery) inventory: *Les Peupliers* (50 x 70 cm), *Arbres* (54 x 65 cm), and *Composition* (Paysage).

The Commission also examined, pursuant to the law of 22 July 2023, its first case concerning the restitution of an item from the public collections. The item in question is a book held in the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), authored by Gustav Ludwig and Pompeo Molmenti, titled *Vittore Carpaccio: The Life and Work of the Painter*, translated by H. L. de Perera, Paris, Hachette, 1910.

Through its opinion issued on 17 January 2025, the CIVS will thus enable the BnF to waive the principle of inalienability in order to remove a spoliated cultural asset from the public domain so that it can be returned to its rightful owners.

Restitutions



A particular form of reparation, restitution may seem to be the most successful form, by handing over to families the object taken by force and returning it to the heritage that was spoliated. However, there are difficulties with restitution.

The first of these concerns the handover of the property when several heirs are identified. In these situations, it is the Commission's task to help find a solution between the people concerned.

Another difficulty arose when the spoliated work was held in a public collection, or an equivalent institution, and was therefore protected under the principle of the inalienability of public property. Since the entry into force of the law of 22 July 2023, the opinion issued by the CIVS can allow such spoliated property to be removed from the public domain in order to be returned to its rightful owners.

The study of cultural spoliations

is entrusted to the M2RS,
part of the Ministry of Culture.

David Zivie, Head of M2RS

"The Mission for Research and Restitution of Cultural Property Spoliated between 1933 and 1945 (M2RS), part of the Ministry of Culture and responsible for coordinating the policy on reparations for cultural spoliation during the Nazi era, works closely with the CIVS.



The M2RS conducts research on the cultural aspects of the cases submitted to the Commission by families — tracing the victims' histories, reconstructing the sequence of events, and identifying and determining the fate of the spoliated property, which may, if lost, be subject to compensation or, if located in a public institution, be restituted. In addition, the M2RS refers cases to the CIVS to propose the restitution of items from the National Museums Recovery (MNR) or from public collections, following proactive research efforts carried out in collaboration with museums and libraries.

The work of the M2RS and that of the CIVS are therefore entirely complementary. Together, we are trying to respond to the demand for reparations for spoliation by responding to claims from victims or by reaching out to them and their heirs to offer restitution. Many cultural properties that were spoliated have not been returned, whether they are in private hands or in public collections; our joint action remains essential."

Approximately 2,200 unreturned works have been identified as “National Museums Recovery” (MNR)



On 16 May 2024, two MNR works, a painting by Auguste Renoir and a painting by Alfred Sisley, were returned on the recommendation of the CIVS to the heirs of **Grégoire Schusterman**.



On 4 June 2024, two MNR works, an oil on panel by Floris van Shooten and an oil on panel by Pieter Binoit, were restituted, on the recommendation of the CIVS, to the heirs of **Mathilde Javal** and have since joined the collections of the Louvre.

The heirs of the Javal family donated the two restituted paintings to the Louvre Museum.

The CIVS was referred the case of two oil on panels, classified as MNR works, which had been assigned to the Louvre in 1950. Research established that the two works had belonged to the Javal family and had been subject to spoliation. The CIVS therefore recommended their restitution to the heirs of Mathilde Javal. On 4 June 2024, after the State returned these two works, Mathilde Javal's heirs donated them to the Louvre Museum.

► **Marion Bursaux-Mérel,**
heir of Mathilde Javal

« "My first contact with the CIVS came in 2020, when a rapporteur called me to inform me that a decision was about to be made regarding the restitution of two paintings spoliated in 1944 from my great-grand-aunt, Mathilde Javal.

Given the number of heirs — forty-eight — she asked me to be the point of contact. Until then, I knew nothing about the CIVS or the restitution process.

Unexpectedly, this was the starting point for a series of steps that led to the re-establishment of family ties, the reconstruction of a memory that had not been passed on to the generations born after the Second World War, and the organisation of an exhibition on the history of the spoliation and restitution of the paintings at the Louvre Museum, to which the family donated the paintings."



► **Laurence des Cars,**
President and Director
of the Louvre Museum

« "The Louvre Museum has been engaged in significant provenance research for many years.

The restitution of two still-life paintings, spoliated in 1944 from the Javal family and entrusted to the care of the Louvre in 1951 under the status of MNR ('National Museums Recovery'), is the result of a patient collective investigation to trace the descendants of Alice, Adolphe, Mathilde, Sabine, and Isabelle Javal. Their donation of the works to the Louvre by the family's heirs is an honour for us.

It is also, above all, a powerful reminder never to forget the suffering and crimes endured by Jewish families during the Occupation. It urges us to continue our research so that other works can also be returned and that no stain remains on the national collections."



The flexibility afforded by the texts sometimes allows the CIVS to play a conciliatory role.

The Court of Accounts publishes a report on reparations for cultural spoliations

On 24 September 2024, the Court of Accounts published a thematic public report on France's efforts to provide reparation for the spoliation of cultural property committed between 1933 and 1945.

"Three reasons justified the particular attention given to this issue and the Court's decision to take it up: the scale of the spoliation of cultural property, which remains largely unknown even today; the long delay with which the State began, after the turn of the 1990s, to restitute spoliated cultural property and compensate victims when the property had disappeared; and the testimony these objects continue to bear regarding the crimes committed between 1933 and 1945, as the generation of direct victims of the Holocaust passes away and their children grow older."

On 30 September, Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister at the time of the creation of the CIVS, opened the symposium organised at the Court of Accounts to mark the publication of this report.

"We still have a duty today to ensure that all those lives that were stolen, abused, destroyed and lost during the Occupation remain present in our own lives through the restitution of the spoliations carried out during that period. There is no reason to believe that everything or almost everything has been done in terms of restitution. And the present does not encourage us to think that anti-Semitism is a thing of the past and no longer requires our vigilance. We are still bound by a dual obligation of justice: that owed to the victims of spoliations and that owed to the memory of anti-Semitic persecutions."

Reconciliation

The Commission's work may lead it to be approached spontaneously by individuals wishing to return property acquired in France during the Second World War, without being able to confirm that its acquisition was the result of anti-Semitic spoliation. In this case, although the CIVS does not have the authority to issue a formal recommendation, it can offer to put the individuals in touch with those likely to accept this property.

The CIVS prefers to return spoliated cultural property as opposed to compensation, which it only recommends as an alternative when restitution is not possible. This practice therefore leads it to conduct research in order to try to locate the spoliated works and consider the possibility of restitution.

Admittedly, the CIVS cannot issue binding opinions to private entities or private collectors who may be in possession of works whose ownership is disputed. The same applies to all foreign entities, regardless of their legal status. However, its legal nature and the flexibility conferred on it by the legislation that governs it mean that it can sometimes play a conciliatory role.

The CIVS can provide guidance to individuals who wish to return items with a questionable origin.

Five works of art returned to Pontivy



Five works of art returned by the heirs of a German soldier were handed over by the CIVS to the town of Pontivy (Morbihan). They had been

taken to Germany by a Wehrmacht soldier stationed in Pontivy. Christine Le Strat, mayor of Pontivy, presided over the ceremony on 31 May.

date stamps returned to the Musée de la Poste



On 22 October 2024, 216 date stamps, which had been moved to Germany during the war, were handed over to the *La Poste* museum in Paris by the *Museum für Kommunikation* in Berlin. The CIVS acted as an advisor to the German and French institutions.

A painting sold to benefit the SNSM



A painting by Seevagen depicting Paimpol (Côtes-d'Armor), given to a German officer during the Occupation, was sold by his grandson to benefit sea rescue workers. He suspected spoliation and wanted to donate the painting to France. The CIVS conducted research and guided the officer's grandson in his efforts.

Jean-Pierre Bady (1939-2024)

The CIVS learned with sadness of the passing of Jean-Pierre Bady, Honorary Senior Counsellor at the Court of Accounts, who served as a member of the CIVS deliberative panel from its creation in 1999 until January 2024. Throughout his career, this distinguished public servant worked to raise awareness among new generations of museum professional, particularly curators, and among art market actors about issues relating to the spoliation of cultural property and provenance research.

It was thanks to his extensive work that, on 15 March 2013, the Minister of Culture announced the creation of a working group dedicated to the proactive search for the rightful owners of spoliated MNR works. His commitment contributed to the expansion of the Commission's remit regarding cultural property in 2018, and to the amendment of the Heritage Code by the law of 22 July 2023 on the restitution of spoliated cultural property. Jean-Pierre Bady's efforts were decisive in implementing the policy of returning cultural property to victims of anti-Semitic spoliations.



International COOPERATION

In 2024, the CIVS strengthened the international dimension of its work. Between developing the European network of restitution commissions, of which the CIVS took over the chairmanship in September, participating in international conferences, organising Franco-German events, exploring new archives in Europe and engaging in dialogue with heirs residing around the world, the commission has strengthened its influence beyond France's borders. The development of the CIVS's international relations is now a necessity.

Exploring new archival collections

The CIVS's primary mission is to reconstruct family biographies shattered by anti-Semitic persecution and the crimes of National Socialism. Very often, the claims handled by the CIVS relate to life stories shaped by emigration, the blending of languages and cultures, the scattering of families after the war, and exile.

► Coralie Vom Hofe, Researcher, CIVS branch in Berlin

“In order to understand the experiences of its claimants, maintain transparent and trusting relationships with them, and identify archives

throughout Europe and beyond that are useful for processing cases, the CIVS must step up its international efforts.

This involves developing working relationships with international experts, exploring new archival collections outside France, and strengthening the intercultural resources of the commission's teams.”



The commission must adapt to the expansion of its remit: the CIVS is now responsible for investigating cases relating to the spoliation of cultural property under Nazi rule between 1933 and 1945. Spoliated cultural property generally crossed borders. Investigating these cases therefore requires a transnational view of the facts and research in different countries.

European cooperation

The CIVS draws on exchanges within the European Network of Commissions for the Restitution of Cultural Property Spoliated between 1933 and 1945. This network brings together commissions set up in Germany, Austria, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

The CIVS participates

in international efforts to return cultural property.



Symposium in Amsterdam

On 12 September 2024, the CIVS, represented by its director Gilles Bon-Maury and Coralie Vom Hofe, project officer, took part in an international symposium organised by the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE) in Amsterdam. The CIVS thus contributed to discussions on the future of policies for the restitution of cultural property spoliated during the Second World War.

Conference in Prague

On 17 September 2024, the CIVS, represented by its director, took part in an international conference organised in Prague by the Documentation Centre for the Transfer of Cultural Property Belonging to Victims of the Second World War (CDPM). The conference, entitled *Transferred to Reich Ownership*, was organised by the Czech Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs and provided an opportunity to meet the commission's European partners.



Ten years of research celebrated in Magdeburg



On 10 December 2024, the CIVS, represented by its director Gilles Bon-Maury and Julien Acquatella, head of its Berlin office, attended the 10th anniversary ceremony of the *Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste*. On this occasion, the cooperation developed since 2015 between the CIVS and the *Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste* was recognised as a major Franco-German partnership. At the event, which was chaired by Germany's Minister of State for Culture, Claudia Roth, the President of the *Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste*, Gilbert Lupfer, announced that a new cooperation agreement between the CIVS and the Zentrum would be signed in March 2025.

State visit by the President of the French Republic

The CIVS helped organise the state visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to Germany from 24 to 26 May 2024. Its team in Berlin was responsible for preparing the visit to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and the award ceremony for Beate and Serge Klarsfeld at the French Embassy in Berlin. The CIVS, represented by its director, was involved in these events. On 27 May at the Embassy, the President of the French Republic recalled that:



*"France implemented a unique policy of compensation for victims of anti-Semitic spoliations.
And there is still so much to be done."*

A European network, established in 2019, brings together commissions for the restitution of spoliated cultural property.

The European network

The CIVS is very actively involved in the work of the network of European commissions for the restitution of cultural property spoliated between 1933 and 1945. Established in 2019 in the spirit of the Washington Principles (1998), this network is made up of restitution commissions created in Germany, Austria, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

This network contributes to the transparency of restitution policies, puts them into perspective and facilitates the exchange of information, views and expertise between the five restitution commissions, which share the same challenges. They occasionally work on the same cases or similar cases.

On 23 May 2024, the CIVS, represented by Dominique Ribeyre, member of the deliberative panel, Gilles Bon-Maury, Sylviane Rochotte and Coralie Vom Hofe, took part in a conference in London dedicated to European cooperation and organised by the Spoliation Advisory Panel, the French commission's partner in Great Britain.

On 1 September 2024, the CIVS took over the chairmanship of the network of European commissions for the restitution of cultural property spoliated between 1933 and 1945, five years after first assuming this role.

Following on from the London meeting, the CIVS organised a working meeting in Paris on 1 October 2024, attended by representatives of the five commissions making up the network. During this working meeting, Chair Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter presented the programme developed by the CIVS for the European network in 2024 and 2025: the creation of a monitoring group, the organisation of regular operational meetings via videoconference, the redesign of the network's newsletter, the organisation of a working seminar in Berlin, and a public conference in Paris in summer 2025 centred on the voices of families and claimants. As of October 2024, together with the network's members, the CIVS began implementing this ambitious work programme.



Committee meeting in London, 23 May 2024



Committee meeting in Paris, 1 October 2024

Events

Remembrance through Culture

The Commission's legal action on behalf of victims cannot be dissociated from the memory of spoliation, persecutions in France and the Holocaust.

This is why the reparation, restitution and compensation measures are extended to projects that pursue the same ambition, *"to find the right words to describe the horror and to express the sorrow of those who lived through this tragedy"* (commemoration of the Vel' d'Hiv' Roundup, Jacques Chirac, 16 July 1995).

For several years now, the Commission has been carrying out this action in France and Germany in various ways, such as participation in cultural activities, support for research, memorial events, or participation in restitution initiatives.

► **Mattéo Grouard,** curator of the "Monuments men" exhibition

«
"On 18 October 2024,
I had the privilege of
welcoming the CIVS to
the Château

de La Roche-Guyon
(Val-d'Oise) for a guided tour
of my exhibition *Monuments Men*,
which aims to highlight the little-known
efforts of a small group of men and
women who, during the Second World
War, risked their lives to protect, rescue,
and return Europe's cultural heritage.

Shining a spotlight on the figure of
Rose Valland and the vital role played by
Allied services in the search for spoliated
works, this travelling exhibition forms
part of a wider effort to raise awareness
of issues relating to remembrance,
restitution, and reparation. Presenting
this project to the CIVS, which now
continues this work of justice and
humanity, highlighted the importance of
carrying these commitments forward.



As we prepare to commemorate
80 years since the end of the war and
the beginning of post-war art recovery,
I am convinced that passing
on this history will continue to inspire
the greatest achievements made
possible by the alliance and mutual trust
between restitution services.
For my part, I will continue to keep alive
the memory of 'all those who fought
during the last war to save a little of
the world's beauty.'"

The events in which

*the CIVS teams participate contribute
to their training and cohesion.*

Presentations in schools

In 2024, the CIVS organised testimonies by Holocaust survivors, including Gisèle Flachs, Esther Sénot, Léon Placek and Janine Marx-Moyse, in several German schools. The CIVS also spoke to secondary school pupils in France: Clément Maral, head of the SCR, at the Colonel Fabien secondary school in Montreuil on 23 January; Gilles Bon-Maury, head teacher, at the Paul Bert secondary school in Paris on 12 December.

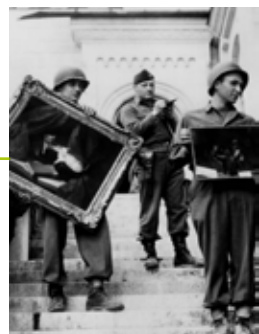


Screening of the film "Le tableau volé"

On 5 April 2024, the CIVS organised a preview screening of the film "Le tableau volé" (*The Stolen Painting*) in Paris, followed by a discussion with its director, Pascal Bonitzer.

Visit to the "Monuments men" exhibition

On 18 October 2024, the CIVS visited the Monuments Men exhibition at the Château de la Roche-Guyon, dedicated to cultural and artistic heritage in times of war and more specifically to the history of this battalion of experts attached to the Allied troops.



Screening of the film "Un tout petit numéro"

On 11 November 2024, the CIVS co-organised with the Topography of Terror Documentation Centre (Berlin) a screening and discussion of the film "Un tout petit numéro" (*A Tiny Number*), which tells the story of Rahmil Vainberg, who was deported from France in one of the first convoys to Auschwitz.



Theatrical performance of "Lola Blau"

On 13 November 2024, the CIVS, in cooperation with its partners, the Jewish Claims Conference and the French Embassy in Germany, organised a performance of Georg Kreisler's play Lola Blau, which deals with the history of the Holocaust.

Visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps

On 5 December 2024, the CIVS, represented by its director, took part in a trip to Auschwitz organised by the Jewish chaplaincy of the armed forces. The delegation, led by Haïm Korsia, Chief Rabbi of France, included parliamentarians, civil society actors and schoolchildren.





Testimony of Gisèle Flachs, Holocaust survivor, in Berlin,
16 May 2024.



Testimony of Esther Sénot, survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, in Berlin,
4 June 2024.



Testimony of Léon Placek, survivor of Bergen-Belsen, in Berlin, 18 September 2024.
Exhibition "Déportés, leur ultime transmission", photo: Karine Sicard-Bouvatier.



Testimony of Janine Marx-Moyse, survivor of Bergen-Belsen,
hosted by Julien Acquatella in Berlin, 25 September 2024.

Resources

Resources of the CIVS

14 MEMBERS

of the deliberative panel

government

1 COMMISSIONER

10 JUDGES

appointed to the CIVS



5 from the regular court system

5 from the administrative courts

The CIVS, an agency with specific missions, is constantly mindful of adapting its staff and its resources to the level of its activity. It is constantly adapting to improve the quality of the service it provides, both in the way it conducts searches and investigations and in the way it welcomes claimants.

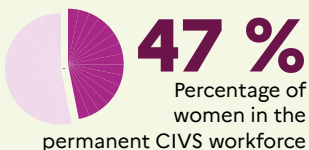
This concern for the service provided and the quest for efficiency are the two objectives that dictate the process of modernising and renewing the CIVS, its tools and its methods.

The CIVS is adapting its resources and practices to improve the quality of the service provided.



permanent
19 EMPLOYEES
in 2024

45 YEARS
Average age of
permanent CIVS employees



3 SITES

- Ségur-Fontenoy site in Paris
- National Archives in Pierrefitte-sur-Seine
- French Embassy in Berlin



56

Number of training courses
delivered in 2024

3

IT

4

Foreign languages

9

Equality, diversity
and safety at work



10

Sustainable development

10

Preparation for
competitive examinations

22

HR and
professional environment

Appendices

Deliberative panel members

Alya Aglan, professor of contemporary history at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, is a specialist in the Second World War and the history of the resistance in France and Europe.



Gilles Andréani, Honorary Chamber President at the Court of Accounts, formerly headed the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also currently chairs the National Defence Secrecy Commission.



Claire Andrieu, professor of contemporary history at the Paris Institute of Political Studies, is a specialist in 20th-century political and social history. She was notably a member of the Study Mission on the Spoliation of Jews in France.



Charles-Edouard Bucher, associate professor of private law and university professor at Nantes Université, heads the Private Law Research Institute and the university diploma programme in "Art and Cultural Law".



Christophe Devys, Honorary Section President at the Council of State, is Vice-Chair of the Commission. He has notably served as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Justice, Social Adviser to the Prime Minister, and Director of the Regional Health Agency for Île-de-France. He also chairs the National Council for Higher Education and Research, which rules on disciplinary matters.



Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter, Honorary Advisor to the Court of Cassation, is Chair of the Commission. A professor of law (*Professeure agrégée des facultés de droit*) and a member of the Court of Cassation since 2010, she has been involved in the work of the National Consultative Ethics Committee for Health and Life Sciences.



Sarah Gensburger, a recognised expert, is Director of Research at the CNRS within the Centre for the Sociology of Organisations at Sciences Po. As a sociologist and political scientist, she analyses policies on remembrance, both in how they are created and how they are received. As a historian, she studies anti-Semitic spoliation.



Alain Lacabarats, Honorary Chamber President at the Court of Cassation, previously presided over the Court's Third Civil Chamber and later its Social Chamber. He has served as President of the Consultative Council of European Judges and was a member of the High Council for the Judiciary. He currently chairs the panel of experts responsible for implementing the standards and recommendations of the International Labour Organization.



Agathe Marbaud de Brénignan, a qualified expert, has been a partner notary since 2003 and specialises in family inheritance law. She was a member of the Paris Chamber of Notaries from 2020 to 2023.



Catherine Périn, Senior Advisor to the Court of Accounts, was also a technical advisor to the Minister for Housing and worked in the private sector (Pechiney group). At the Court, she has held the positions of Principal Rapporteur responsible for budget implementation, Company Secretary of the Council on Compulsory Levies and Section Chair. She is a member of the High Council of Public Finance and the National Commission for Campaign Accounts and Political Financing.



Xavier Perrot, university professor of legal history and institutions at Clermont Auvergne University. He conducts research in the field of cultural heritage history and the historical and legal anthropology of animals.



Dominique Ribeyre, has been an auctioneer since 1975. He served as president of the National Chamber of Auctioneers. A member of the Advisory Committee on National Treasures, he also assists the Government Commissioner at the Council of Auction Houses.



Ines Rotermund-Reynard, art historian and germanist. A specialist in the French art market during the Occupation, she has been a provenance researcher at the Musée d'Orsay since 2023.



Henri Toutée, chaired the Finance Section of the Council of State for seven years. Previously, he notably advised the President of the Republic of Senegal, headed the cabinet of the Minister for the Environment, and chaired the National Agency for the Reception of Foreign Nationals and Migration. He was also a member of the Supervisory Board of the Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority.



Organisation of the CIVS as of 31 December 2024

Chaired by Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter, honorary judge at the Court of Cassation, the CIVS is an advisory commission attached to the Prime Minister. Its deliberative panel rules on the claims submitted to the CIVS, once they have been examined by judges acting as rapporteurs for the Commission. The CIVS staff register the claims, gather the necessary documentation for their examination by the rapporteurs, organise the panel's proceedings and ensure their follow-up.

Chair

- **Frédérique Dreifuss-Netter**, Honorary Counsellor at the Court of Cassation

Vice-Chair

- **Christophe Devys**, Honorary Section President at the Conseil d'État

Government Commissioner

- **Bertrand Dacosta**, State Counsellor

Judges appointed to the Commission

Principal Rapporteur

- **Bénédicte Vassallo-Pasquet**, First Advocate General at the Court of Cassation

Rapporteurs

- **Anne Berriat**, First Advocate General at the Court of Cassation
- **Marie-Florence Bochart**, Honorary Judge of the administrative court system
- **Brigitte Chokron**, Honorary Judge of the regular court system
- **Marie-Nil Chounet**, Audit Judge on special assignment at the Court of Accounts
- **Thierry Léon Damelincourt**, Presiding Judge of the Investigating Chamber at the Paris Court of Appeal
- **Nicolas-Raphaël Fouque**, Senior Councillor at the Regional and Territorial Chamber of Accounts
- **Evelyne Paix**, Presiding Judge at the Administrative Court of Appeal of Marseille
- **Dominique Reygner**, Honorary Advisor to the Court of Cassation
- **Patrick Sitbon**, Senior Advisor to the Court of Accounts

Commission Departments

- ▶ **Gilles Bon-Maury**, Director
- ▶ **Sylviane Rochotte**, Deputy Director

Research Coordination Department

- ▶ **Clément Maral**, Head of Department
- ▶ **Thomas Baumann**
- ▶ **Mayeul Lacroix de Villeneuve**
- ▶ **Cécile Poulot**
- ▶ **Isabelle Rixte**

Hearings Secretariat

- ▶ **Sylviane Rochotte**, Head of Department
- ▶ **Catherine Cercus-Chieze**
- ▶ **Matthieu Charmoillaux**
- ▶ **Emmanuel Dumas**
- ▶ **Myriam Dupont**

International relations - Berlin

- ▶ **Julien Acquatella**, Head of Department
- ▶ **Sébastien Cadet**
- ▶ **Coralie Vom Hofe**

Cross-functional departments

- ▶ **Nathalie Leclercq**, Administrative and Financial Manager
- ▶ **Richard Decocq**, Data Supervision, Digital Communications
- ▶ **Stéphane Portet**, Data Supervision
- ▶ **Myriam Dupont**, Claimant Support
- ▶ **Nathalie Zihoune**, Claimant Support

Secretary to the Chair and the Government Commissioner: **Catherine Cercus-Chieze**

Secretary to the Principal Rapporteur: **Myriam Dupont**

Secretary to the rapporteurs: **Nathalie Zihoune**

The CIVS would also like to thank **Simon Braillon**, **Liora Khayat**, **Miriam Palai**, **Julie Sidrot** and **Anne-Flore Valdeyron** for their contribution to the work of the CIVS in 2024.

Report on the amounts recommended from the creation of the CIVS to 31 December 2024

- 1 Compensation for material spoliation: **€540,212,893**
- 2 Compensation for bank-related spoliation: **€56,682,115**
This amount can be broken down as follows:
 - Escrow Account – Fund A: €15,754,031 + €4,195,681
(in respect of Fund B since October 2008) = €19,949,712
 - Fund B: €24,080,820 (depleted in October 2008)i.e. **€44,030,532** to be borne by banks, plus **€1,779,198**
for reserved portions not yet paid out
(source: Caisse des dépôts et consignations and the United Jewish Welfare Fund)
Plus the amounts allocated by the State for bank-related spoliation:
€10,872,385
- 3 ▸ The total compensation paid or to be paid therefore amounts to:
€551,085,278 by the State
€45,809,730 by the banks

Opinions published by the CIVS following a hearing review in 2024

The CIVS has decided to make a selection of opinions available to researchers and victims' families by publishing them on its website (under: *Publications > Avis publiés*). Information enabling the individuals mentioned in the opinion to be identified is concealed if its disclosure is likely to infringe the privacy of these individuals or their close family.

► Opinion No. 24647 M BCM of 25 April 2024

Compensation – Spoliation of Georges Rieger and Christine Scharfenberg in Paris – Furniture, cultural property, fees of the provisional administrator, and re-registration costs

► Opinion No. 24634 M BCM of 16 May 2024

Compensation – Spoliation of Srul Weissberg and Ita Jancovici in Paris and Nice – Partial loss of clientele, smuggler's fees, personal effects, and confiscated property and assets

► Opinion No. 24616 M BCM of 30 May 2024

Compensation – Spoliation of Robert Levy and Maria, known as Mary, Asseo in Rouen – Professional property, provisional administrator's fees, smuggler's fees, and legal costs

► Opinion No. 24005 BCM II of 18 June 2024

Compensation – Spoliation of Fédor Löwenstein in Bordeaux – Paintings

► Opinion No. 24619 M B BCM of 28 June 2024

BCM Request – Stay of proceedings – Spoliation of Charles Oulmont in Saint-Cloud and Charmoy – Works of art and library

► Opinion No. 24688 M BCM of 26 June 2024

BCM request denied – Spoliation of Eugène Baehr and Anna Barbari in Saint-Cloud – Furniture, cultural property, smuggler's fees

► Opinion No. 24640 BCM of 5 November 2024

BCM request denied – Spoliation of Dora Kauert – 4 paintings by Giorgio de Chirico

► Opinion No. 23546 BCM REST of 17 January 2025

Restitution – Spoliation of August Liebmann Mayer in Paris – 1 book held in the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)

► Opinion No. 24005 BCM REST III of 17 January 2025

Restitution – Spoliation of Fédor Löwenstein in Bordeaux – (MNR) R26P, R27P and R28P



REMEMBRANCE

RESTITUTION

COMPENSATION