

**Question for written answer E-004434/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Jewish cemeteries in Europe

Seventy years after the destruction of European Jews in the Holocaust, many towns and villages in central and eastern Europe lack any physical vestige that they once teemed with Jewish life and culture. In other places, the last remnant, the cemetery, has been left to neglect and vandalism, often the work of criminal and racist elements.

1. Does the Commission believe that there is a need for pan-European legislation to protect these sites?
2. Is the Commission aware of any existing national and/or pan-European legislation that protects this vital element of Jewish and European culture and history in Europe?
3. Are any cultural and educational programmes available in Member States to inform young people about local Jewish history centred on these physical sites?
4. Does the Commission see the need to specifically legislate to provide a standardised model for adoption by Member States?
5. Since much potential protection work in this field needs to be accomplished by local authorities, what, if any, contacts have been made by the Commission at inter-ministerial level or with the Committee of the Regions?