



16 RUE DE LA LOI
1000 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM
Phone: 32 (0) 2/213.44.60

**Indemnification Commission
for the Belgian Jewish Community' assets**

COMMUNIQUÉ 20th October 2003

FIRST DECISIONS AND SETTLEMENTS

The Commission is aware of the rightful expectations of more than 6000 people who have submitted an indemnification claim and since it has been informed of widespread rumours and misunderstandings of all kinds, it is anxious to briefly take stock of the situation.

On 9th September 2003, the expiration deadline for submitting claims, the Commission had investigated a first series of files as regards content. It had therefore entered the first phase of the systematic examination of claims, giving first priority to those that had been submitted by the oldest among the despoiled persons.

Since September, the Commission has been meeting fortnightly on fixed days. The first notices of decision will be sent to a number of people concerned in the next few days. The Commission is anxious that those decisions, which are definitive, should duly **state the grounds on which they are based:**

- in the affirmative, by mentioning the bases upon which it decided to grant indemnification,
- in the negative, for instance, when it has stated that certain assets have already been the subject of a previous indemnification settlement.

The order to pay is transmitted to the "Administration de la Trésorerie, SFP Finances" (Administration of the Treasury, FPS Finances) once the notice has been sent. The payment preferably takes place by transfer to bank account.

It is worth recalling once again that the Commission has adopted flexible criteria as far as the burden of proof is concerned and that it does its reasonable best to accede to the claims. It complements them even if the examination of a claim reveals positive aspects that the actual claimant failed to mention. However, the Commission has obviously to work within the framework of the law and can only grant indemnification, possibly on a fixed basis, for the loss of **material goods**.

The Commission commits itself to doing its best to deal with the claims from the oldest people in the very next months.