

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON 31/12/2006**

The Commission integrates different claims referring to the same despoiled assets into a single dossier. A single claimant can consequently be associated with several dossiers (parents, grandparents, uncle, etc.), just as, vice versa, several beneficiaries are often identified in relation to a single despoilment dossier. This is why the statistics differ, depending whether they refer to the number of *despoilment dossiers* or the number of *claims* handled.

Initially the secretariat, based on the various claims received, had recorded more than 6,000 “despoilment dossiers”. This number has already been reduced as we went along, by grouping together the various claims submitted by different people but relating to the same household (parents, grandparents, relatives and underage children forming part of the household), and in a final report it will be brought down to a considerably lower figure.

It is consequently *the table from the appendix* which forms the most accurate progress report: 88 % of the 5.640 claims had been finally dealt with as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

### **a) Despoilment dossiers finally dealt with as of 31.12.2006**

The number of despoilment dossiers finally dealt with has changed as follows:

	Total number of dossiers finally dealt with	Of which	
		Positive decision	Negative decision
Last quarter 2003	246	187	59
Year 2004	1,148	949	199
Year 2005	1,775	1,595	180
Year 2006	1,527	1,409	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,696</b>	<b>4,140</b>	<b>556</b>

During 2006, the Commission thus finally dealt with a total of **1,527 despoilment dossiers**. In almost 90% of cases, the decision was positive. In a little over 10%, it was found necessary to reject the claim (no time spent in Belgium between 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1940 and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1945; no evidence of despoilment having taken place in Belgium; all goods specified already compensated for; degree of kinship not in conformity with the law).

At the end of 2006, the cumulative total for the indemnification payments approved by the Commission came to 26.3 million euros. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005, this amount had been 17.1 million euros.

The amounts awarded are communicated to the executive department of FPS Finance with the notification, provided that the number of the account into which the amount is to be paid has been communicated by telephone in the interim. The intervals between the decision, the notification and the payment are kept as short as possible. When payments are made abroad, the intervals are longer, given the fact that it is first necessary to send a written request to the foreign bank for the details of the account to be credited.

**b) Nature of compensation payments awarded**

<b>Nature of despoilment indemnified</b>	<b>Number of positive decisions</b>	<b>Total amount awarded as indemnification (in millions of euros)</b>
Furniture	1,538	10.8
Personal possessions	3,887	1.7
Unpaid salaries relating to forced labour	464	0.5
Financial assets	921	3.1
Company stock	2,650	6.7
Diamond stock	628	1.7
Property	94	0.6
Life insurance	41	0.7
Cultural items	23	0.1
Miscellaneous	64	0.4

These figures show something which had already been emphasised by the study commission: during the wartime period of 1940-1944, it was the Jewish population who suffered the most visible and tangible losses through the despoilment of furniture and the prohibition on all commercial activity. The Commission has a vast amount of documentation covering these areas, thanks to the “*Möbelaktion*” forms still available and to the commercial declarations (“*Anmeldungen*”), which it was compulsory to make in December 1940.

**c) Claims for indemnification finally dealt with as of 31.12.2006**

It is well known that the Commission took the claimants’ age as the point of departure in the processing of despoilment dossiers. Priority was given to the oldest claimants, some of whom had personally suffered despoilment.

Given that the dossiers are broken down by the type of furniture despoiled, younger claimants are equally affected by the processing when they are the rightful beneficiaries, as defined by the dossier, constituting a group.

In implementation of this policy, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, the Commission had succeeded, as illustrated by the table in the appendix, in finally dealing with all claims submitted by people born before 1939, apart from a few exceptions.

CLAIMANT'S YEAR OF BIRTH	NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS WHOSE FILE WAS COMPLETELY HANDLED	NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS WHOSE FILE WAS NOT YET HANDLED	NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS WHOSE FILE WAS PARTLY HANDLED	FILES' TOTAL AMOUNT WAITING FOR HANDLING SUM COLUMN D + E	FILES' TOTAL AMOUNTS
1900	9	1		1	
1901	1			0	
1902	4			0	
1903	4			0	
1904	7			0	
1905	6			0	
1906	8			0	
1907	12			0	
1908	8			0	
1909	20			0	
1910	26			0	
1911	25			1	1
1912	43			0	0
1913	35			1	1
1914	46			0	0
1915	37			0	0
1916	51			0	0
1917	47			0	0
1918	67	1		1	1
1919	74			0	0
1920	95	1		1	1
1921	130	1		1	1
1922	147	1		1	1
1923	136			0	0
1924	166			1	1
1925	165	1		1	2
1926	167			1	1
1927	198			0	0
1928	212			1	1
1929	221	2		2	2
1930	246	1		3	4
1931	246	2		2	2
1932	251	1		3	4
1933	232	5		2	7
1934	224			4	4
1935	171	3		2	5
1936	172	5		4	9
1937	196	7		5	12
1938	181	7		5	12
1939	150	22		5	27
1940	103	23		6	29
1941	68	7		5	12
1942	48	31		8	39
1943	26	35		8	43
1944	20	16		4	20
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT WITH A YEAR OF BIRTH (until 1944):</b>	4501	173	70	<b>243</b>	4744
<b>FILES WITHOUT A YEAR OF BIRTH</b>	272	106	30	<b>136</b>	408
<b>TOTAL AMOUNTS WITH AND WITHOUT A YEAR OF BIRTH:</b>	<b>4773</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>5152</b>

<b>FILES AFTER 1944</b>	174	220	65	<b>285</b>	459
<b>Other FILES (WITHOUT references e.g....)</b>	29			<b>0</b>	29
<b>FILES' TOTAL AMOUNT:</b>	<b>4976</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>5640</b>
	<b>88%</b>	9%	3%	<b>12%</b>	<b>100%</b>