



Above:  
Survivor Sofiya Karakots, a recipient of support from the Claims Conference, with her dog in front of her wooden house in Ukraine, ca. 2012.

Photo: Marco Limberg

Cover photo:  
Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany signing the Luxembourg Agreement on reparations for National Socialist injustice on 10 September 1952.

Photo: Claims Conference (2017):  
65 years of the Claims Conference, p. 11

The exhibition at the German Bundestag, which marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Luxembourg Agreement, was jointly created by the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Claims Conference, in cooperation with the Knesset Museum of the Israeli parliament.



Federal Ministry  
of Finance



ועידת התביעות  
Claims Conference  
Conference on Jewish Material Claims  
Against Germany



Wiedergut  
machung

### Information for visitors

The exhibition is being shown at the German Bundestag from 7 September – 5 October 2022, Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm:  
Paul Löbe Building, West Entrance  
Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 1, Berlin Mitte.

To visit the exhibition, you must register in advance by phone (+49 30 227-38883), e-mail ([ausstellungen@bundestag.de](mailto:ausstellungen@bundestag.de)) or online ([www.bundestag.de/parlamentarische-ausstellung](http://www.bundestag.de/parlamentarische-ausstellung)). You will be asked to provide the following information: full name, date of birth, and date and time when you would like to visit.

You can find further information about the exhibition as well as visitor information via the following link, which you can also access using the QR code:



[www.bundestag.de/ausstellung-luxemburger-abkommen](http://www.bundestag.de/ausstellung-luxemburger-abkommen)

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Deutscher Bundestag

## 70 years of the Luxembourg Agreement between Germany, Israel and the Jewish Claims Conference:

### Attempts at compensation for National Socialist injustice



The Shoah is considered to be the greatest crime against humanity and the darkest chapter in German history. The National Socialists and their allies murdered nearly six million people, caused dispossession, terror and immeasurable suffering, in their attempt to annihilate the Jewish people.

The end of persecution did not mean the end of hardship: countless people needed to start a new life in Europe, a continent ravaged by war and devastation. Hundreds of thousands were left with nothing but their lives, often marked deeply by what they had been subjected to. Many were unable or unwilling to return to their home countries.

Only seven years after the end of the Holocaust, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany – three entities that did not exist in the same form before the war – sat down around a table to negotiate the seemingly impossible. The resulting agreement, which they signed in Luxembourg in September 1952 after difficult talks, represents a historic milestone. It marked the start of ongoing efforts to address the needs and reduce the hardship of survivors. How did they manage it? And what has happened since?



Left:  
Survivors during the liberation of  
Auschwitz, Poland, 1945.  
*Photo: Yad Vashem*

Above:  
Letter from Federal Chancellor  
Konrad Adenauer to Nahum Gold-  
mann, the Chairman of the Claims  
Conference, 6 December 1951.  
*Photo: The Central Zionist Archives,  
Jerusalem*

6. Dezember 1951

Bundesrepublik Deutschland,  
Bz. Bundeskanzler

Herrn  
Dr. Nahum Goldmann,  
Vorsitzender der Conference of Jewish Claims  
Against Germany  
z.Zt. London

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Goldmann,

Unter Bezugnahme auf die Erklärung, die die Bundesregierung am 27.9.1951 im Bundestag abgab und in der sie sich bereit erklärte, mit Vertretern des juedischen Volkes und Israels Verhandlungen wegen der Wiedergutmachung der unter dem Nazistischen Regime entstandenen Schueden aufzunehmen, moechte ich Ihnen mitteilen, dass die Bundesregierung den Zeitpunkt fuer gekommen erachtet, in dem solche Verhandlungen beginnen sollten. Ich bitte Sie in Ihrer Eigenschaft als Vorsitzender der Conference of Jewish Claims Against Germany, sowohl dieser Konferenz als auch der Regierung Israels von dieser Bereitschaft Kenntnis zu geben.

Ich moechte dazu bemerken, dass die Bundesregierung in dem Problem der Wiedergutmachung vor allem auch eine moralische Verpflichtung sieht, und es fuer eine Ehrenpflicht des deutschen Volkes haelt, das Moegliche zu tun, um das an den juedischen Volke begangene Unrecht wiedergutzumachen. Die Bundesregierung wird in diesem Zusammenhang die Moeglichkeit begruessen, durch Warenlieferung zu dem Aufbau des Staates Israel einen Beitrag zu leisten. Die Bundesregierung wird bei diesen Verhandlungen die Ansprueche, die die Regierung des Staates Israel in ihrer Note vom 12.3.51. gestellt hat, zur Grundlage der Besprechungen machen.

Mit vorzueglicher Hochachtung  
Ihr ergebener  
A D E N A U E R

On nine large, internally illuminated cubes, the exhibition traces the history of Jewish material claims after the Shoah, as well as Germany's efforts to take responsibility for the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. It uses images, text and diagrams to illustrate the evolution of this important task over the last seventy years, the adjustments and improvements made to it, and plans for its future. The survivors of the Holocaust are at the heart of the exhibition, which from a variety of different perspectives explores every aspect of the joint efforts towards a common goal, renegotiated and agreed on again and again over the course of decades. The exhibition makes clear that, although it will never be possible to atone for the crimes committed by the Nazis, the efforts to help the victims will not end.



Right:  
Members of the negotiating delega-  
tion of the Claims Conference at a  
meeting with members of the Ger-  
man Federal Ministry of Finance in  
March 2011, from left to right: Ben  
Helfgott, Roman Kent, Ambassador  
Stuart Eizenstat, Greg Schneider,  
Saul Kagan, Ambassador Reuven  
Merhav.  
*Photo: Claims Conference (2017):  
65 years of the Claims Conference,  
p. 34*