

German Forced Labour Compensation Programme (GFLCP) Property Loss Programme

The Property Loss Programme (PLP) and the independent Property Claims Commission (PCC) were established in 2001 under the wider German Forced Labour Compensation Programme (GFLCP) overseen by IOM.

As such, USD 108 million (200 million DM, currency at the time) was allocated to compensate Jewish and non-Jewish persons who suffered property losses or damage to property caused by the conduct of German companies under the Nazi regime. The compensation also covered the relevant property loss claims that were not covered under previous legislation. This was particularly relevant as the PCC defined property as “any and all immovable, moveable, tangible and intangible assets”, which was a broader definition than used in any previous reparation programme.

In 2001, the German government designated IOM to process the PLP claims. IOM served as the secretariat of the independent PCC to prepare claims and suggest decisions, which were subsequently reviewed and finally decided by the PCC.

The worldwide distribution of Property Loss claim forms (in 7 languages) began in June 2001. By 31 December of the same year, the stipulated deadline for claim submissions, IOM had received more than 35,000 claims.

The PLP faced a number of implementation challenges given the highly complex nature, high volume

and very broad scope and diversity of the claims. For instance, over half of the claims were filed by the victims' heirs, which made determining the validity of claims difficult.

Given the challenges, in addition to its role as a secretariat of the process and technical advisor for the PCC, IOM assisted claimants in gathering evidence, as well as directed claimants to relevant commercial registers and land registries. When possible, IOM also undertook historic research with respect to specific groupings of claims or circumstances of loss.

The PCC completed its work in the spring of 2006, having processed more than 35,000 claims. As the “direct participation of a German enterprise” was in most cases not given, the PCC could only approve and fully or partially compensate 5,500 claims.

Kindly note that the GFLCP Property Loss Programme has now been completed and that IOM can no longer accept claims, issue cheques or make new payments to beneficiaries.

For more information, kindly contact iomrp@iom.int