



Press Release

The Advisory Commission will terminate its activities as of 30 November 2025. The case of the heirs of Robert Graetz v. the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg as well as all other pending cases, cannot be concluded in the remaining time

10 October 2025

The Advisory Commission on the return of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, especially Jewish property, has notified the parties in the case of the heirs of Robert Graetz versus the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg that it is unable to conclude the proceedings with the issuance of a recommendation. The Advisory Commission deemed further clarification and an oral hearing necessary to clarify whether the disputed painting formed part of the Graetz collection. However, there was not sufficient time for this, as the federal government, the Länder, and the national associations of local authorities have resolved that the Advisory Commission shall terminate its activities as of 30 November 2025. Given the deadlines set forth in the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Commission, it will therefore not be possible to conclude the proceedings within the remaining period.

The Advisory Commission has also informed the parties in all other pending cases that, due to the discontinuation of its work, their proceedings can no longer be concluded. The Advisory Commission notes that, pursuant to section 6 (2) of the Administrative Agreement Establishing Joint Arbitration for Disputes Concerning the Return of Nazi-Looted Cultural Property of March 2025 (*Verwaltungsabkommen zur Einrichtung einer gemeinsamen Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit für Rückgabestreitigkeiten über NS-Raubgut*), any proceedings of the Advisory Commission which have not yet been resolved are transferred to the Court of Arbitration for Nazi-Looted Cultural Property, if both parties declare their consent.

Beratende Kommission
im Zusammenhang mit der Rückgabe
NS-verfolgungsbedingt entzogenen Kulturguts,
insbesondere aus jüdischem Besitz

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