

ABROGATION OF THE RACIAL LAWS: THE EGELI AND THE RESTITUTION OF ASSETS

1. Measures for the restitution of property rights to Italian and foreign citizens considered to be of Jewish race (1944-1947)

The process of reparation began with the introduction of measures that abrogated Fascist racial laws and restored Italian and foreign citizens considered of Jewish “race”¹ their rights. Rdl 25/1944 of 20 January, “Measures for the restitution of civil and political rights to Italian and foreign citizens of Jewish race or considered to be of Jewish race” and rdl 26 of 20 January 1944, containing provisions for the restitution of property rights to Italian and foreign citizens of Jewish race or considered to be of “Jewish race” laid the groundwork for the subsequent promulgation of statutes which covered restitution, compensation and reparation,² which would be defined and amended over a period of fifty years.³

Rdl 26/1944 provided for the abrogation of Fascist racial laws⁴, as well as regulating conditions and procedures for the restitution of transferred estates and firms that were alienated or seized under Fascist law in 1939. However, in Brindisi the government decided to delay its publication in order to avoid reprisals against Jews in territories that had not yet been liberated,⁵ which was where the majority of Italian Jews resided.

¹ For a historical context of the creation, application and succession of provisions, see M.Toscano, *Dall' "antirassismo" al postfascismo: l'abrogazione delle leggi razziali e il reinserimento degli ebrei nella società italiana in L'abrogazione delle leggi razziali in Italia (1943-1987)*, edited and introduced by M.Toscano, with a preface by G.Spadolini, Servizio Studi del Senato della Repubblica, Rome, 1988, pp. 21-65.

² A.Tabet, *Ebrei*, in “Enciclopedia forense”, vol. III, Turin, 1960, p. 397 observed that: “These series of measures, issued during a particularly critical period in Italian history, were inevitably affected by the climate in which they were drawn up, so that the provisions did not always reflect the intentions of the legislator. As was inevitable, while the public administrations immediately complied with the reparation laws, private institutions were more reluctant to do so, there being a conflict of interests with the new measures, which were moreover obscure and imperfect. Thus, the early postwar years were marked by a series of lawsuits between private parties, giving rise to animated doctrinal disputes. This phenomenon gradually waned until it almost disappeared altogether, thanks also in part to the exceptional and temporary nature of all special legislation on this matter. It should be pointed out that legal interpretation of the reparation laws was constantly limited in terms of annulment and rescission, so that in short there were very few cases in which the Jewish citizens actually benefited from compensatory legislation”.

³ Earlier on rdl 9/1944 of 6 January had been issued: “Re-admission of those in employ serving government, local and state-controlled administration, as well as firms that manage public or national services, previously dismissed for political reasons”. A more complete picture of the laws issued up to 1987 can be found in *L'abrogazione cit.*, pp. 99-265. Law 94/1994 of 29 January and Law 233/1997 of 18 July should also be mentioned, in connection with dlcp 364/1947 of 11 May, which ruled that: “Assets confiscated from Jewish citizens or persons considered as such for reasons of racial persecution, which have not been returned to their rightful owners due to the death or unknown fate of such persons and their heirs, which are still in the Italian State's keeping under any title, are to be consigned to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, which shall arrange for the return of these assets to the individual Communities considering the origin of the said assets and the locations where dispossession took place”.

⁴ The decree did not mention the directives issued by the Repubblica Sociale Italiana, but abrogated every other regulation of a racial nature in matters of property and restored equal rights and duties to Jewish citizens.

⁵ See on this matter M.Toscano, *op.cit.*, pp. 40-42, 50-51.

Immediately after the liberation of Rome on 4 June 1944, the need to publish and apply the laws for the restoration of Jewish property rights became urgent. Rome was home to the largest Jewish Community in the country and during nine months of German occupation had endured the consequences of the laws issued by the Repubblica Sociale Italiana (RSI) and the raids carried out by the German troops.⁶

The effect of German occupation on the Jewish Community in Rome had been devastating, as amply revealed by the report on 19 October 1944 made by the Special Commissioner Silvio Ottolenghi, who had been nominated by Colonel Charles Poletti, the Allied Military Government's Regional Commissioner for the area of Rome on 7 July 1944.⁷ In the first steps towards finding a solution to the critical material problems that beset the Jewish community in the city, Colonel Poletti issued a ruling for the immediate restitution of personal property and real estate to racially and politically persecuted Jews, on 13 July 1944. Its main aim was to return the homes to the Jews who had been forced to abandon them to avoid deportation to the death camps.⁸ According to available sources, Poletti's ruling was not implemented⁹ and it was thus essential for the Italian authorities to publish rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, as requested by members of the Allied Control Commission and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. The result was dllgt 252 /1944 of 5 October.¹⁰ At the same time, dllgt 249/1944 of 5 October, "Legislation in liberated territories", declared that "the confiscation and sequestration of property ordered by any administrative or political organ" "adopted under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana" was to be considered legally null and void. The legislative foundation had finally been laid in order to start the process of returning property seized from Jewish citizens under the provisions issued in 1938-1939 and under the directives implementing sequestration and confiscation issued by the RSI. Between 1944 and 1947 a series of other directives supplemented measures for restitution, compensation and reintegration. With regard to laws governing restitution, dllgt 222/1945 of 12 April should be mentioned: "Complementary and supplementary laws implementing dllgt 26/1944

⁶ See L. Picciotto Fargion, *L'occupazione tedesca e gli ebrei di Roma*, Rome, 1979.

⁷ ACS, *PCM, 1944-1947*, b.3.2.2. fasc.12573 Ucii sfasc.1, Report made by the Special Commissioner for the Jewish Community in Rome, the lawyer Silvio Ottolenghi, read at the "Vittorio Polacco" school on 19 October 1944.

⁸ See ACS, *PCM, 1944-1947*, b.3.2.2 fasc.11472 sfasc.1. Article 1 stated: "A special Commission has been appointed denominated 'Commission for the property of politically and racially persecuted persons', with the task of enquiring into and settling disputes over the restitution of personal property and real estate to their rightful owners, or to those who are entitled to them, who have been dispossessed for political and racial motives, or who have relinquished or rented out their property in any way to ensure their preservation.

Any issue on the ownership of the property remains unprejudiced and all rights and actions both for the compensation of said assets and damages remain intact." See M.Toscano, *Dall'"antirisorgimento" cit.* pp. 45-46 on this subject.

⁹ The inefficacy of Poletti's ruling, in particular concerning the issue of illegally occupied accommodation, was revealed in the above-mentioned report by the Special Commissioner for the Jewish Community in Rome, the lawyer Silvio Ottolenghi, ACS, *PCM, 1944-1947*, b.3.2.2 fasc.12573 sfasc.1 cit.; additional documentary evidence in ACS, *PCM, 1944-1947*, b.3.2.2 fasc.11472 sfasc.1.

¹⁰ M.Toscano, *Dall'"antirisorgimento" cit.*, pp.49-52.

of 20 January, for the restitution of property rights to racially persecuted Italian and foreign citizens”; dllgt 393/1946 of 5 May: “Claims for property that was confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted citizens under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dlcp 364/1947 of 11 May: “Succession of persons deceased due to acts of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 who left no heirs”; dlcp 801/1947 of 31 July: “Amendment of article 6 of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, on the restitution of property rights to racially persecuted citizens”.¹¹

The new legislation assigned the organisation for the management and liquidation of property, the EGELI, with the key role of implementing the new directives, whose explanatory circular letters laid down conditions and procedures for the restitution of real estate and personal property.

2. The renewal of the EGELI’s activities after the liberation of Rome. The restitution of excess assets (1944-1967)

Once Rome was liberated, the EGELI renewed its activities. On 5 June 1944 the Director-General, Anselmo Guerrieri Gonzaga, took up office once again; on 7 September 1944 Enrico De Martino was appointed Special Commissioner, staying in office until September 1948. Following the transfer of the organisation’s offices and records (apart from cases falling within the competence of the Roman delegation) to San Pellegrino Terme from 6 November 1943, none of the statutory organs of the organisation were functioning and in Rome only a delegation of five people remained.¹²

Hence, in June 1944 the office in Rome was able to resume its activities only to find that it lacked any kind of information that was “essential for a reconstruction of the organisation’s accounts and

¹¹ It should also be remembered that provisions were issued to extend the validity of the above-mentioned measures; in particular: dllgt 668/1945 of 12 October, “Extension of the time limit for validation and invalidation of acts issued under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dm of 25 November 1946, “Extension of the time limit of article 7 of dllgt 393/1946 of 5 May, concerning claims for property that was confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted persons”; dlcp 472/1946 of 23 December, “Extension of the time limit for validation and invalidation of acts issued under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dlcp 148/1947 of 29 March, “Extension of the time limit for the invalidation of acts issued under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dlcp 612/1947 of 30 June, “Extension of the time limit for validation and invalidation of acts issued under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dlcp 762/1947 of 17 July, “Extension of the time limit of article 7 of dllgt 393/1946 of 5 May, concerning claims for property that was confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted persons under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dlcp 771/1947 of 31 July, “Extension of the time limit for the implementation of rescission granted by article 19 of dllgt 222/1945 of 12 April, containing supplementary norms to rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, for the reinstatement of persons dispossessed of their property rights through racial persecution”; dlcp 1153/1947 of 31 October, “Further extension until 31 March 1948 of the time limit established in article 3 and 4 of dllgt 249/1944 of 5 October, for validation and invalidation of legislative measures issued by the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”; dm of 4 December 1947, “Extension of the time limit established by article 1 of dlcp 762/1947 of 17 July, concerning the property of persons who were racially persecuted under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”.

¹² On this subject, see ACS, *Egeli* b.7, Minutes of deliberations by the Special Commissioner from 1944 to 1957, minutes of deliberation No. 1 pp. 22, 24, 27.

thus could only record current administrative matters”, mainly concerning the application of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January,¹³ in particular regarding the restitution of assets “exceeding allowed quotas” seized from “Jewish” citizens under rdl 126/1939 of 9 February.

The administration appointed by the government of the RSI, with its headquarters in San Pellegrino Terme, “ceased to function at the beginning of May in 1945”, substituted by a Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner appointed by the CLNAI (Northern Italy Committee of National Liberation), who stayed in office for two months. On 6 July 1945 De Martino was appointed Northern Italy Commissioner for the EGELI by the Allied Military Government in Lombardy. On 15 August 1945 all activities in the EGELI offices in the North ceased and a delegation was temporarily established in Milan, which was then suppressed on 15 April 1946.¹⁴ On 29 September 1948 Ercole Marazza was appointed Special Commissioner, staying in office until liquidation was undertaken by the Ministry.¹⁵

The EGELI thus began a new phase in its activities with regard to the handling of Jewish assets. As the country was gradually being liberated, not only did the organisation have to deal with the restitution of assets seized from the Jews under the norms laid down in 1938-1939 (usually referred to in financial reports and documents as “Management of Jewish assets” 1939), it also had to deal with the restitution of assets seized under the norms laid down by the RSI (denominated “Management of confiscated and sequestered Jewish assets”).¹⁶ This activity was to continue from 1945 to 1957, the year in which the EGELI itself would begin to terminate its activities.¹⁷

At the end of 1944 the EGELI’s new administration began returning estates acquired under the 1939 law. According to data supplied by the “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945”, “there was no increase in 1945 in the total number of estates already transferred and in the custody of the EGELI during 1944 under rdl 126/1939 of 9 February, since restrictive legislation regarding Jewish property was no longer applied [...] on the basis of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January [...]. Therefore, at 31 December 1945, the number of properties already consigned to the EGELI were 170, corresponding to a compulsory purchase price amounting to L. 55,454,680.44.

¹³ ACS, *Egeli* b.12, Reports by auditors 31 March 1945 (enclosed with Explanatory report on the provisional statement of account ended 31 December 1944).

¹⁴ See ACS, *Egeli* b.12, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945 and ACS, *Egeli* b. 7, minutes No. 1 pp. 123, 126, 220-221.

¹⁵ ACS, *Egeli* b.7, minutes No. 3 p. 2.

¹⁶ The other activities carried out by the organisation concerned taxable property, German enemy assets, Allied assets and assets of unjustified provenance. See, for instance, ACS, *Egeli* b.19, circular No. 208, 3 December 1945 from the EGELI to administering bodies.

¹⁷ As regards matters concerning its liquidation see notes 95 e 99.

By the end of 1945 not all the properties in the EGELI's custody had been returned through the Land Banks: only 133 were returned and the 27 left remained in the possession of the expropriated firms.

By 1945, the organisation had sold property to third parties at a cost of L. 9,918,506.80, making a final profit of L. 30,159,921.70".¹⁸

According to the data supplied by the EGELI's annual financial reports from 1944 to 1955, supplemented by some documents that were subsequently produced by the EGELI, the management of Jewish property was to result in a large number of expropriated assets being returned to their rightful owners by the late 1960s. In some cases the owners had given up all claims. Despite the limited information contained within, these records still provide evidence of the progress of this phenomenon. Up to 31 December 1944 three properties were returned; in one case the proceeds of the sale of properties to third parties were returned.¹⁹ Thirty-one properties were returned by the end of 1945.²⁰ In 1946 fifty-five properties were returned to their rightful owners and by the end of the year 43 properties formerly expropriated from Jews remained in the EGELI's custody.²¹ In 1947, it executed 22 reconveyance deeds for the restitution of expropriated property formerly in the EGELI's keeping and eight reconveyance deeds for the restitution of expropriated properties that had been subsequently sold. Moreover, the "Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1947" stated that: "16 cases for reconveyance are currently being completed [...].

Nineteen cases are currently being settled, with regard to disputes and ascertainment of succession, owners that are resident abroad, objections on the part of third party buyers of assets formerly assigned to the EGELI, etc. [...].

Lastly, no claims for the restitution of 9 properties have yet been put in by those entitled to them [...] of which, however, only 2 were previously in the organisation's possession".²²

¹⁸ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 12, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945. See also ACDEC, "L'Egeli e la sua attività", S.Pellegrino May 1945, a copy of a typewritten report, particularly pp.3 and 49, where it relates that in 1943 the EGELI was assigned assets exceeding allowed quotas worth about L. 55,600,000, the result of the transfer of around 265 businesses. Of this L. 55,600,000 the EGELI sold 9,794,122.80 in 1943, making a net profit of L. 29,537,371.15.

"Thus, from the end of 1943 to the end of April 1945", it reports, "there was no increase in the total number of estates assigned to the EGELI under the 1939 law, apart from the sale of one building in Venice Giudecca No. 217", for L. 400,000.

In more detail, the balance of the Management of Jewish assets 1939 enclosed with the Report in 1945 states that:

The total sum of the property transferred to the organisation was	L. 55,454,680.44
The total sum of the property that was sold amounted to	L. 9,918,506.80
Hence, prior to the restitution of assets to expropriated Jews, the organisation was the owner of property amounting to	<hr/> L. 45,536,173.64

¹⁹ ACS, *Egeli* b. 12, Explanatory report on the provisional statement of accounts ended 31 December 1944.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945.

²¹ *Ibid.*, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1946.

²² *Ibid.*, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1947.

Fifteen reconveyance deeds were executed in 1948; ten during 1949;²³ eight cases were stipulated in 1950.²⁴ Nothing new emerged during 1951, owing to the “unsuccessful settlement of various lawsuits”. The report explained that the 11 remaining properties, “have already been returned to their owners, or else are still in the possession of those who bought them from the organisation at that time”.²⁵ One reconveyance deed was executed in 1952; “10 estates still remain to be returned, of which 5 concern assets that are still owned by the organisation, while the proceeds of the sale of the 5 remaining estates are still in the organisation’s keeping, since the respective reconveyances, to be executed between the third party purchaser of the estate and the expropriated Jewish owner, need to be managed by the EGELI.

It has not been possible to settle the deeds still under examination, as these are subject to the outcome of various current lawsuits”.²⁶

Three reconveyances were settled in 1953 and one in 1954. By the end of 1955 six reconveyance deeds for property were still to be examined, owing to current unresolved legal disputes.²⁷ The process for restitution was extremely slow.²⁸ Finally, a “Memorandum on the current situation of the EGELI”, dated 4 March 1967, in relation to the Management of expropriated Jewish assets

²³ *Ibid.*, b. 24, Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1948; report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1949.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, b. 12 Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1950.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1951.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1952.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, b. 24, Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1953; Report by Commissioner for financial year 1954; *ibid.*, b. 12, Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1955; six properties still to be returned were reported at the end of 1957. ACS *Egeli* b. 21, Fascicolo generale, Explanatory report for financial year 1957 (on pp.6 and 7 there is a list of the restitution of assets for 1944-1954 according to their value and the cancellation of special securities.)

²⁸ Some archive records concerning cases that were still open reveal that between 1959 and 1960, the ministerial EGELI Liquidation Office recorded that:

- 1) Heirs of Emanuele Romanelli: the ruling of the Venice Law Court (29.12.1947-9.1.1948) ordered the restitution to Gilda Romanelli of property formerly expropriated and sold by the EGELI; according to the statement made by the State Lawyer’s Office in Venice on 27.1.1959 all issues inherent to reconveyance were settled;
- 2) Segrè Marco, Saluzzo, reconveyance completed on 1 September 1949;
- 3) Xenia Bona Orefice, Padua, 27.11.1956 and 26.2.1959 registration of ruling 10-25 June 1949 by Padua Law Court on the restitution of expropriated property formerly sold by the EGELI;
- 4) Alma Foà, Milan, 17.12.1948 registration of ruling 15-30 November 1948 by the Court of Appeal in Milan on the restitution of expropriated assets formerly sold by the EGELI;
- 5) Elda Orefice, Venice, 26-30.1.1956 the magistrate in Venice ordered the third party buyers to return expropriated assets formerly sold by the EGELI, but the ruling was not executed;
- 6) Anna Grunwald, Trieste, the heirs were in fact in possession of the expropriated assets, but the reconveyance was not stipulated owing to a lack of documents;
- 7) Ilse Brunner, Trieste, awaited the recovery of mortgage credit in favour of the EGELI for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the reconveyance of the expropriated property. See on this matter ACS, *Egeli* b.22, Note regarding the liquidation of the EGELI 12 February 1959; note on the possibile closing down of some administrative functions of the EGELI 15 September 1959; Management of expropriated Jewish assets 1939, note dated 1 December 1959; data relative to activities carried out by the ministerial EGELI Liquidation Office in 1959 and 12 February 1960; EGELI Administration note dated 12 September 1960.

Also see G. Fubini, *Dalla legislazione antiebraica alla legislazione riparatoria – Orientamenti giurisprudenziali nell’Italia postfascista*, in “La Rassegna Mensile di Israel”, January-August 1988, pp.477-493; S. Benvenuto, *Orientamenti giurisprudenziali e bibliografia giuridica*, in *L’abrogazione cit.*, pp. 83-98.

1939, reported that “all operations concerning the liquidation of the aforementioned management of Jewish assets have been completed”.²⁹

Hence, the process of returning property that had begun in autumn 1944³⁰, according to information recorded by the EGELI, can be summarised as follows³¹:

- 25 November 1944, Mario Sereni, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 111220/8884, of 4 February 1942, Rome;
- 28 November 1944, Isacco (Giulio) Bondi, reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 108540/8883, of 4 February 1942, Rome;

²⁹ ACS, *Egeli* b.22, fasc. “EGELI Memorandum and Notes”, 4 March 1967 Memorandum on the current situation of the EGELI.

³⁰ During this process, on October 1945 the EGELI sent all the administering bodies the following circular:

“Some administrators have requested more precise information on the procedure to be adopted for the restitution to their rightful owners of assets expropriated under rdl 126/1939 of 9 February.

In order to clarify matters, administrators should consult the directives contained in rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, coming into force with dllgt of 5 October 1944 and further complementary and supplementary norms contained in dllgt 222/1945 of 12 April.

That being stated, the following has been agreed:

1) Applications are to be submitted in writing by the persons concerned.

The application should be made on unstamped paper and addressed to this organisation, and can also be submitted to the delegated administrators.

Should this be the case, the administrator shall immediately forward the application to this organisation, making a note of the date of arrival of the said application, given that economic retribution takes effect from this date.

2) Should reconveyance concern wholly or partial estates which this organisation no longer possesses, in so far as they have been sold and transferred to third parties, the application should be made to the current owner and possessor of the said property, while a copy of the application should be sent to this organisation, in compliance with the directives contained in art. 6 of the aforementioned rdl 26/1944 of 20 January.

In the case of applications made to the delegated administrators, the latter shall only provide the names of those who purchased directly from this organisation, and the persons concerned shall be solely responsible for any other kind of ascertainment.

3) Preliminary examination of the applications falls within the competence of this organisation. Once preliminary examination has been completed, as soon as reasonably practicable, administrators will be informed of the subsequent procedure to adopt.

4) Restitution shall occur through the stipulation of a contract, and the sole expenses incurred by the beneficiary shall be the notary’s (reduced by half), registration and mortgage taxes.

5) The same procedure shall be applied to restitution regarding estates already assigned to this organisation, but which for various reasons have never been in the organisation’s possession.

6) No act of indemnity shall be granted to arbitrary possession that has already occurred or is likely to occur. Hence, so that the organisation can grant stipulation of legal contracts for reconveyance and allow subsequent mortgage formalities to proceed, it is essential that the persons concerned legalise their position by submitting the prescribed application for claims.

Since economic retribution takes effect from the arrival date of application, as stated in the first point above, it is understood that the amount derived from reconveyance carried out by those persons that have arbitrarily come into the possession and use of property to be restituted, shall be debited to the said persons during settlement, and they shall also bear administrative expenses.

With regard to future leases, the administering bodies are to inform the operators that until further instructions, no payment shall be considered valid that has not been made to the said administrators or delegates. Should this not occur, the person shall be subject to repayment.

7) The payment of six-monthly interest on certificates issued in compliance with art. 32 of rdl 126/1939 of 9 February, is temporarily suspended.

The amount due from interest, at most five percent before tax established by art. 13 of rdl 222/1945 of April, shall be credited to the persons concerned during settlement.

Interest will take effect from the date that the person has taken possession of the property reconveyed by the EGELI, whether or not the relevant certificates have been issued, and shall be calculated up to the date of submission of the claim for reconveyance to this organisation, or other administering body.

8) The administering bodies shall promptly communicate their final administration report to this organisation, closed at the date of submission of the application for reconveyance, with annotation of all outstanding debts and credit to that date, and indicating all expenses incurred by the EGELI offices for any improvements made to the reconveyed property and for any additional repairs carried out on the property owing to damage during the war, fortuitous events and unforeseen circumstances. Accounting operations that occur after the date of submission of the claim shall be recorded in a separate account”. See ACS, *Egeli*, b. 19 fasc. 3, 5 October 1945 circular No. 202 from the EGELI to administering bodies.

³¹ ACS, *Egeli*, b.7, Minutes of deliberations by the Special Commissioner from 1944 to 1957. It should be observed that the records do not always clearly provide all the necessary information concerning the number and type of buildings and estates, possible joint-ownership, etc. Nevertheless, in order to gain an overall picture of the phenomenon, it has been deemed useful to report the specific information provided by the documents, with the date of registration, names of claimants, indication of property, and date and number of the decree issued by the Revenue Office (hereafter I.F.)

- 18 December 1944, Graziano Anticoli, reconveyance of real estate formerly transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 8806 of 19 May 1941, Rome, and sold by the organisation;
- 26 December 1944, Gilberto Terni, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI, which the organisation has never possessed, in compliance with decree I.F. of 27 January 1943 and of 27 February 1943, Ancona;
- 4 January 1945, Angelo Scazzocchio, Vittorio Scazzocchio, Adriana Scazzocchio née Volterra, Maria Amati née Rossi, Clara Eminente née Rossi, reconveyance of property transferred to the organisation which has never legally possessed it, in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 2510/8228 of 2 May 1942; 91860/8991 of 29 January 1943; 91896/8988 of 23 January 1943; No. 8926 of 1 May 1942 and 8978 of 15 January 1943; No. 8947 of 30 June 1942 and 8989 of 23 January 1943 respectively, Rome;
- 15 February 1945, Luna (Adelaide) Panzieri, widow of Di Laudadio and Clelia Di Capua, widow of Tagliacozzo, reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 11392/8780 of 3 March 1941 and No. (missing) of 21 February 1942 respectively, Rome;
- 19 February 1945, Gabriele Sonnino (Pellegrino Edmondo Piperno standing as proxy), reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI and then sold in compliance with decree I.F. of 19 November 1942, Rome;
- 26 February 1945, Amedeo Sabatello and Iole Della Seta née Bises, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 8915 of 14 April 1942 and 8961 of 28 September 1942 and No. 83312 of 10 October 1941 respectively, Rome;
- 21 April 1945, Lella Sonnino née Della Seta reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. of 26 January 1941, Rome;
- 23 May 1945, Carlo Calderoni reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree No.10342/6 I.F. Ancona;
- 7 June 1945, Edgardo, Bruno, Sergio, Renato, Irma, Egle, Nives, Emilia Cavalieri; Elena and Angela (Lina) Dimitri; Paola Carpi, heirs and usufructuaries of Irene Cavalieri, widow of Montefiore (trustee Armando Berna) reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 87437/1 of 19 October 1941, Rome, and sold by the organisation;
- 21 July 1945, Celeste Dell'ArICCia and Claudia Milano reconveyance of expropriated property in compliance with decrees No. 13102 of 26 March 1942 and 17132/8913 of 14 April 1942;
- 30 July 1945, Rina Milano reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI, which did not come into possession, in compliance with decree I.F. No. 16704/1 of 14 April 1942, Rome;

- 24 September 1945, Gustavo Pegna reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 4165 of 5 March 1941, Florence;
- 6 October 1945, Leone Camerino (through Augusto Levi Luisada) reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 23054/1 of 11 August 1942, Florence;
- 7 December 1945, Cesare Laide, Olga Levi née Usiglio, Celestina Finzi née Del Vecchio, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 5369 of 9 April 1942, Livorno, No. 14958 of 16 November 1941, Modena, No. 4753 of 3 March 1942, Bologna, respectively;
- 28 December 1945, Aldo, Arturo, Bianca Sinigaglia (heirs of Angelo Sinigaglia) reconveyance of estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 14285 of 16 June 1942, Bologna, and of 22 June 1942, Ancona;
- 3 January 1946, Roberto Bondi, Fernando Genazzani, Cesare Olschki, Aldo Olschki, Adele Finzi née Olschki, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 4188 of 31 May 1942, No. 4178 of 22 January 1942, 29988 of 25 June 1942, 29989 of 25 June 1942, 29990 of 25 June 1942, Florence, respectively;
- 16 January 1946, Bruno Tagliacozzo, Carlo Segre, Raffaele Franco, Alberto Franco, Pier Felice Franco, heirs of Margherita Franco née Cave Bondi, Bellina Sonnino née Limentani, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 40411 of 21 December 1941 (amended by another decree No. 35736 of 3 November 1942, Venice); I.F. No. 8632 of 27 November 1941, Turin; No. 40926 of 5 December 1942, Florence; I.F. No. 28115 of 22 April 1941 Rome, respectively;
- 18 January 1946, Leone Sonnino reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 70536 of 5 October 1942, Rome;
- 11 February 1946, Giorgio Castelnuovo, Marta Luzzatti née Belleli, Giorgio Castelnuovo and Elsa Guagnetti Castelnuovo, heirs of Sesta (?) Pacifici, widow of Castelnuovo, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 4184 of 13 March 1942, Florence; 6 July 1942, Modena; No. 20292 of 5 May 1942, Florence, respectively;
- 13 March 1946, Giulio Calabi reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 9582 of 27 April 1942, Bologna, and then sold by the organisation;
- 15 March 1946, Augusto Polacco, Valeria Cavaglieri, Luigi Rignano, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 3011 of 19 December 1940, Padua, No. 357 of 22 February 1942, Rovigo, No. 6607 of 21 May 1941, Livorno respectively;
- 25 March 1946, Ernesto Treves reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 22166 of 15 May 1941, Milan and sold by the organisation;

- 2 April 1946, Ernesto Calò (through Augusto Levi Luisada) reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 20699 of 25 June 1942, Florence and sold by the organisation;
- 3 April 1946, Armando Genazzani, Ebe Calderoni née Nacamù, Giorgina Pardo Roques, widow of Zabban, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 17456 of 31 October 1942 and No. 5587 of 8 April 1943, Forlì; No. 65491 of 27 August 1941, Milan; of 5 August 1941, Florence, respectively;
- 5 April 1946, Wanda Pugliese née Luzzatti reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 3860 of 31 October 1941, Rovigo and 775 of 16 April 1942, and sold by the organisation;
- 6 April 1946, Lidia Jarach née Faldini, Gemma Faldini née Dello Strologo, Nella Milano, widow of Fano, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 7065 of 21 May 1941, Livorno; No. 1299 of 26 January 1942, Livorno; No. 11320 of 7 March 1942, Rome respectively;
- 7 April 1946, Wanda Lina Ottolenghi née Bigiavi, Paolo Faldini, Giuseppe Jona, Adele Jona, Amalia Jona, widow of Colesanti heirs of Giuseppe Jona, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 6557 of 19 February 1942, Florence; No. 2829 of 17 April 1941, Lucca; No. 38965 of 9 December 1941, Venice respectively;
- 16 May 1946, Giulio Basevi, Carla Basevi, Olga Maroni, widow of Basevi, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 66055 of 11 August 1941, Milan; No. 67354 of 27 August 1941, Milan; No. 66794 of 27 August 1941, Milan respectively;
- 18 June 1946, Valeria Cavaglieri, reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI, in compliance with decree I.F. No. 357 of 22 February 1942, Rovigo and sold by the organisation;
- 20 June 1946, Armando Genazzani, Arrigo Basevi, Mario Colorni son of Eugenio Colorni, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 40780 of 23 December 1942, Florence, No. 758 of 6 March 1943, Lucca, 30 April 1943, Milan, No. 42893 of 30 May 1941, Milan, No. 115406 of 2 February 1942, Milan, 53117 of 9 June 1942, Milan respectively;
- 28 June 1941, Roberto Parlitz, Marta Luzzatti née Belleli, Sisa Lopez née Tabet, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 1994 of 21 October 1942 and No. 2474 of 10 December 1943, Rovigo; No. 48278 of 2 June 1942, Milan; No. 22088 of 26 January 1942, Livorno respectively;
- 28 August 1946, Maria Melli, Giovanni Maria Uzielli, Beatrice Tedeschi, widow of Salmon, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 2847 of 7 March

1941, Parma, No. 35793 of 13 August 1942, Florence; No. 956 of 7 January 1943, Reggio Emilia respectively;

– 10 September 1946, Ugo Norsa, Lina Tagliacozzo, Vico Baer, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 6321 of 17 May 1943, Mantua, No. 1561 of 22 January 1943, Venice; No. 954 of 6 August 1942, Reggio Emilia respectively;

– 4 October 1946, heirs of Elda Sabbadini, widow of Samaja, Sandra Steindler née Bachi, Silvia Pontecorvo née Bachi, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 14992 of 4 April 1941, Milan, No. 34011 of 27 May 1942, Rome, No. 8948 of 30 June 1942, Rome respectively;

– 22 October 1946, Gabriele Sonnino reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 86795 of 19 November 1942, Rome and No. 58 of 19 January 1943, Frosinone;

– 28 October 1946, Ugo Norsa and Ada De Angelis née Norsa, heirs of Umberto Norsa reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 5971 of 11 March 1942, Mantua and sold by the organisation;

– 20 November 1946, Renzo Ravà, Tina Servadio, widow of Fontanella, Luisa Falcone, widow of Vitale (heirs of Raffaele Alfonso Vitale), reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 33477 of 13 August 1942, Florence; No. 1016 of 21 January 1942, Pisa and No. 9730 of 22 June 1942, No. 2743 of 28 April 1941, Genoa respectively;

– 27 November 1946, Resy Luzzatto née Guetta, Alberto Bassani, Alina and Giulio Cantoni, reconveyance of property to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 12763 of 29 April 1941, Venice, No. 6344 of 23 May 1942, Parma, No. 33057 of 17 April 1942, Milan and No. 29682 of 30 March 1942 respectively;

– 4 January 1947, Emilio Calabi, Cesare Melli, Maria Zamorani, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 19069 of 9 June 1942, Brescia, No. 16091 of 23 September 1941, Parma, No. 1274 of 18 May 1942, Ferrara respectively;

– 7 January 1947, Silvia Colorni and heirs Eugenio Colorni, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 55981 and No. 56963 of 6 August 1941, Milan and sold by the organisation;

– 13 January 1947, Ugo Brettauer, Filippo Brunner, Fanny Brunner née Bles, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 13489 of 10 May 1941 and No. 36402 of 12 December 1941; No. 21693 of 7 August 1941 and No. 24094 of 13 November 1941;

No. 21693 of 7 August 1941 and No. 24094 of 13 November 1941; No. 21699 of 7 August 1941 and No. 1852 of 19 January 1942, Trieste respectively³²;

– 13 January 1947, Virginia Mattea née Usigli, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 3374 of 3 September 1941, Rovigo and sold by the organisation;

– 15 January 1947, Noemi Behar née Levi, Vittorio Russi, Alice Gilda Russi née Manni, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 34966 of 12 December 1941, No. 2665 of 31 January 1942 and No. 5670 of 12 May 1942; No. 21685 of 6 August 1941, No. 2514 of 25 January 1942 and No. 26292 of 5 November 1942; No. 21687 of 7 August 1941, No. 2512 of 25 January 1942 and No. 32487 of 5 November 1942, Trieste respectively;

– 27 January 1947, Emilio Viterbi, Gioconda Terni née Vitale, Raffaele Fornari, Salvatore Fornari, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 16802 of 14 September 1942, Padua; No. 114125 of 29 January 1942, Milan; No. 9780 of 7 March 1942, Rome; No. 11859 of 7 March 1942, Rome respectively;

– 7 February 1947, Lea Castelli (heirs of Arturo Castelli), Mario Macchioro, Guido Goldschmid, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 5168 of 25 February 1942 and No. 17371 of 7 June 1942; No. 2039 of 25 May 1942 and No. 21823 of 20 July 1942, No. 30410 of 12 December 1941 and No. 38591 of 5 January 1942, Trieste respectively;

– 12 February 1947, Olga Alpron, widow of Bassano, reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 27815 of 7 November 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;

– 28 February 1947, Marco Orefice, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 38688 of 3 January 1941, Venice and sold by the organisation;

– 15 March 1947, Anna Maria Levi Morenos, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 37636 of 24 February 1941, Venice and sold by the organisation;

– 27 March 1947, Anna Mandelberg née Rosenbluth, Carlo Saraval, Ilse Brunner, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 21695 of 7 August 1941 and No. 24061 of 6 November 1941; No. 21698 of 7 August 1941 and No. 26636 of 11 November 1941; No. 34844 of 12 December 1941 and No. 9804 of 29 May 1942, Trieste respectively;

– 28 March 1947, Alberto Roccas, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI, in compliance with decree I.F. No. 50151 of 21 August 1942, Rome, and annulled 21 January 1949;

³² The reference was to the decree No. 58 of 27 May 1946 issued by the Allied Military Government in Venezia Giulia, analogous to the other orders concerning Trieste.

- 31 March 1947, Allegra Segrè, reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 4810 of 21 April 1941, Mantua and sold by the organisation;
- 31 March 1947, Carlo Macerata (through trustee), reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 57388 of 25 July 1941, Rome;
- 31 March 1947, Elda Oreflice, Bona Emilia Xenia Friedemberg née Oreflice, Giacomo Emilio Almansi, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 31400 of 20 November 1941 and No. 39914 of 19 November 1942, Venice; I.F. No. 11550 of 18 April 1941, Venice; I.F. No. 6783 of 9 March 1943, Florence respectively;
- 31 March 1947, Carlo Macerata, Silvia Goldschmidt née Pardo, Gilda Nadia Goldschmied, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 21699 of 6 August 1941, No. 26638 of 12 November 1941 and No. 14745 of 22 May 1942, No. 15506 of 6 August 1941 and No. 27211 2 November 1941, No. 26639 of 11 October 1941 and No. 38594 of 5 January 1942, Trieste respectively;
- 31 March 1947, Lisa Coen, widow of Fries (heir of Gualtiero Fries) reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 39034 of 9 December 1941, Venice and sold by the organisation;
- 31 March 1947, Carlo Macerata reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 216999 of 6 August 1941 and No. 26638 of 12 November 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;
- 11 October 1947, Wanda Treves dei Bonfili reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 2621 of 26 March 1941, Padua and sold by the organisation;
- 12 October 1947, Guido Jona, Arturo and Giorgio Montecorboli heirs of Cesarina Montecorboli née Paggi, Vittore Colorni heir of Emanuele Colorni, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 4112 of 29 March 1943, Ancona, No. 59604 of 10 March 1943, Florence and No. 17273 of 14 May 1943, Mantua, and No. 10626 of 22 June 1942 respectively;
- 6 December 1947, Enrico Carmi waives the claim for reconveyance of real estate formerly transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 3532 of 7 March 1941, Parma and subsequently sold by the organisation;
- 30 January 1948, Lina Lusena née Abeniacar heir of Giuseppe Coen, Vittoria Cantoni née Pisa, Jolanda Fano née Bassani, reconveyance of real estate formerly assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 10880 of 7 August 1942, Livorno, No. 61144 of 4 August 1941 and No. 10882 of 24 April 1943, Milan, No. 15427 of 23 October 1942, Parma respectively;
- 3 March 1948, Mario, Dino, Lina and Leo Soavi and Amalia Cenni, heirs of Giulio Soavi, Virginia Carmi, Paola Goldschmid née Rosenthal, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI

in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 16267 of 18 September 1940, Cremona, No. 958 of 17 February 1943, Reggio Emilia, No. 25718 of 10 December 1941 and No. 38593 of 5 January 1942, Trieste respectively;

– 5 March 1948, Alda Carcassoni reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with I.F. No. 32725 of 8 August 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;

– 28 April 1948, Vittoria Pisa Cantoni, reconveyance of real estate formerly transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 61144 of 4 August 1941 and No. 10882 of 24 April 1943, Milan and sold by the organisation;

– 30 June 1948, Alda Carcassoni, reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 32725 of 8 August 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;

– 7 October 1948, Luciana Mamolo née Navarra, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 21683 of 6 August 1941 and No. 26637 of 2 November 1941, Trieste;

– 3 November 1948, Lidia Levi née Bigiavi, Uberto Colombo, Silvana Colombo, assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 40925 of 10 December 1942, Florence, No. 2948 of 7 February 1942, Milan, 29 January 1942, Milan respectively;

– 15 November 1948, Umberto and Vittorio Sonnino heirs of Giacomo Sonnino, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 423 of 5 February 1943, No. 6908 of 3 May 1943 and No. 8434 of 14 June 1943, No. 463 of 5 February 1943, No. 628 of 30 January 1943 and No. 6909 of 4 May 1943, Ancona respectively;

– 22 January 1949, Mario Bemporad, Alba Tedeschi née Algranati (trustee of Arrigo Tedeschi), reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 16165 of 21 October 1941, Pisa, No. 1342 of 28 July 1941, Ferrara respectively;

– 24 January 1949, Alberto Finzi, Trieste Law Court ruling of 3-26 July 1947 orders reconveyance of property expropriated by the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 23345 of 8 August 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;

– 15 March 1949, Attilio Iesi reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 31468 of 13 May 1942, Rome;

– 8 April 1949, Paolo Emilio Sacerdote, Giacomo Sacerdote reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 9227 of 28 September 1942 and No. 8477 of 9 September 1942, Turin respectively;

– 30 May 1949, Enrico Kern waives the claim for reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 16939 of 18 July 1941 and No. 23936 of 11 December 1941, Trieste respectively and subsequently sold by the organisation;

- 9 June 1949, Leone Brunner, rulings of 7 May-4 June 1948 and of 29 November-29 December 1948 by the Trieste Law Court orders reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 21681 of 7 August 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;
- 21 June 1949, Giuseppe Fano (through trustee) reconveyance of real estate transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 40864 of 24 February 1941, Venice and sold by the organisation;
- 23 June 1949, heirs of Angelo and Carmen Vivante, waive the claim for reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 30059/4086 and No. 24064/3199 of 3 November 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;
- 5 July 1949, Jewish Community of Turin (heir of Amos Loria) reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 6314 of 29 September 1941, Turin;
- 5 November 1949, Bettino Errera (guardian of Guido Modigliani) reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 47253 of 17 January 1942, Florence;
- 16 March 1950, Bettino Errera (guardian of Guido Modigliani) reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 47253 of 17 January 1942, Florence;
- 2 May 1950, Lina Frankel née Prister and Marco Frankel reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 1684 of 6 August 1941, No. 27813 of 18 November 1941 and No. 1850 of 19 January 1942, Trieste (reconveyance in favour of Alma Ester Fubini née Goldschmied, Guido, Fabio, Diana, Adriano Goldschmied);
- 20 June 1950, Mario Rocca waives the claim for the reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 17193 of 2 June 1943, Venice and sold by the organisation;
- 3 November 1950, Emanuele, Paolo, Mario Dina, Clara Viterbi, widow of Dina, heirs of Enrico Dina, reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 1131 of 10 March 1942, No. 1524 of 10 March 1942, Mantua respectively;
- 30 December 1950, heirs of Felice Spiegel waive the claim for reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 21697 of 7 August 1941 and No. 24065 of 5 November 1941, Trieste and sold by the organisation;
- 31 December 1950, Ernesto Bachi and Vittoria Treves, widow of Bachi (heirs of Emilio Bachi), reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 28573 of 31 March 1942, Milan;
- 15 November 1951, Xenia Emilia Bona Friedenberg née Orefice (through proxy) waives the claim for reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI and sold by the organisation;

- 26 April 1952, Umberto Misul reconveyance of real estate assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 15428 of 16 September 1942, Livorno;
- 5 November 1952, Alberto Roccas reconveyance of property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 50151 of 21 August 1942, Rome;
- 4 July 1953, Pia Sonnino née Rosselli, reconveyance of assets assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 8760 of 26 January 1941, Rome;
- 28 October 1953, Anna Olivetti and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, heirs of Giuseppe Pardo Roques, reconveyance of property assigned to EGELI in compliance with decrees I.F. No. 12567 of 3 August 1942 and No. 17707 of 20 November 1942, Pisa;
- 30 December 1953, Elda Orefice reconveyance of property transferred to the EGELI in compliance with decree I. F. No. 31400 of 20 November 1941, Venice and sold by the organisation;
- 10 April 1954, Umberto Campagnano, property assigned to the EGELI in compliance with decree I.F. No. 31043 of 15 December 1942, Florence, of which the organisation never came into possession, no longer property of the EGELI (Campagnano did not submit a claim, but sold the property to a third party).

3. The restitution of property previously sequestered and confiscated during the RSI

The question relating to real estate and personal property that were seized from the Jews in compliance with legislative measures issued under the RSI is quite complex: shifts in the war fronts, the presence and actions of the German allies-occupiers in these zones and policies regarding the confluence and deportation of Jews made the application of provisions extremely difficult. The consequences of these problems had repercussions on the subsequent process of restitution, and the delayed publication of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January – compared to the liberation of the central regions – heavily influenced its progress.

Hence, in providing a general framework for reference on the basis of incomplete and unsystematic records, as well as formulating a quantitative assessment of the phenomenon, an analysis of the problem of restitution must focus on the different situations in the zones that were gradually liberated up to the autumn of 1944, compared to those liberated in the spring of 1945. It should also carefully examine the specific ways in which the seized property was returned.³³ These two themes should then be linked to the important developments in the context of legislation which took place between 1944 and 1947. All these events, which occurred above all in the initial stages in a period

³³ The reference is to property (personal and real estate) sequestered and /or confiscated, and then assigned to the EGELI according to the laws that were issued; to assets handled by administrators that were delegated by the EGELI, owing to organisational problems that arose; to the question of assets seized from the Jews illegally through theft, looting, destruction etc.

characterised by immense poverty and tragedy, should be placed in context. It is significant that the “Report” made by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945 (yet dated August 1946) of the EGELI, stressed that “Immediately following liberation and the end of hostilities, many Jews managed to obtain the restitution of confiscated assets, which could not be denied them, even if detailed legislation was lacking with regard to restitution procedures. Moreover, the provisions for confiscation or sequestration of Jewish property had been declared null and void by dlgt 249/1944 of 5 October, with regard to the legislative set-up in the liberated territories.

Since many previously confiscated assets have been returned to their owners through informal channels, and often without the intervention of any administering body or private delegation of the EGELI, it is impossible to provide specific information relating to the extent of the restitution that occurred during 1945”.³⁴

The archive records that have been collected and analysed in this context are fragmentary and unsystematic, so that a complete overall picture of the restitution cannot be achieved.³⁵ In the current situation, it is difficult to provide answers to the many questions relating to the procedural aspects in the initial stages of the restitution process, following the various stages in the liberation of the peninsula. The problem concerns above all the area of Central Italy, liberated between June and August of 1944, where large Jewish communities resided (Rome, Ancona, Florence and Livorno) and where the measures issued during the Salò regime were applied for quite a few months. Nevertheless, as already stressed in the chapter relative to this matter and in the appendix, records relating to confiscation decrees issued in these areas are quite scarce, sometimes even lacking altogether.³⁶ Documentary evidence relating to restitution is also meagre. With regard to this, some archive records can be consulted, in order to formulate a working hypothesis as regards the restitution activities carried out in these areas before publication of rdl 26/1944: a) first of all it is essential to remember that in Rome on 13 July 1944 Colonel Poletti issued an order for the restitution of personal property and real estate to the Jews, which anticipated the publication of rdl

³⁴ ACS, *Egeli*, b.12, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945. See also ACS, *Egeli*, b. 5, 18 February 1967 letter 635644/AG from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Treasury, Central Commission for War Damages. With regard to a restitution case relating to Ferrara, the head of the Liquidation Office observed: “When liberation had taken place, the Bassani brothers, as with all the other racially persecuted persons who survived or representatives of families who escaped death, *unilaterally came into possession of their assets*, without omitting to ask the new Prefect in Ferrara, nominated by the legal Government, for a statement of the administration of the assets that had been confiscated from them and that [...] had been handled by the Office for Jewish Affairs under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”. Editor’s italics.

³⁵ On this topic, see the documentation in the Appendix, which is above all drawn from EGELI papers present in the National State Archives and on which this analysis has been made to a large extent. It should be mentioned that there are no analogous series of organised documents on the subject of restitution in the archives of the Ministry of Finance, Jewish Property Department, which has supplied the documents in the appendix relating to assets seized from “Jewish” citizens. It should also be pointed out that the records provided by the State Archives occasionally contain indications on the annulment of the confiscation decree, yet not on the actual restitution of property; in some cases (Reggio Emilia State Archives) the publication of the decrees in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* has been reported.

³⁶ See chapter on “Data bank of confiscation decrees”.

26/1944; b) secondly, the events in Grosseto should be mentioned, where the Prefect had already in September 1944 ordered the restoration of the Jews' property rights in compliance with rdl 25/1944 of 20 January, which abrogated "all the measures issued relating to racial matters";³⁷ moreover, it could be assumed that in some of these areas, where widespread theft and looting by Germans and Italians occurred, the urgent political and military situation impeded the completion of confiscation measures, which thus affected restitution procedures.³⁸

According to documentary evidence that has been gathered so far, the process of restitution in the northern regions had begun as early as May 1945, in the form of an advance loan sent by the Treasury to the EGELI "to provide for the settlement of credit balance in favour of the banks, obtained through the confiscation of Jewish assets, which was paid to the EGELI – Northern Italy Administration – and used by the latter to fund other activities".³⁹

With regard to this, a letter dated 9 August 1945 from the Treasury to the Special Commissioner of the EGELI clarifies the adopted procedure:

"While you are hereby notified that the process is underway for the disbursement of the sum of L. 25,000,000 in the estimate of expenditure of this Ministry for the current financial year, by way of an advance granted to this organisation to enable it to repay the banks the amounts that the latter will be authorised in the meantime to pay out to the parties concerned, as restitution of the credit balance obtained through the confiscation of Jewish assets (credit balance which was paid to the EGELI, used to fund other activities), you are kindly requested to give instructions [...] to the aforementioned banks so that operations can proceed regularly, correctly and promptly"; all the same, there were numerous complaints regarding the difficult and lengthy operations.⁴⁰

³⁷ ASGr, *Prefectural offices*, b.698, 7 September 1944 from the Prefect to the sequestrator; b. 765, 25 August 1944 from the Prefect to the AMG, Finance Department, Provincial Office No. 492; 30 August 1944 from the Prefect to the Provincial District Revenue Offices and to the Siena branch of the Land Revenue Assessment Office in Grosseto; 21 September 1944 from the Prefect to the Banca d'Italia, Monte dei Paschi, Banca Naz. dell'Agricoltura, Banca di Toscana, Banco di Roma, Banca Naz. del Lavoro, Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, Provincial Managing Director for the Post Office in Grosseto, to the Banca Popolare Cooperativa of Scansano No. 501 E: " Pursuant to rdl 25/1944 of 20 January [...] governing the restitution of civil and political rights to Italian and foreign citizens declared or considered to be of Jewish race, notice is hereby given of the release of all credit and deposits held in this office belonging to persons of Jewish race.

Hence, the decrees concerning confiscation, sequestration or other orders issued by the former Head of Province at that time remain abrogated"; 12 September 1944 from the Prefect to the sequestrator No. 498 Jews; 18 September 1944 from the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura di Grosseto to the Prefecture, Liquidator of the administration of sequestered property; 28 September 1944 from the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura di Grosseto to the Prefecture.

³⁸ See chapter on Florence.

³⁹ ACS, *EGELI*, b.45 fasc.1, sfasc. Documentation on the advance loan of L.25 million, 24 October 1945 from the Treasury to the Special Commissioner of the EGELI No. 409111/80 –5 P.G.8; dllgt 614/1945 of 7 September.

⁴⁰ ACS, *EGELI*, b.45 fasc.1, sfasc. Documentation on advance of L.25 million, 9 August 1945 from the Treasury to the Special Commissioner EGELI No. 405839. On 16 October 1945 the Special Commissioner of the EGELI reported to the Treasury (No. 118 Aff. Gen/1) a complaint made by the CTLN about the difficulties in obtaining restitution of property to the Jews, actually caused by lack of funds. Funding from the Ministry had not yet arrived, " while it has been impossible to obtain the hoped-for loan through the banks, and the administering bodies have stated that they will proceed with payment in favour of those entitled, but within the limits of present cash availability as they have already disbursed large sums". See also the letters dated 24 October 1945, No. 409111/80 –5 P.G.8 from the Treasury to the Special Commissioner of the EGELI; 7 November 1945 No. 137 Aff.Gen/1 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the Treasury, Head Office; 14 December 1945 No. 147 Ris. Aff. Gen./1 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the Treasury, Head Office.

This amount was collected by the EGELI on 12 February 1946, and allocated “as below[...] through the following banks.

S. Paolo di Torino – Rome	L. 1,102,746.55
Banca Agricola Mantovana	“ 295,099.70
Ist. Cred. Fondiario delle Venezie	“ 4,113,603.38
Monte di Bologna	“ 404,193.65
Banca popolare di Cremona	“ 486,511.25
Cassa di Risparmio di Modena	“ 347,679.97
S. Paolo di Torino – Turin	“ 145,772.55
Cassa di Risparmio PP.LL.	<u>“ 18,094,489.74</u>
Total	“ 24,990,096.79 ”. ⁴¹

How this funding and a further sum of L. 30,000,000⁴² was to be administered was also defined.

Therefore, from May 1945 the process for the restitution of credit balance by the banks got underway, as illustrated in the documents in the appendix,⁴³ which provides an incomplete picture, however, of the process, owing to the complex situation and lack of documents.⁴⁴

⁴¹ ACS, *EGELI*, b.45, fasc. 1, sfasc. Documentation on advance loan of L. 25 million, 30 March 1946 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the Treasury UBAN, No. 165/Ris. Aff.Gen./1. A request for further funds is made in the letter, given that the EGELI had immediately undertaken to pay out L. 2,860,377.02 and the need to meet the unquantifiable expenses relating to the management of assets on the part of other administrators (provinces of Padua, Verona, Venice, Ferrara, Parma, Modena, Florence etc.). See *ibid.* 25 May 1946 from the Treasury, UBAN to the Special Commissioner of the EGELI No. 408831; 25 July 1946 from the Special Commissioner EGELI to the Treasury, UBAN No. 06494 Rag. Ris.; 30 July 1946 from the Treasury, UBAN to the EGELI No. 415031, in which amongst other things he reported that “payment is under way [...] of the sum of L.100,000,000 requested – to implement the provisions laid down in dlgt 393/1946 of 6 May.”; 12 August 1946 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the Treasury, UBAN No. 198/Ris. Aff.Gen./1; 29 August 1946 from the Treasury, UBAN to the State Auditors’ Department, Control Office No. 417286/80-5 P.G.8; 26 September 1946 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the Board of Auditors of the EGELI No. 200/Ris. Aff.Gen./1.

⁴² These two figures are supplied by way of an example, separating the reconstruction of the EGELI’s accounts from the Commission’s functions. In order to gain a better idea of the importance of these two figures in the context of this research, see ACS, *Egeli*, b.45, fasc.1, sfasc. Correspondence 1960, 10 November 1962 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Treasury, Head Office No. 619724/AG in which it is written: “In reference to the request [...] notice is hereby given that briefs No.6225 and No. 6226 of 27 October 1962 provide for [...] the payment of the overall sum of L. 55,000,000 into the Treasury [...] for the repayment of the same sum advanced by the Treasury to the EGELI for the following reasons:

1) L. 25,000,000 - advance loan granted for the restitution of sums and credit balance obtained from the confiscation of Jewish assets;
2) L. 30,000,000 - advance loan granted for the restitution to those eligible of the proceeds obtained through the sale of Jewish assets and for the restitution of security deposits made by the applicants for the purchase of the said assets”.

On this subject see *ibid.* 16 February 1960 from the Treasury, Head Office to UBAN No. 422011/33 Bil.; 10 April 1960 from the Treasury, UBAN to the EGELI Liquidation Office No. 400530; 23 May 1960 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Treasury, UBAN No. 603903/AG; 24 October 1960 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to UBAN No. 608941; 24 July 1961 from the Treasury, UBAN to Treasury, Head Office No. 401452; ACS, *Egeli*, b.15, 6 February 1948 from the Treasury, UBAN to the EGELI No. 400905; 10 April 1948 from Special Commissioner EGELI to Istituto S.Paolo di Torino, land credit section No. 2644/Rag., and 10 April 1948 from Special Commissioner EGELI to Istituto di Credito Fondiario delle Venezie, Verona, No. 2646/Rag.; ACS, *Egeli*, b. 45 fasc. 2 19 May 1948 from Special Commissioner EGELI to the Treasury, UBAN No. 76/Ris. G.E., containing the “Report of amounts allocated by this organisation following brief No. 1 issued on 11 March 1947 (chapter 290 bis Treasury, period 1946-1947) [...]”. See *ibid.* enclosed documents. ACS, *Egeli*, b.19 fasc.3 6 February 1946 circular No. 210 from the EGELI to administrators of confiscated or sequestered Jewish assets; 27 June 1946 circular No. 223.

⁴³ See also ACS, *EGELI*, b. 45, fasc. 1, sfasc. Documentation on advanced loan of L. 25 million; ACS, *Egeli*, b.45 fasc. 2; b.45 fasc. 3 and b. 46.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that the directives for the settlement of accounts were established only according to dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May, “Claims for property that was confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted persons under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana”, which was followed by some important explanatory circulars issued by the EGELI.⁴⁵ On this subject the “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1946” reported:

“With dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May, norms have been issued governing relations with Jewish firms who are owners of sequestered or confiscated assets. The organisation is to inform the persons concerned of the administrative expenses, which will be borne by the said persons (art. 8).

“Furthermore, art. 12 of the aforementioned decree assigns the EGELI the task of settling relations with the property owners, also for administration carried out by other special Offices and Prefectural Commissariats established during the 1944-1945 period in some provinces in northern Italy.

“This is an extremely complex and delicate task, both as regards the settlement of relations with the owners of property administered by the organisation, and even more so as regards property administered by the Offices and Prefectural Commissariats, which have practically ceased to operate. It has not yet been possible to gather and examine data and accounts in these administrations.

“Apart from the fact that almost all property has been returned to the parties concerned or to their representatives, the EGELI’s accounts still remain to be settled, as do those by administrations other than the EGELI. Administrative expenses also need to be recovered, which are explicitly chargeable to the individual owners as established in art. 8 of dlgt 393 of 5 May 1946. However,

⁴⁴ According to the Report made by the Special Commissioner of the EGELI for financial year 1947, it was especially difficult to settle the problems relating to the assets “managed by bodies other than the EGELI and its administering bodies”, through “Special offices, the majority of which depended on the local Prefectures, which almost completely interrupted their activities after liberation in April 1945. Investigation in this field is proving extremely difficult, all the more so because in most cases there are no regular accounts; moreover, it has been impossible to trace the relative documents of each of the administrators.

Although assets have been returned, the subsequent settlement of accounts has thus proved to be much more difficult than for the assets managed by the EGELI through the administering bodies [...]”. See ACS, *Egeli*, b.12 “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1947”; the comments regarded the provinces of Asti, Padua, Reggio Emilia, Ferrara, Modena, Varese, Bolzano (special office in Merano), Verona, Florence “and a few other provinces”.

See also ACS, *Egeli*, b. 15, the letter dated 4 August 1948 No. 5853 Aff. Gen. From the EGELI to the treasury, UBAN; ACS, *Egeli*, b. 3, 11 May 1959 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Treasury, UBAN No. 604672.

⁴⁵ ACS, *Egeli*, b.12, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1945; ACS, *Egeli*, b.47 fasc. “EGELI Liquidation”, circular No. 222 of 20 June 1946 from the EGELI to administering bodies, private administrators, Prefectures, Revenue Office, “Management of confiscated or sequestered Jewish assets, Application of dlgt 293/1946 of 5 May”. ACS, *Egeli*, b. 20, 12 September 1946, circular No. 230 from the EGELI to administering bodies, which explains and completes the directives laid down by circular No. 222; ACS, *Egeli*, b. 19 fasc. 3, 14 October 1946 circular No. 232 from the EGELI to administering bodies, Confiscated or sequestered Jewish assets. Application of circular No. 222 of 20 June 1946. Liquidation of interests. See also ACS, *Egeli*, b. 2 fasc. carbon copy of letter 1962, 27 April 1962 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to Istituto S.Paolo di Torino No. 610085/AG, in which reference is made to circular No. 145453 of 23 May 1946 from the Treasury to the Land Registry Offices, which, with regard to the sequestration and confiscation measures adopted under the RSI, were requested to “simply make a note in the margin of each registration declaring them null and void according to art. 1 No. 2 of dlgt 249 of 5.10.1944”.

the recovery of these costs is likely to be a difficult process, owing to likely opposition on the part of the persons concerned, as well as to the fact that recovery itself will occur such a long time after the termination of the EGELI's activities and those of the other administrators, occurring at the latest in 1945.

“Furthermore, the administering bodies require reimbursement of their operating expenses. In 1946 all essential data has been collected and the requests for reimbursement put forward by the bodies on this matter amounted to an overall figure of around L. 30 million at 31 December 1946.

The organisation, together with the Ministry, will be responsible for settlement of these relations and the subsequent recovery process of the quota of the administrative expenses, which shall be charged to the individual owner of the managed property”.⁴⁶ The subject of paying back expenses gave rise to lengthy contentious lawsuits, which would last up to the termination of the EGELI's activities and would also be linked to the question of unclaimed assets left in the banks and with the future application of dlcp 364/1947 of 11 May, “Succession of persons deceased due to acts of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 who left no heirs”.

4. The question of reimbursing administrative expenses

According to dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May, administrative expenses were to be debited to the owners of property that had formerly been confiscated or sequestered for racial persecutory reasons during the period of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana.

In particular, art. 8 stated that:

“In the administration accounts the property owners are to be charged with the normal administrative expenses and conservation of property, as well as the amounts allocated for the settlement of debts, repair and improvement of the property, and in general all the expenses that the owner would have incurred if he had been in possession of the property, as well as normal operation costs.

“Current account interest is to be calculated on credit and debit prior to the restitution of the property, while legal interest on the final credit or debit balance in the current account is to be calculated from the day of restitution.”

The law was subsequently regulated by a series of circulars issued by the EGELI, which established some important guidelines. Circular No. 222 dated 20 June 1946, sent to the administering bodies delegated by the EGELI, among other things prescribed the drawing up of detailed restitution

⁴⁶ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 12, “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1946”.

records, lists of restitutions that had occurred prior to the application of the norms, and accounts to be rendered to the owners. As for the debits, it stated that:

“Pursuant to art. 8 of the decree, the following should be debited to the property owner:

- a)* normal administrative expenses;
- b)* amounts paid to settle debts and expenses incurred to recover credit;
- c)* expenses pertaining to conservation of the property (for example, transport costs for the conservation of furniture and custody of said furniture);
- d)* expenses for repair and improvement of the property;
- e)* amounts due with regard to interest, as indicated in point 10;
- f)* amounts due concerning compensation for the administering body reimbursing general expenses (thus emending several previous directives on this matter).

There shall be no charges for reimbursement of general expenses due to this organisation.

With regard to bank credits, administrators are requested to refer to the regulations contained in art. 2 of the decree, according to which the acknowledgment of interest yielded during management shall be limited to three years prior to the claim submitted for the restitution of assets.”

Point 9 was dedicated to the assessment of compensation and established:

“In order to assess compensation of general management expenses incurred by the administrators, the latter should refer to the principle previously accepted by the bodies themselves, according to which the said reimbursement shall be limited to actual general expenses incurred for the services, not including operating profits, and in compliance with art. 8 of the decree, compensation proportionate to normal operating expenses shall be liquidated. It is established that for the aforementioned assessment each administering body shall first determine in agreement with this organisation the approximate total cost of its services, including expenses relating to the subsequent period essential for the closing down of the service itself. Therefore, all relative information should be supplied to the organisation as soon as possible.

“As suggested by the administrators and approved by this organisation, the ensuing total amount for administrative expenses shall then be allocated and chargeable to the individual businesses concerned, in proportion to the assets, period of management and extent of service provided.

“The share of expenses shall be charged to the owner of the property that has been already returned as well as to the current administering bodies. In the event that the person concerned does not accept payment of expenses, he will be immediately notified and the administrators shall inform this organisation so that the necessary measures can be adopted by the Treasury.”⁴⁷

⁴⁷ ACS *Egeli*, b. 47, fasc. “Liquidation Egeli”, circular No. 222 of 20 June 1946 from the EGELI to government and private administrators, Prefectures, Revenue Offices, “Management of confiscated or sequestered Jewish assets, Application of dlgt

In order to provide further explanation and conclude these directives, on 12 September circular No. 230 sent out by the EGELI stated that the “normal administrative expenses” charged to the owners should not include expenses relating to the appropriation of the property, its consignment and the forced opening of safe-deposit boxes. “Likewise, owners shall not be charged for expenses incurred for the transport of valuables, silver, etc. from their places of origin to the repositories where they were deposited (Turin, Milan, Verona, etc.) in compliance with the orders issued in the summer of 1944 by the Ministry of Northern Finance, neither shall they be charged with expenses incurred for the delivery of said valuables, silver, etc. back from the repositories to the places of origin.”⁴⁸

The request for payment of administrative expenses was advanced “long after the termination of management by the EGELI and other delegates, which occurred at most in 1945”;⁴⁹ furthermore, as revealed by EGELI documents and those belonging to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities,

293/1946 of 5 May”. It should be mentioned that in relation to the circular’s instructions very few records for restitution have been found during research.

⁴⁸ ACS, *Egeli*, b.20, 12 September 1946, circular No. 230 from the EGELI to administrators; ACS, *Egeli*, b.19 fasc.3, 14 October 1946 circular No. 232 from the EGELI to administrators, Confiscated or sequestered Jewish assets. Application of circular No. 222 of 20 June 1946. Liquidation of interests. In ACS, *Egeli*, b. 45, fasc. 2, a letter dated 23 April 1947 from the Commissioner of the EGELI to the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury, UBAN, No. 3639/Amm./1 G.Ebr., states:

“As this Ministry knows, the EGELI circular No. 222 of 20 June 1946 amongst other things issued general norms regarding the assessment of compensation due to administrators for the reimbursement of general expenses incurred by the latter while managing assets, stating in particular that [...] this organisation would undertake the assessment in question, on the basis of data and other information supplied by the aforementioned administrators.

After analysing such data and information, this organisation has decided to confirm the figures supplied by the administrators indicated below:

- Fondiario della Cassa di Risparmio Milano	L. 7,100,000 =
- Istituto fondiario Verona	“ 8,503,395 =
- Fondiario dell’Istituto S. Paolo di Torino	“ 11,000,000 =
- Banca agricola mantovana – Mantova	“ 2,434,524 =
- Monte di Bologna	“ 219,836 =
- Fondiario della Cassa di Risparmio Bologna	“ 19,000 =
- Cassa di Risparmio di Modena	“ 276,000 =
- Cassa di Risparmio Reggio Emilia	“ 150,000 =
- Banca popolare di Cremona	“ 350,000 =

However, before informing the bodies concerned of the organisation’s confirmation, it is believed advisable that the aforementioned amounts, which refer to compensation at 31 December 1946, be confirmed by this Ministry, and to this end the following are enclosed:

a) a summary of the general expenses incurred by the administering bodies;

b) a list of the extent of the assets, period of management and amount of work undertaken. In compliance with dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May, the said amounts shall be charged to the individual property owners, going by the guidelines established in circular No. 230 of 12 September 1946 (last item), issued by the EGELI, except for the quota relating to operations whose costs cannot be charged to the owners, according to item one of the aforementioned circular No. 230; the quota for each administrator has been established as 25% [...] of the amounts.

Therefore, the total amount of L. 30,052,755 = 25%, that is, L. 7,513,188, should be deducted at the State’s expense, leaving L.22,539,567 the amount to be distributed among and chargeable to the individual owners, and to be recovered from said owners.

A certain amount of opposition is expected on the part of the owners concerned [...] as it is common knowledge that they wish to be totally exempt from such payment. However, this organisation in the meantime will notify persons of the quotas, intending to return to this subject later, before undertaking any legal action for recovery [...]”. See *ibidem* letter No. 406722 dated 20 May 1947, from the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury to the EGELI, in which, acknowledging the previous note, it was observed that the total amount due to the San Paolo Bank by 31 December 1946 was L. 10,725,902 and thus requested a recalculation of the amounts. ACS, *Egeli*, b. 14, contains detailed statements of amounts received by banks for management compensation. In circular No. 251 of 30 May 1947, (ACS, *Egeli*, b.20) the EGELI notified the administrators of the ministerial confirmation of the amounts requested.

⁴⁹ ACS, *Egeli*, b.12 Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1946 and Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1947.

these requests were strongly opposed by the owners of confiscated property, believing the measure to be unjust, exorbitant and intolerable.⁵⁰ As Fabio Levi has reported,

“The reactions of expropriated Jews [...] were immediate, firm and unanimous, when the San Paolo Bank, on behalf of the EGELI, very belatedly requested administrative expenses in 1947. Confronted with such demands, each and every file on the owners contains a copy of highly indignant replies from the persons concerned. One such case in point is the following, dated 23 November 1947: “Now you nonchalantly define the government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana as “self-styled”, whereas you did not hesitate to serve it faithfully, carrying out all kinds of abuse concocted by the Nazi-Fascists against racially persecuted persons [...].

However, so that you do not consider this a contentious outburst in order to deny your “merits”, I shall relate some episodes for which we hold you responsible as an example of what happened to almost everyone else; murdered people without heirs no longer have any say in matters and for the moment have left you the enjoyment of their assets [...].

On 5 February 1944 in the presence of your official and with what seemed to be your complaisant and indifferent consent, well-informed Nazi-Fascists looted household goods and furniture in my mother’s house and in the offices of my firm [...]. On 26 August you irresponsibly and thoughtlessly consented to the prearranged removal of office furniture wreaking havoc with extremely precious and irreplaceable archive records, documents, etc., disgracefully emptied on the floor and left there scattered everywhere [...]. Thus, all the correspondence from my dear departed, manuscripts and unpublished poems by literary friends, books, legal documents etc., and a collection of 2,000 antique stamps got lost [...].

Your so-called management is reduced to fixing the rents comparable to those in 1934 [...].

Now, after over 21 months you charge us with the TOTAL account that is over double the amount earned with great difficulty. Apart from the moral question that I shall report to the Ministry of Finance, it would be totally unacceptable to make the victims of persecution pay for the expenses of a management devised for their detriment by torturers, so as to appropriate the property of candidates for the gas chambers. We would like to point out that we did not appoint you as our guardian.”⁵¹

Not even the reduction by 50% of the requested amounts, announced in September 1951, was considered satisfactory. On 20 November 1951, a new circular sent out by the Union declared:

⁵⁰ AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b.65 B sfasc.3/3, 31 October 1947 from Cantoni to the Treasury No. 4986/65 See also 3 January 1948 from the Treasury, UBAN to Ucii No. 416155; 13 January 1948 from the president of the Ucii to the Treasury No. 71/65; 31 May 1948 from Ucii to the Ministry of Finance No. 2040/65; 26 May 1949 from Ucii to the Ministry of Finance No. 2518/651. On 25 February 1952 the president of the Union wrote to the Treasury, UBAN (letter 653-651): “Following an examination of the various accounts, it has been revealed that [...] in most cases the debits for compensation to the administrators represented percentages that ranged from 80% to 400% of the gross revenue.

A copy of the enquiry conducted by our Union was sent to this Honourable Ministry, containing tables indicating gross revenue, maintenance costs and compensation requested by the administrators, as in the EGELI accounts, so as to have a clear idea of the disproportion”. See also AUCEI, *UCII from 1945* b.65 B sfasc.1/1, 22 December 1947 circular No. 5863/561 to the Community; 20 January 1948 circular No. 6; 17 February 1948 circular No. 10, 31 December 1948 circular No. 64, 12 June 1951 circular No. 7.

⁵¹ F. Levi (edited by), *Le case e le cose. La persecuzione degli ebrei torinesi nelle carte dell’Egeli 1938-1945*, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin, 1998, pp. 75-76.

“Despite the considerable reduction, we have decided not to agree to the requests and as a result we have discussed the case with the Director-General of the Treasury and the Paymaster General’s Office. Subsequent to an explanation of the matter and the revelation of the absurd and unfounded requests made by the administrators, we consider that the Paymaster General has changed his mind and has understood the fairness of our position, so it is to be expected that there will be no further request for reimbursement.”⁵²

With regard to ensuing events on this question, it is essential to point out that the documentary evidence collected so far, which almost exclusively comprises EGELI records, above all illustrates the role and point of view of the latter. As a result, the one-sidedness of the available sources for a reconstruction of events should be stressed, and the specific nature of the conditions under which the Union operated should be placed in this context. Through what can be learned from its archives, the Union spared no efforts to defend and interpret the requests made in the Jewish communities, as illustrated by its actions towards the Treasury and the EGELI in safeguarding Jewish interests. Moreover, the flaws in the legislation regarding restitution and reparation cannot be overlooked;⁵³ this is particularly the case for dlcp 364/1947 of 11 May (dealt with later), which should have been an important instrument for tackling a complex and dramatic situation if its formulation had not limited its application so extensively. On the other hand, Law 233 of 18 July 1997, which resumes the informing criteria, has been much more influential in its application.

5. The transfer of property from the ARAR to the EGELI

On 9 April 1948, a delegate of the Special Commissioner of the EGELI received from the ARAR (“Azienda rilievo alienazione residuati” – Company for the Acquisition of Residual War Materials, established by dlcp 683/1945 of 29 October, for the sale of residual war materials)⁵⁴ “securities and valuables found by the Bolzano branch of this Company amongst the residual war material consigned by the Allies, presumed to be property belonging to persons of Jewish race that was plundered by the Germans”.⁵⁵

The lengthy consignment report, dated 9 April 1948, stated that:

⁵² AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b. 65 B, sfasc.1/1, 20 November 1951 circular No. 18. See also AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b. 65, B sfasc. 3/3, 7 September 1951 from the Treasury, UBAN to Ucii No. 416061; 25 February 1952 from Ucii to the Treasury, UBAN No. 653-651; 1 April 1952 from Ucii to the EGELI No. 1156/651; 10 April 1952 from the EGELI to Ucii No. 1336 Amm/1; AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b. 65 B sfasc.1/1, 10 June 1956 Ucii, circular No. 25; AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b. 65 B, sfasc.3/3, 6 June 1956 from Ucii to the Treasury No. 2575/65.

⁵³ 53 A.Tabet, *op.cit.* p.397.

⁵⁴ See specific chapter on the ARAR and its involvement in the issue of property seized from the Jews.

⁵⁵ ACS, *Egeli*, b.47, fasc. Liquidation of the EGELI, sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, 12 April 1948 from the ARAR to the Treasury, UBAN No. 11211/III DVF/ml.

“Considering that:

1) Amongst the residual war material consigned by the Allies to the Bolzano branch of the Company for the Acquisition of Residual War Materials (“ARAR”), securities and valuables were found, presumed to be property belonging to persons of Jewish race, which was plundered by the Germans; 2) by order of the Treasury, Paymaster General, Office for Allied and Enemy Property pursuant to letter No. 402231 of 28 February 1948, the said securities and valuables shall be transferred to the Organisation for the Management and Liquidation of Property (EGELI) for assessment and measures shall be adopted in relation to the steps to be taken for restitution to the rightful owners, in accordance with dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May. On this day, 9 April 1948 Sig. De Viti Francesco and Sig. Paoli Luciano on behalf of the Company for the Acquisition of Residual War Materials (ARAR) have proceeded to consign the securities and valuables listed below to Dr. Pittoni Giuseppe, government official for the Organisation for the Management and Liquidation of Property (EGELI), who has been instructed to receive the said consignment and issue a receipt with a letter dated 22 March 1948 from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI, Councillor of the Council of State Enrico De Martino:

Sundry accounts:

Credito Italiano Turin branch No.8 account No. 455 in the name of Diaz Dario ⁵⁶ :	L. 21,108.85
Credito Italiano Turin branch No. 2 account No. 243 in the name of Funaro Adua ⁵⁷ daughter of Vittorio:	L. 15,029.65
Credito Italiano Fiume branch bearer savings account No. 924 in the name of Voghera Ferruccio ⁵⁸	L. 3,495.00
Credito Italiano Turin branch 2 bearer savings account No. 5010 in the name of A.F.	L. 94.10
Credito Italiano Turin bearer account No. 11684 in the name of Marianna Levi Sacerdote ⁵⁹	L. 2,128.10
Cassa di Risparmio Turin personal savings account No. 15485 in the name of Weil Marianna ⁶⁰	L. 2,790.67
Cassa di Risparmio Turin branch 1 bearer account No. 15074 in the name of Franco Cesare ⁶¹	L. 1.42
Cassa di Risparmio Turin (Moncalieri) bearer account No. 5612 in the name of Diena Dorina ⁶²	L. 518.09
Istituto San Paolo Turin passbook of account No. 13859 in the name of Sacerdote Marianna, widow of Levi (see note 59)	L. 13.90
Istituto di San Paolo Turin passbook of account No. 13907 in the name of Sacerdote	

⁵⁶ See L.Piccioletto Fargion, *Il libro della memoria*, Milan, 1991, p. 218.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 291 and 449.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 610.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 379 and 518.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p.614.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p.284, cites Franco Cesare di Lazzaro.

⁶² *Ibid.*, pp.227, 517.

Marianna, widow of Levi (see note 59)	L. 14.60
Cassa di Risparmio di Saluzzo personal savings account No. 21208 in the name of Lattes Angiolina daughter of Aronne ⁶³	L. 20.80
Cassa di Risparmio di Saluzzo bearer savings account No. 21878	L. 10,000.00
Banca Commerciale Italiana Fiume branch bearer savings account No. 8229 in the name of ADA	L. 1,800.30
Social Security Head Office Trento – Retirement pension certificate No. 639011 category VO in the name of Valduga Ester daughter of Giuseppe for annual pension of L. 1,560 paid in 130 installments.	
Banca Nazionale del Lavoro Rome branch Piazza Risorgimento 27 – personal savings account No. 1469, in the name of Di Colloredo Fides	L. 36.30
Banca di Brignone personal savings account No. 554 in the name of Marianna Sacerdote widow of Levi (see note 59)	L. 324.00
Casse di Risparmio Postali Province of Turin Turin office 18 – passbook No. 21466 in the name of Franco Cesare son of Edmondo (see note 61) Via S.Pellico 2	L. 20.00

Securities:

Consolidated 3.50% - Certificate No. 30-026 cum dividend coupons 17/4/46 in the name of Diena Emilio son of Giacomo for an annual yield of L. 77. The income is mortgaged in favour of Sacerdote Debora Dorina di Giuseppe wife (see note 62) of the bearer guaranteed by her dowry [...]	L. 2,500.00
Consolidated 3.50% - Certificate No. 620999 cum dividend coupons 1/1/59 in the name of Diena Emilio Torino for an annual yield of L. 35. The income is mortgaged in favour of Sacerdote Debora Dorina di Giuseppe wife (see note 62) of the bearer guaranteed by her dowry [...]	L. 1,000.00
Consolidated 3.50% - Certificate No. 564902 cum dividend coupons 1/1/59 in the name of Sacerdote Debora Dorina di Giuseppe (see note 62) resident in Turin, for an annual yield of L. 210. – The income is tied up in a dowry.	L. 6,000.00
Treasury bond 5% - maturity 15/2/49 issued in Turin No. 0044487 series N value cum dividend 15/8/44 to 15/2/49	L. 500.00
Treasury bond 5% - maturity 15/2/49 issued in Turin No. 0092011-0092012 series O value cum dividend 15/8/44 to 15/2/49	L. 1,000.00
Nine-year Treasury bond 5% special series issued in Turin No. 004089 maturity 1/9/44 value cum dividend 1/3/44 to 1/9/44	L. 5,000.00
No. 3 Treasury bonds – 5% special series No. 006542 – 006422 – 006164 issued in Turin maturity 1/3/44 to 1/9/44	L. 1,500.00

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 365, cites Lattes Angela daughter of Aronne.

No. 3 Treasury bonds – 5% special series at L. 1,000 each No. 006177-005686-005685 issued in Turin dividend coupons 1/3/44 to 1/9/44	L. 3,000.00
Treasury bond 4% series I maturity 15/12/43 No. 187023-187024 issued in Turin	L. 1,000.00
Credito Fondiario Istituto di San Paolo di Torino Security of 10 bonds No. 149445 to bearer cum dividend coupons from 1/9/44 to 1/4/1955	L. 5,000.00

Shares:

“Agostini Francesco Ltd.” Turin

Share certificate No. 0131 for 10 shares with No.	0401-0410
shares at L. 100 each	
“ “ “ “ “ 0130 “ “ “ “	0391-0400
“ “ “ “ “ 0101 “ “ “ “	0101-0110
“ “ “ “ “ 0102 “ “ “ “	0111-0120
“ “ “ “ “ 0103 “ “ “ “	0121-0130
“ “ “ “ “ 0104 “ “ “ “	0131-0140
“ “ “ “ “ 0105 “ “ “ “	0141-0150

“Agostini Francesco Ltd.” Turin

Share certificate	No.	0033 for 1 share at L. 100	No. share	0033
“	“	No.	0034 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0034
“	“	No.	0035 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0035
“	“	No.	0036 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0036
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“	“	No.	0038 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0038
“	“	No.	0039 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0039
“	“	No.	0040 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0040
“	“	No.	0001 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0001
“	“	No.	0002 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0002
“	“	No.	0003 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	0003

“Agostini Francesco Ltd.” Turin

Share certificate No. 0004 for 1 share at L. 100	No. share	0004
“ “ “ 0005 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “		0005
“ “ “ 0006 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “		0006
“ “ “ 0007 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “		0007

all cum dividend coupons from No. 1 to No. 30.

Genovese Lattiera Agricola Ltd.

Share certificate No. 00988 for No. 25 shares at L. 25 to bearer
No. shares 05676-05700
“ “ “ 00987 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
No. shares 05651-05675
“ “ “ 00985 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
No. shares 05601-05625
“ “ “ 00986 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

No. shares 05626-05650 with coupons from No. 1 to No. 25

Share certificate No. 00790 for No. 10 shares at L. 25 to bearer

No. shares 2391-02400

“ “ “ 00791 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

No. shares 02401-02410

“ “ “ 00793 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

No. shares 02421-02430

“ “ “ 00792 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

No. shares 02411-002420 with coupons from No. 1 to No. 25

No. 8 share certificates 00695-00693-00694-00696-00697-00698-00699-00700

Of 5 shares, each at L. 20 with coupons from No. 1 to No. 25.

Oval object in metal, presumably photograph frame.

Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni Roma

Mixed insurance policy No. 1037306 in the name of Ferruccio Voghera resident in Milan Via Fontana 25 to the value of L. 10.000.

No. 3 premium receipts in the name of Voghera Ferruccio at L. 384.40 each

No. 20 insurance premium instalments bearing the numbers: [...] each to the value of L. 382.35

Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni Roma

No. 12 insurance receipts No. 1670574 in the name of Zanchi Onorina [] resident in [...] Turin – receipt numbers [...] for various amounts

La Fondiaria Incendio = Payment receipts Sig. Fano Alessandro⁶⁴ for L. 16.80

⁶⁴ See L.Picciotto Fargion, *op.cit.*, p.261.

Istituto delle Opere Pie di D. Paolo di Torino – Security Deposit service passbook current account No.11093 in the name of Sig Emilio Diena daughter of Giacomo for deposit of securities, Consolidated and yield 3.50% for the sum of L. 24,000.

Bills of Exchange:

Undated bill in favour of Giuseppe Diaz⁶⁵ for the sum of L. 25,000. Signed by “Soc. An. Lavorazioni Autarchiche Maglierie e Affini” resident in Turin Signed blank – Undated bill as above

Undated bill with blank endorsement of the sum of L. 8,000. Signed by Dott. Alberto Cassin⁶⁶ resident in ...Turin

Cheques:

Cheque from the Istituto Bancario Piemontese written out by the Ditta Cravario for the sum of L. 1,000 in favour of Lidia Tapassone blank endorsement, No. 100719

Open cheque Banco di Napoli No. 6346 for L. 52 in favour of Rita Colombo⁶⁷ issued by the Banco di Chiavari e Della Riviera Ligure – S.Margherita Ligure branch dated 19/7/43. Unendorsed.

Promissory note Banca d’Italia for L. 5,000 No. 0218599 issued 11/3/44 in the name of the Banca d’Italia in Turin and subsequently signed blank by the latter.

Banker’s draft of the Banca Colombo issued by the Comit Torino on 12/11/43 bearing No. 406649 unendorsed, L. 21.

As above L. 808,50 No. 387966 issued 8/10/43 unendorsed.

As above L. 260.= No. 370262 issued il 10/8/43 “ “

As above L. 199.= No. 382676 issued 9/9/43 “ “

Direction Der DiscontoGeselleschaft – Berlin

Cheque from the “Banca Commerciale Italiana, Florence, for the sum of 96,000 marks. Issued on 3/4/922 No. 5774 in the name of Eduvard [sic] Farnall – unendorsed by the latter. [. .]”.⁶⁸

This report is extremely interesting for many reasons, although it is not possible to highlight and clarify all its implications.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p.218.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p.175.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p.194.

⁶⁸ ACS, *Egeli*, b.47 fasc. Liquid. EGELI, sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, 9 April 1948 - Consignment report. The ARAR intended to claim retrieval and custody expenses.

First of all it is important to stress that some time elapsed between the establishment of the ARAR and the consignment of assets to the EGELI that were “presumed to be property belonging to persons of Jewish race”. The overall conduct of the ARAR on this subject was rather dubious.⁶⁹

Secondly, it seems curious that despite ample information available on the whereabouts of the owners, some of these assets travelled a long way before ending up at the EGELI which, as shall be seen, in a few cases tried to sell them and keep the proceeds or else decided to destroy them.⁷⁰

It should also be remembered that, according to what is stated in the “Report by the Commissioner for financial year 1952”, during that year EGELI received “20 sources of income, in part coming from the ARAR and in part from some revenue offices.”⁷¹

The documentation currently available, mostly records found in the archives of the EGELI, does not shed any further light on this episode.⁷²

As for the specific issue of the assets transferred from the ARAR to the EGELI in 1948, what has been gleaned from the documents, which are fragmentary, unsystematic and few and far between, is that in 1954 the EGELI tried to acquire the assets belonging to Emilio Diena and Dorina Sacerdote⁷³ and later under a new regulatory framework took action to appropriate some of these assets.

⁶⁹ On this subject see the chapter dedicated to the issue of the ARAR. With regard to this specific episode, several other documents housed in the ACS, *Egeli*, b.47, fasc. Liquid. Egeli, sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, report that the ARAR intended to claim retrieval and custody expenses, as illustrated by a letter sent to the Treasury, UBAN (No. 11466/Sb) on 15 April, and that on 21 June (No. 404950) it referred the claim to the EGELI. On 3 July (No. 19432/Sb) the ARAR asked the EGELI to “let us know in due time of the sum of the proceeds from the securities and valuables of presumed Jewish origin returned by this company on 9 April of this year, as this company has to apply the percentage on said proceeds for the reimbursement of retrieval, custody and other general expenses, etc., as owed to this company according to dlgs 119/1947 of 28 February”. Another reminder was sent on 16 September (No. 25577/Sb).

⁷⁰ See paragraph 8, minutes of 6 April 1970 in the appendix.

⁷¹ ACS, *Egeli*, b.12 Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1952.

⁷² ACS, *Egeli*, b.47 fasc. Liquid. EGELI sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to liquidation of the EGELI, Rome, 31 December 1956, anonymous typewritten note. The same record holds several other documents on the possible appointment of the EGELI as administrator. See also the “Report of the Special Commissioner for financial year 1952” of the EGELI (ACS, *Egeli*, b.12), mentioned in No. 80.

⁷³ In ACS, *Egeli*, b.47, fasc. Liquid. EGELI sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, in which there are three documents: 25 May 1954 from the Commissioner of the EGELI to the Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino, Sezione di credito fondiario, No. 1130/Amm/1: “Notice is hereby given that this organisation, under the provisions set out by the Treasury and Paymaster General in letter No. 402241 of 28 February 1948, has received security deposit policy No. 10431 issued by this Bank on 17 December 1928 in the name of the persons indicated [Emilio Diena and Dorina Diena née Sacerdote] and pertaining to the government securities amounting to a nominal capital of L. 24,000. A certified copy of the policy is enclosed.

The government securities from the policy in question (together with other stocks and shares originally held by the ARAR) shall be kept by this organisation in accordance with dlgs 393/1946 of 5 May.

The deposit in question does not appear in the list of securities and various bank deposits, whose data was conveyed by the Bank to this organisation and neither is it present in the sources of income included in confiscation papers No. 5013 and No. 5014 G.Eb., in the name of Diena Emilio.

The Bank is therefore requested first of all to verify that the security deposit in question still exists and if so, the Bank is requested to arrange for its transfer to this organisation [...].”

On 2 December 1954, the Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino replied to the letter “No. 2744/Amm./1/G.E.B. of 13 s.m.”, with regard to the limited company Genovese Lattifera Agricola (no longer exists) and to the limited company Francesco Agostini Torino (cannot be traced). Both the company’s shares were included in the assets in possession of the former ARAR, as indicated in the report of 9 April 1948.

On 22 December 1954, the EGELI Commissioner (letter 3057/Amm/1) wrote to the Istituto San Paolo di Torino, Sezione di credito fondiario: “With reference to previous correspondence, notice is given that on this day this organisation has arranged for the

6. The question of assets belonging to Jews who died during deportation and left no heirs

The information contained within the official documentary evidence regarding the question of restitution and specifically relating to the EGELI and its activities reveals that by the end of the 1940s the process of returning real estate that had been expropriated as a result of the application of law 126 in 1939 had definitely got under way. Indeed, a large number of assets confiscated and sequestered under RSI legislation were returned.⁷⁴ Nevertheless, four important issues that were all related to one another still needed examining, concerning restitution activities carried out between 1947 and 1957 that later also involved the EGELI:

- a) the issue regarding assets formerly held by the ARAR, discussed above;
- b) the issue regarding assets belonging to “persons deceased due to acts of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 who left no heirs”;
- c) the issue regarding unclaimed assets still in the custody of banks;
- d) the issue concerning the reimbursement of administrative expenses, as laid down by dlgt 393 of 5 May 1946, which was the cause of much bitter legal wrangling between the EGELI and a large number of Jews, whose petitions were handled by the representatives of the Union of Jewish Communities.

The fact that these issues are all interrelated is also borne out by evidence in documents concerning what would in the end become the adopted unilateral solution.

In 1947 a law was passed governing the issue of unclaimed property still in the State’s keeping, dlcp 364 of 11 May 1947 “Succession of persons deceased due to acts of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 who left no heirs”, strongly advocated by the President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, Raffaele Cantoni.⁷⁵ As mentioned earlier, this highly important measure would be extremely difficult to apply.

On 29 May 1947, in relation to this law the Union of Italian Jewish Communities sent out a circular to all the communities, which urged “meticulous and discreet inquiries into the fate of confiscated or expropriated Jewish assets that had still not been claimed by their rightful owners or those

collection of the securities amounting to a nominal capital of L. 24,000, belonging to the company in question [Emilio Diena and Dorina Sacerdote] from the Rome branch of this Bank.

As the dividend coupons have been duly detached, the Bank is requested to credit the amount of the dividends coupons to this organisation, as they were not paid out to the owners [...]”.

⁷⁴ See ACS, *Egeli*, b.12, Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1946; Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1947 and Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1950; also see UCII IV Conference of the Communities (1951-5711), Council Report, press proof, p.15;

⁷⁵ M.Toscano, *op.cit.*, pp.57-59; S.I.Minerbi, *Un ebreo fra D’Annunzio e il sionismo: Raffaele Cantoni*, introduction by R. De Felice, Rome, 1992, pp. 187-188.

entitled to them” in order to ascertain the existence of unclaimed assets included in the above-mentioned measures and proceed to request their restitution.⁷⁶

On 3 November 1950, still in reference to dlcp 364/1947 of 11 May, the Union reported to the Treasury that “most of the assets” belonging to deported Jews who had left no heirs had been claimed by those entitled to them and returned by the EGELI, whereas the Union lacked information relevant to assets still in the State’s keeping and thus could not assert its rights. Hence, it urged the Treasury to authorise the EGELI to transmit the lists of Jewish assets “administered and held by this organisation”, thus enabling the Union to carry out its inquiries.⁷⁷ On 14 April 1951 the Ministry instructed the EGELI to supply all information that was essential to future claims made by the Union.⁷⁸ On 5 June, a lawyer, Angiolino Della Seta, was delegated by the Union to examine the various files relating to sequestered or confiscated Jewish property at the offices of the EGELI.⁷⁹

In this context there is documentary evidence contained in the EGELI records pertaining to the existence of unclaimed assets still left in the custody of banks. The Report for financial year 1950 made by the EGELI stated that “Lastly, with regard to deposits and valuables still held in the banks that have not yet been claimed by those entitled to them, our investigations are progressing well. Nevertheless, it has not been possible to conclude them, since some banks deem it preferable not to divulge the requested information, despite requests from the Treasury, the Inspectorate for Credit and the Bank of Italy.

The Treasury has been informed of the results of our investigations so far, and we await further instructions on how to proceed in this investigation, both with regard to the rights exercised by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities over the said assets and in relation to the banks possessing deposits, who are keeping unclaimed deposits clearly in order to allow the lapse of the prescriptive period in their favour”.⁸⁰

⁷⁶ AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b. 65 B sfasc. 2/2, 29 May 1947 circular No. 31 ref. No. 2681/65, mentioned in circular No. 26 ref. No. 969/65 of 19 March 1952.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.* b.65 B, sfasc. 1/3, 3 November 1950 from Ucii to the Treasury, Uban, No. 3497/65. The Ucii also sent a copy of the letter to the EGELI, requesting the drawing up of the list of assets in its keeping. (3 November 1950 No. 3496/651).

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, b.65 B, sfasc.2/1, 20 April 1951 from the Ucii to the Treasury, Uban No. 1296/651. This letter mentions note No. 401759 of 14 April 1951 from the Treasury to the EGELI, with a copy being also sent to the Union.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 65 B, sfasc. 3/3, 5 June 1951 from the Ucii to the EGELI No. 1772-651.

⁸⁰ ACS, *Egeli*, b.12 “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1950”; “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1951”; the “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1952” stated that: “With regard to the numerous deposits and securities not managed by the EGELI mentioned above that were kept in various banks, the Union of Italian Jewish Communities is examining each case. However, it has still not been decided whether these sources of income should be administered solely by the Union, thereby relieving the EGELI of its tasks, or if the EGELI itself should be responsible for deciding where these amounts of money should finally be sent”. The “Report by the Special Commissioner for financial year 1955” does not provide any useful information that could further clarify the matter. Also see ACS, *Egeli*, b.47 fasc. Liquid. EGELI sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, 25 November 1951 from the EGELI Commissioner to the State Lawyer’s Office No. 4954/Amm/1, and the reply in a letter dated 27 June 1952 No. 1053, from the State Lawyer’s Office.

In 1952 and 1953, the Union conducted another internal investigation on unclaimed assets.⁸¹ On 21 March 1956, it sent a wealth of documentary evidence to the communities of Bologna, Florence, Ferrara, Genoa, Livorno, Milan, Parma, Padua, Turin and Venice, which attested to the numerous unclaimed deposits in the EGELI's keeping.⁸²

At this stage, the issue of assets belonging to "persons deceased due to acts of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 who left no heirs", already tied in with the question of unclaimed assets held in the banks, was further complicated by the problem of reimbursement of administrative expenses, as laid down by dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May. This was proposed again by the EGELI in 1956, after five years of silence, with requests for reimbursement in order to avoid prescription.⁸³

Although no reference to this matter has been found in the records at the EGELI so far, those found in the archives of the Union reveal that the problem was discussed between government officials from the Treasury and Union representatives.⁸⁴ On 8 June, there is a note that says: "Went with Cantoni to Office for Allied and Enemy Property and spoke to the accountant, Barberis.

"After consulting the Minister, this person will have to discuss the possibility of compensation of L. 21 million demanded by the EGELI for expenses (2) and compensation (19) which was then reduced to 11 (about 600 cases) with unclaimed amounts blocked in bank deposits (4 million).

The Union [at this point in the document there is a handwritten "no"] would guarantee the State for any claims made by third parties to the banks and would supervise operations with the latter.

Any settlement should mention that no payment to possible debtors can be made without the Union's consent. [...]."⁸⁵

The documents do not specify if the conversations were actual negotiations or off the record, but in any case from what can be gathered there was no settlement.

On 24 February 1957, *L'Europeo* published an article bearing the title *Paghereste novemila lire per riavere due comodini?* [Would you pay nine thousand lire to reacquire two bedside tables?]. After briefly running over the compensation measures that had been criticised by Luigi Einaudi, the writer summarised the still unsettled question of management compensation, referring to a question put forward by Senator Umberto Terracini in Parliament, to which Senator Giuseppe Medici replied

⁸¹ AUCEI, *UCII from 1945*, b.65 B, sfasc.2/2, 19 March 1952 circular No. 969/65;

⁸² *Ibid.*, b. 65 B, sf. 3/1, 21 March 1956 from the Ucii to the Jewish Communities in Bologna, Florence, Ferrara, Genoa, Livorno, Milan, Parma, Padua, Turin and Venice, No. 1311/65; *ibid.*, b.65 B sfasc. 3/5 for documents and replies.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, b. 65 B, sfasc. 3/3, 6 June 1956 from the Ucii to the Treasury Office No. 2575/65; *ibid.*, b. 65 B sfasc.1/1, 10 June 1956 circular 25, No. 2658/65.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, b.65 B, sfasc. 3/3: notes of 7 June 1956, signed by Giulio Anau.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 65 B sfasc. 3/3, note signed with initials G.A.

on 13 November 1956, without giving any concrete solutions to the problem of reimbursement.⁸⁶ On 14 April 1957, the Treasury itself announced the liquidation of the EGELI in a letter to the newspaper.⁸⁷

The question was delegated to the EGELI Liquidation Office.

7. Guidelines laid down by the Treasury regarding the still unresolved questions

Before investigating the EGELI's activities in the period 1957-1970 on the basis of extant documentary evidence,⁸⁸ it is essential to examine the only document discovered so far that explicitly refers to the attempt to solve the questions regarding the EGELI's demand for administrative expenses and to the unclaimed assets still deposited in the banks. The document is in the form of a lengthy memorandum written by the Paymaster General and addressed to the Treasury Minister⁸⁹, which deserves to be quoted in full:

“DlIgt 393/1956 of 5 May [sic] regulated the restitution to their rightful owners or those entitled to them of assets that were sequestered, confiscated or seized from racially persecuted citizens under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana.

“The aforementioned assets were for the most part managed by the Organisation for the Management and Liquidation of Property (EGELI) which had delegated administration to the land credit banks. There were 1,735 cases in all that were managed by the EGELI, amounting to a capital value of L.2,124,371,000 according to estimates made in 1944.

“One of the most delicate issues that emerged through the application of the said decree was the question regarding management compensation due to the administrators.

Article 8 of the law was originally formulated as follows:

‘In the statement of administrative expenses the property owners are to be charged with normal running expenses and conservation of property, as well as the amounts allocated for the settlement of debts, repair and improvement of the property, and in general all the expenses that the owner would have incurred if he had been in possession of the property. On the contrary, the State will pay for expenses owed to the

⁸⁶ R.Trionfera, *Paghereste novemila lire per riavere due comodini?* in *L'Europeo*, 24 February 1957; Senato della Repubblica, II legislatura, *Resoconti delle discussioni 1953–1956*, vol. 20, 7 November–21 December 1956, Roma, Tipografia del Senato, 1956, pp. 19125-19126.

⁸⁷ *Lettere al giornale* in *L'Europeo* 14 April 1957.

⁸⁸ Pursuant to art. 1 of law 1404/1956 of 4 December, the EGELI was abolished and its liquidation was governed by dpr 22/1957 of March. All attendant operations were assigned to a liquidator under dm 22/1957 of May, with the task of completing all liquidation operations within six months. Following dm/1957 of 13 November liquidation of the EGELI was transferred to the Treasury and assigned to the Liquidation Office of the Paymaster General's Office. See on this subject, Ministero del Tesoro, *Elementi di informazione sullo stato della liquidazione dell'Ente di Gestione e Liquidazione Immobiliare (Egeli)*, 18 November 1997, note sent to the Commission for the reconstruction of events in Italy leading to the acquisition of assets belonging to Jewish citizens by both public and private organisations.

⁸⁹ ACS, *Egeli*, b.47, fasc. Liquidazione EGELI, Treasury 16 May 1958 Memorandum No. 401459 for the Minister.

administrators as established by the Treasury, as well as those incurred that do not concern conservation or improvement of the assets.’

“During the examination of the law by the National Constitutional Court, the Commission for political and administrative affairs – Finance and Treasury, in the session of 24 April 1946, amended the said art. 8 by adding the following words after the first paragraph: ‘as well as compensation payment owed to the administrators strictly essential to normal administration’. The law was thus promulgated in this form.

“Almost all Jewish assets were returned by the end of 1946.

“The administering bodies, on the basis of a special ‘Agreement’ previously entered upon together with the EGELI, calculated that they were owed L. 29,778,657 for administrative expenses for the years 1944-45-46 and reimbursement of expenses paid in advance (electricity, taxes, the salaries of custodians and so on) the latter amount totalling around 2 million lire.

“Given that the sum of L. 29,778,657 included the costs of keeping assets, travel expense diaries etc. that could not be considered as pertaining to ‘normal administration’ according to the said art. 8, the amount was reduced by 25% to L. 7,444,664, which was to be paid by the State.

“Hence, each property owner was charged with various amounts for administrative costs and reimbursement of normal expenditure paid in advance for the remaining sum of L. 22,333,993.

“In 1947 the administering bodies had to carry out various duties regarding the management of Jewish assets, such as drawing up statements of accounts for each owner, making reports on the restitution of assets etc. and for these operations further compensation was allocated for a total of L. 10,775,616.

“Special payment orders that were issued in compliance with the aforementioned law paid by funds allocated in the budget enabled the EGELI to pay out this sum to the administering bodies, as it had already done for the sum of L. 29,778,657.

“When liquidating this second compensation quota, it was decided that 75% had to be allocated and debited to each property owner.

“However, given that the administrators had already informed the owners of the sums owed for the allocation of L.22,333,993, and as it was unlikely that the charges regarding 1947, which were based on administrative duties, could be included in those that were ‘strictly essential to normal administration’, the EGELI did not order the allocation of 75% of the costs among the owners, amounting to L. 8,081,712, following agreements made with the Ministry. This was to avoid any further indignant protests made by the owners themselves against what they considered such unfair demands. Indeed, only a small number actually paid the costs.

“As the question was so delicate, the Union of Jewish Communities was asked to intervene and persuade the debtors to pay at least 50% of the costs. On 27 August 1951 the Treasury approved this kind of settlement, which the State Lawyer’s Office counted on in order to avoid unpleasant legal action that would have been difficult to impose and would have challenged the congruity of the sums requested in court.

“Although the Union of Jewish Communities wished to find a solution to the problem, it had always maintained that it could not ask the property owners to pay these debts, even partially, since the motives underlying the sequestration measures had been based on racial persecution.

“Ten years after the legislative decree had been issued, in May 1956, the question had still not been solved.

“The outcome of another inquiry conducted amongst the members of the board of the Union of Jewish Communities to see if a settlement could be reached in some way had been negative, insofar as the members themselves did not feel they could commit the Union in any way, as their mandate was nearing the end of its term. Hence, between the end of May and the beginning of June 1956 the debtors were again sent requests for payment, the main aim being to suspend the ten-year prescriptive period.

“Some debts were paid, which together with the sums paid in 1946-47 reduced the overall sum to be recovered to the present sum of L.20,525,609.

“Faced with the aforementioned financial position, the EGELI presented the following debit posting, for the administration under investigation named ‘Sequestered or confiscated Jewish assets’ to distinguish it from ‘Jewish assets 1939’ regarding property that was expropriated in compliance with rdl 126/1939 of 9 February:

a) L. 2,095,498 consisting of management surplus still unclaimed by about 250 Jewish citizens.

b) L. 524,835 still deposited in the Milan branch of the Monte di Credito su Pegno as a result of the sale of 12 items of furniture formerly belonging to Jewish citizens who are probably deceased.

(It should be pointed out that the said sum is held by the Monte di Credito su Pegno di Milano since this bank has demanded the sum of L. 3 million from the EGELI for various operations carried out in compliance with the racial laws, which the EGELI has not taken into consideration).

c) Securities and sundry objects – of little value – in the EGELI’s keeping, given that they were sequestered from Jewish citizens and never reclaimed.

d) A plot of land in Saltrio (Varese) measuring 3,540 square metres confiscated from the Jewish citizen Perugia Giacomo now deceased, managed by the Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde for the EGELI. The land has recently been claimed by an alleged nephew.

* * *

“It should be pointed out that following what has been stated above and also due to the future suppression of the EGELI as laid down by law 1404/1956 of 4 December and the subsequent takeover of duties by the Liquidation Office, the members of the Union of Jewish Communities have again taken up the issue so as to find a solution to the age-old question of credit due to the EGELI, which amounts to L. 20,525,609.

“While the Union representatives have asserted that they will not put forward any proposals, nevertheless they state through the Secretary-General that they would not be unwilling to give their consent to a solution proposed by the Ministry in the following terms:

- the State, that is to say the Liquidation Office (EGELI), should abandon the policy of insisting on demanding the payment of debts in order to recover the sum of L. 20,525,609;

- in exchange, the Union of Jewish Communities would give up recourse rights, granted by dlcp 364/1947 of 11 March, concerning petitions for the unclaimed assets indicated in points a, b, c and d above. According to the aforementioned decree, property left to successors that had belonged to Jews who died as a

consequence of racial persecution after 8 September 1943 was transferred free of charge to the Union (this property was then devolved to the State according to art. 586 of the Civil Code).

“The renunciation of these rights, based on the assumption that the EGELI cannot yet consider the ten-year prescriptive period in its favour with regard to the aforementioned debts as a consequence of law 711/1948 of 25 March that would shift the end of the prescriptive period to 24 December 1958, would enable the EGELI to immediately acquire the assets indicated above and would also permit the organisation to attempt to recover from the banks the cash deposits and government and industrial securities formerly subject to confiscation by the State through the EGELI as a result of the application of the racial laws and still unclaimed by their rightful owners after the abrogation of the said laws.

“These sources of income, only partially verified in that some banks like the Credito Italiano and the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro cited banking secrecy, amount to around L. 4,000,000 with regard to cash deposits and government securities, as well as 6,650 industrial shares of uncertain value, belonging to various firms.

Following enquiries undertaken in agreement with the Union, it appears that the banks where the assets are deposited intend to confiscate the sums in their favour as laid down by art. 1161 of the Civil Code.

“The aforementioned solution would be difficult to implement and would probably not produce any significant results for the following reasons:

- 1) because the prescriptive period for the Union’s renunciation of recourse rights would already expire if the interruption as laid down by dlp 711/1948 of 25 March were not to be applied, which seems unlikely;
- 2) the right itself can only be exercised when it can be proved that there are no heirs (art. 586 of the Civil Code). The renunciation of such rights in favour of the State would force the Liquidation Office to carry out enquiries for each asset involving lengthy and costly procedures, which is to be avoided at all costs, particularly in reference to the law of 4 December 1956 governing the closing down of organisations.

“That being stated, given that the EGELI should renounce Jewish citizens’ debts that do not exceed L. 500, on the basis of art. 9 of the said law 1404, the total amount of L.20.525.609 should decrease to L.20.000.000;

- bearing in mind that a reduction of the debts would undoubtedly be fair (and any request in this sense would certainly be granted by the court) in order to limit the compensation costs ‘strictly essential to normal administration’ as provided by art. 8 of the aforementioned law;

- considering that at present a solution to this age-old question would be easier also in relation to the power granted to the Liquidation Office by article 10 of law 1404/1946 of 4 December [sic];

- considering that any action for the recovery of administrative expenses should be avoided for the reasons that have always raised protests from the debtors and because such actions would only further delay the liquidation of the administration of ‘confiscated and sequestered Jewish assets’;

- likewise, considering that the renunciation on the part of the Union of Jewish Communities of the right to have recourse to the law would not benefit the State in any practical way for the reasons mentioned above and, if the provisions related to art. 586 of the Civil Code were to be applied, this would result in a long and complex procedure that would have no effective results;

“Therefore, at present, from an ethical, juridical and economic point of view, it would be worth avoiding both recovery of the credit in question and the ensuing procedures and subsequent delay of liquidation, which could result in costs exceeding the likely benefits. It is instead worth waiting for the expiry of the prescriptive period (24 December 1958) so as to appropriate the assets belonging to Jewish citizens indicated in points a, b and c and possibly also d of the present memorandum, considering such appropriation and the L.1,800,000, already received out of the initial total credit of L.22,333,993, as fair recovery for the settlement of outstanding accounts.

“In this manner, whereas recovery procedures would have to be started to recover the sum of around L. 20 million, which is not recommended for the above-stated reasons, around L. 3 million would be made through the aforementioned appropriation.

“Hence, the difference of L. 17 million would certainly increase the outstanding administration debts, but the renunciation of debt recovery, especially hateful given that it is applied to persons who were subject to racial persecution, is also advisable in order to avoid possible political repercussions and press action, given the delicacy of the question, which after so many years would again raise a problem that from a moral point of view has already provoked much protest.

“The renunciation of such recovery of debts would also allow a rapid closing down of the EGELI.

“Pending the aforementioned appropriation, the EGELI would take steps to suppress the administration of ‘sequestered or confiscated Jewish assets’ by streamlining its organisation, thus concentrating on the administration of ‘Jewish assets 1939’ and the cases that still have to be dealt with.

“Should the aforementioned considerations be agreed upon, you are kindly requested to authorise the settlement of the outstanding accounts of the administration ‘sequestered or confiscated Jewish assets’ in the terms indicated above.”⁹⁰

This significant document seems to have set in motion some important actions with regard to ensuing events. As the likelihood of reaching an agreement with the Union of Jewish Communities was rejected, the Treasury decided to abandon any kind of action to recover compensation credit from owners who had suffered racial persecution, on the basis of its ethical, juridical and economic assessment, and instead aimed at appropriating unclaimed assets thanks to the impending expiry of the prescriptive period.

There is no information available with regard to the involvement of the Union of Jewish Communities, which confirms the one-sidedness of the action. Neither is there any information

⁹⁰ At the end of the document the minister has written “approved” in pen and the document bears the stamp “F.to Medici”. Also see ACS, *Egeli*, b.2 fasc. Collection of carbon copies of letters 1962, 11 January 1962 letter 617396/AG from Treasury, Liquidation Office to Accounting Services Department, which states amongst other things: “ Considering that with Memorandum 401459 of 16 May 1958 the Office for Allied and Enemy Property, acting in agreement with this Office, proposed that the Honourable Minister for the Treasury [...] give up any attempt to recover credit [...] with the ensuing withdrawal of the said claims; Considering the note No. 401459 of 4 June 1958 from the Office for Allied and Enemy Property, which informed this office of the Honourable Treasury Minister’s approval of the resolution set out in the aforementioned Memorandum [...]”. ACS, *Egeli*, b. 23, No. 401459 of 4 June 1958 from Treasury, UBAN to the EGELI Liquidation Office.

available concerning assets deposited in banks, which according to the memorandum intended to “consider the assets in their possession liable to confiscation according to art. 1161 of the Civil Code”.

In any event, these guidelines were followed by the EGELI between the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s.

8. The closing down of the EGELI offices

On 10 January 1957, a memorandum sent to the Treasury Minister put forward the closing down of the EGELI offices in compliance with the law 1404/1956 of 4 December. The organisation was abolished and put into liquidation under dpr of 22 March 1957 and the relevant operations as laid down by dm of 22 May 1957 were handed over to a liquidation commissioner, with the task of completing all operations within six months. Following the issue of dm of 13 November 1957, the Treasury took over liquidation of the EGELI and delegated procedures to the Paymaster General’s Office. In this period the lawyer Ercole Marazza was responsible for normal administration (from 1 January to 30 June 1957) as he was for the second stage, of administering liquidation following closure of the organisation, (1 July-21 November 1957). The third stage in the process, which began on 22 November 1957, was handled directly by the Liquidation Office, a department of the Treasury.⁹¹ During these stages the still unsolved questions of Jewish assets were constantly examined, resulting in the issue of a memorandum on 16 May 1958.

In the “Report by the Commissioner on the administration of the liquidation of the EGELI”, dated 21 December 1957, in a summary of the final stages of work completed, Marazza explained the “data concerning work still to be done in order to close down the organisation”. The administration of Jewish property, unchanged between 3 July and 21 November 1957, was as follows:

“The said list, 57 items in all, concerns:

- a) the proceeds from the sale of five Jewish assets 1939, whose reimbursement to their rightful owners against return of the nominative certificates issued by the organisation at that time, has not been put into effect for two of the expropriated owners owing to pending legal disputes between the owners and the purchaser (from No. 1 to 5 in the list);
- b) one restitution held in abeyance until legal action has been taken and which will be completed in due time on restitution of the certificate issued by the EGELI at that time (No. 6 in the list);

⁹¹ ACS, *EGELI*, b. 23, 10 January 1957 Memorandum 45m from the Paymaster General to the Treasury Minister; also see Ministero del tesoro, *Elementi di informazione sullo stato della liquidazione dell’Ente di Gestione e Liquidazione Immobiliare (E.Ge.LI.) cit.*; ACS, *Egeli*, b.21 Fascicolo generale, Explanatory report for financial year 1957; Report 4 of 19 December 1957.

- c) the proceeds from the sale of 12 lots of confiscated furniture: sold by the Monte di Credito su Pegno di Milano, which kept the amount (L. 524,835) as payment for alleged services and hence not yet entered by the EGELI (No. 7 to 18 in the list);
- d) various objects, some of which are jewels of modest value, which are still in the organisation's keeping because still unclaimed by their rightful owners (No. 19 and Nos. 43 to 52 in the list);
- e) various securities, consigned to the EGELI by the ARAR as they all belong to Jews whose fate is unknown (from No. 20 to No. 42 and from No. 53 to 57 in the list).

The EGELI had no authority to manage these assets and hence, according to the advice given by the State Lawyer's Office on 7 June 1952 No. 12979 Cons. 2680/31, special administrators would have had to be appointed. However, given that the said securities are of little value and that the Union of Jewish Communities has been informed of the lists and in compliance with dl 364 of 11 May 1947 has decided to exercise its rights, the organisation does not think it advisable to start numerous complex procedures to obtain the relevant administrative measures from the competent judicial authorities.

With regard to the balance of the administration of this category of assets, it should be pointed out that:

- a) the credit balance, calculated at L. 2,095,498,93, is comprised of management surplus deriving from confiscated Jewish business assets that have still not been claimed by their rightful owners;
- b) the debit balance, amounting to around L. 21 million, is comprised of debit items belonging to Jewish businesses, left over after rebates authorised by the Treasury and still not settled.

With regard to these items, the Office for Allied and Enemy Property of the Treasury was to give instructions on how to proceed, in which it had some reservations about issuing orders to individual debtors so as to suspend prescription (May 1956).

Concerning the administration of Jewish property, reference should also be made to the existence of numerous deposits of money and securities that were confiscated by the RSI but remained in the banks of origin.

The Treasury stipulated that information concerning the property in question should be made available to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities so as to facilitate the Union in applying the aforementioned legislative decree concerning the claim to assets included in the succession of deceased Jews. However, the Union has not made any decision on this subject so far."⁹²

Document R reported below, enclosed with the Report by the Commissioner, concerns the situation of Jewish assets at 21 November 1957:

SITUATION OF JEWISH ASSETS AT 21/11/1957⁹³

⁹² In ACS, *Egeli*, b. 23; also see Report on management takeover and assessment, following the shift from normal administration to administration of liquidation; Report on the liquidation of the EGELI by 20/10/1957; 23 November 1957 from the Liquidation Office at the Treasury to avv. Marazza No. 03249 SG; 23 November 1957 from the Treasury to avv. Marazza No. 03252/SG; A.C.S., *Egeli*, b.21, Fascicolo generale, Explanatory report for financial year 1957.

⁹³ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 23, Report on the administration of the liquidation of EGELI by the Commissioner, document R.

I – RECONVEYANCE SETTLEMENT OF FORMERLY EXPROPRIATED ASSETS 1939:

Amounts to be paid out to third party buyers on stipulation of the restitution in favour of the persons listed below. (Payment is suspended pending the outcome of ongoing lawsuits between the owners and third party buyers):

1. File	3 D. = Segre Mario	L. 60,000
2. “	24 D. = Romanelli E. Marco	L. 75,000
3. “	42 D. = Oreffice Bona	L. 431,821,70
4. “	77 D. = Foà Alma	L. 375,000
5. “	168 D. = Oreffice Elda	L. 243,072
6. “	31 D. = Grunwald Anna	L. 965,893,70

Restitution suspended, pending the appointment of a special administrator by the Judicial authorities.

II – INVENTORY OF FORMERLY CONFISCATED ASSETS 1944:

Proceeds from the sale of furniture deposited at the Monte di Credito su Pegno di Milano, which have not been claimed by their rightful owners:

7.	Tedeschi Eugenia	L. 128,565
8.	Behar Lea	L. 11,250
9.	Jaeli Jeida	L. 9,000
10.	Hasselnus Lea etc.	L. 2,700
11.	Sabbadini Bruno	L. 8,550
12.	Milul Isacco	L. 40,005
13.	Schaki Nathan	L. 30,870
14.	Lind Moses	L. 172,845
15.	Fano Elvira	L. 14,085
16.	Landau Lea	L. 97,470
17.	Gabbai Salomone	L. 1,215
18.	Rosember Federico	<u>L. 8,280</u>
Total		L. 524,835

III – MISCELLANEOUS ASSETS HELD BY THE EGELI IN ROME:

19. Vitale Michele
Shares in Insurance Companies, nominal value L. 200.
 20. Diaz Dario
Savings book Credito Italiano Branch 8 in Turin, with L. 21,108 on 16/10/943.
-

21. Funaro Adua
Savings book Credito Italiano Branch 2 in Turin, with L. 15,029 on 8/3/43.
22. Voghera Ferruccio
Savings book Credito Italiano Fiume with L. 3,495 on 26/10/43.
23. Savings book in the name of A.F. Credito Italiano Branch 2 Turin, with L. 94.10 on 2/6/1945.
24. Levi Sacerdote Marianna
Savings book Credito Ital. Turin with L. 2,128 on 19/4/34. [sic]
25. Weil Marianna
Savings book Cassa Risparmio Turin Branch 4 with L. 2,790 on 2/12/43.
26. Franco Cesare
Savings book Cassa Risparmio Turin with L. 1.42.
27. Diena Dorina
Savings book Cassa Risparmio Turin Branch Moncalieri with L. 518 on 25/2/1944.
28. Sacerdote Marianna
Savings book Istituto S. Paolo Turin with L. 13.90 on 16/8/41.
29. Sacerdote Marianna
Savings book Ist. San Paolo Turin with L. 14,60 on 3/9/41.
30. Lattes Angiolina
Savings book Cassa Risparmio Saluzzo with L. 20,80 on 31/12/45.
31. Bearer passbook Cassa Risparmio di Saluzzo without name with L. 10,000 on 21/4/44.
32. Savings book Banca Commerciale Italiana Fiume in the name of "Ada" with L. 1,800 on 14/2/44.
33. Valduga Ester
Pension certificate No. 639011.
34. Di Colloredo Fides
Savings book Banca Naz. Lavoro Branch P.zza Risorgimento with L. 36,30 on 24/3/42.
35. Levi Sacerdote Marianna
Savings book Banca di Brignone with L. 324 on 30/8/39.
36. Franco Cesare
Post Office savings book Turin Branch 18 with L. 20 on 30/6/43.
37. Diena Emilio – Consolidated at 3,50%:
Annuity bonds of L. 77.- annual, with No. 11 coupons from 1/7/44 to 1/4/1946.
Annuity bonds of L. 35.- annual, with No. 31 coupons from 1/1/1944 to 1/1/1959.
38. Sacerdote Debora – Consolidated at 3,50%
Annuity bonds of L. 210.- annual, with No. 31 coupons from 1/1/1944 to 1/1/1959.
39. Bearer bonds - owners unknown:
 - a) Treasury Bond 5% 1949 c.n. L. 500 with No.10 dividend coupons from 15/8/44 - 15/2/49
 - b) “ “ “ 1949 “ “ L.1 ,000 with No. 10 dividend coupons

- c) “ “ “ special series “ “ L.5,000 with No. 2 dividend coupons from 1/3/44 - 1/9/44
- d) No. 3 “ “ “ “ “ “ L.1,500 with No. 2 dividend coupons from 1/3/44 - 1/9/44
- e) No. 3 “ “ “ “ “ “ L.3,000 with No. 2 dividend coupons
- f) “ “ 4% series I “ “ L.1,000 without dividend coupons

g) Bearer Bond with No. 10 certificates

Fondiarie 4% of the Ist. San Paolo di Torino from L. 500 to L. 5,000 with No. 23 dividend coupons
1/4/44 - 1/4/55

40. Bearer shares – owners unknown:

Share certificates in the limited company Francesco Agostini di Torino:

No. 15 of 1 share

No. 7 of 10 shares

Total No. 85 shares.

Share certificates in the limited company Genovese Lattifere Agricola:

No. 4 of 25 shares

No. 4 of 10 shares

No. 8 of 5 shares

Total No. 180 shares.

41. Voghera Ferruccio

Life insurance policy INA and various receipts.

42. Diaz Giuseppe

No. 2 bills in his favour, for a total of L. 50,000, signed by the limited company Lavorazioni Autarchiche Maglierie.

43. Gruemberg Adele, Enrico and others

Jewellery and various other items, as listed in the inventory included in the envelope.

44. Frederich Vamos – Two documents.

45. Levi Giuseppe

Greek bonds, bills and various cheques, commercial correspondence and registers.

46. Nissim Elio and others – Document folder holding three documents and an empty envelope.

47. Ancona Ada – One ladies wristwatch.

48. Sacerdoti Giacomo – One small chain.

49. Besso Menachem, Pisetzky and others

Jewellery and various other items, as listed in the inventory included in the envelope.

50. Soavi Giuseppina

Savings book from the Cassa di Risparmio di Milano with L. 94.

51. Soavi Leo

Savings book from the Cassa di Risparmio di Milano with L. 94.

52. Jesi Dino

Savings book from the Banca Nazionale Lavoro Cremona branch with L. 12,392 on 3/10/44.

53. Moscato Albertina – Savings book Comit - Turin - Branch No. 5 with L. 1,000 on 19/7/43.
54. Ottolenghi Bice – Various objects as listed on envelope.
55. Diena Emilio
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Annuity Bonds 3,50%: 2 at L. 1,000 | L. 2,000 |
| each with two coupons from 1/1 to /1/7/55; | |
| Annuity Bonds 3,50%: 1 at L. 2,000 | L. 2,000 |
| with 2 coupons from 1/1 to 1/7/55 | |
| Redeemable loan bond 3,50% at | L. 20,000 |
| with No. 16 coupons from 1/1/55 to 1/7/1962 _____ | |
| Nominal Capital Total | L. 24,000 |
56. Colombo Rita - No. 5 various bank cheques for a total of L. 1,340,50.
57. miscellaneous effects of unknown origin:
- No. 2 blank bills, signed by Cassin, for a total of L. 16,000.
 - No. 3 bank cheques, of which No. 2 for a total of L. 6,000 and one in German Marks 1922 for L. 96,000.
 - a yellow metal photograph frame.

The takeover of operations by the Ministry's Liquidation Office meant that decision-making on unsolved questions was speeded up. Between February and May 1958 all essential information would be gathered together and set out in a memorandum, No. 401459 dated 16 May 1958.

On 15 February a Memorandum on the situation of the management of Jewish assets and taxable assets, signed by the former Director General of the EGELI, Vania, went over the issues dealt with in the Report by the Commissioner on the administration of the liquidation of the EGELI of 21 December 1957, referring directly to the situation outlined in Document R. The most important comments in this Memorandum can be summarised as the following:

- with regard to the “miscellaneous assets held by the EGELI in Rome” it had to be ascertained if the ten-year prescriptive period had expired, in order to decide on the fate of the assets;
- as for the “credit balances in favour of Jewish businesses” (L.2,095,498 in unclaimed management surplus in favour of those who were eligible but “mostly of unknown abode”), research could be undertaken through the Communities, or else the money could be appropriated and later reimbursed on request;
- with regard to “Securities and deposits held by the banks” Vania commented:

“Various investigations undertaken revealed that numerous cash deposits, government and industrial securities belonging to Jews and confiscated by the State through the EGELI, had still been kept by various banks despite the abrogation of racial laws, so as not to be claimed by their rightful owners.

The total amounts to around L. 4,000,000 with regard to cash deposits and government bonds, as well as 6,650 industrial shares of indeterminate value and deposits shared by various businesses.

The question of the expiry of the prescriptive period pursuant to art. 2 of dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May and art. 2946 of the Civil Code also applies here. However, as it concerns civil internees, the ten-year prescriptive period could expire later, on 24/12/1958, as laid down by dlp 711 of 25/3/48.

In both cases, it shall have to be established if the income in question, whether the prescriptive period has expired or not, can be appropriated by the State or else be left with the banks holding the deposits as the latter insist should occur.

Information relative to the deposits in question was communicated to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities in Rome, as established by the Office for Allied and Enemy Property in accordance with the application of dl 364/1947 of 11 May concerning the succession of the Union itself to the inheritance of deceased Jews whose assets, there being no heirs, would have passed to the State as laid down by art. 586 of the Civil Code. This has not been followed up.

Should the State consider it worthwhile to abandon interest in these deposits, allowing the prescriptive period to expire in favour of the banks, the only thing left to do will be to close the relevant files, which is subject to the agreement on the part of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities not to have recourse to the provisions of the aforementioned dl 364/1947 of 11 May”.⁹⁴

While the documents so far examined⁹⁵ do not provide any indication that the State involved the Union, the roles of the Liquidation office, the Office for Allied and Enemy Property and the

⁹⁴ ACS, *Egeli* b. 23, Memorandum on the situation of the administration of Jewish assets and taxable assets by 15 February 1958; the two lists enclosed are missing from the folder; there is an undated handwritten note instead concerning the request made to the Banca del Lavoro (Milan) and to the Credito Italiano (Milan and other branches) of lists of the deposits that could be assigned to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities according to dlcp 364 /1947 of 11 May.

⁹⁵ In ACS, *Egeli*, b. 23 the following documents are preserved: an anonymous and undated typewritten note where, summarising the salient points set out in the memo, it says that: “The memorandum has been agreed upon by the Office for Allied and Enemy Property and the Liquidation Office”; 19 March 1958 Treasury, Paymaster General’s Office Inspector General, handwritten letter from Barberis to Corbo for the transmission of the memorandum (with a note referring that 1 copy was sent to avv. Vania); 25 March 1958 Jewish assets = Administration balance, memorandum to dott. Corbo, from avv. Vania. This closely examined the problem and in particular the likelihood that the Union would put in claims for the assets. Later, on the basis of the hypothesis that the prescriptive period had not yet expired, “the individual elements of the agreement on settlement that was put forward” were examined. As to the latter, it seems appropriate to set out in full avv. Vania’s assessment:

“1) Administration of credit balance of the EGELI:

It is beyond doubt that the said balance (L. 2,095,498) could be reclaimed by the Union of Jewish Communities.

However, as it can be assumed the Union will not be able to provide evidence of the death or lack of eligible successors within the sixth degree of relationship of all the 250 owners, the aforesaid sum should be reduced at least by half.

The value of this offset in favour of the Union would thus be about L. 1 million, instead of L. 2,095,498.

2) Amount held at the Monte Pegni Milan:

The same applies to this offset as stated in No.1.

Its worth could therefore be reasonably calculated as L. 260,000, rather than L. 524,835.

3) Various inventories held by the EGELI in Rome:

The value of these inventories may be at most L. 300,000; for the aforementioned reasons, this would be reduced to L. 150,000 as offset.

solicitor Vania seem to be quite clear in the Memorandum of 16 May 1958, which was approved by the Treasury and established the basis for subsequent activities carried out by the EGELI. This is attested by a report made in December 1958, which confirmed the Ministry's authorisation to abandon all credit claimed by the EGELI and reasserted the expectation of the expiry on 24 December 1958 of the "ten-year prescriptive period in favour of the possessor" of the former Jewish assets and the deadline for claims for residual debts in the various administrations of the EGELI.⁹⁶ The Memorandum of 16 May 1958 and a few other isolated documents reveal that right from the beginning of its activities the EGELI had already begun to take steps towards getting as complete a picture as possible of the situation and had also taken into consideration acquisition at a later stage. It is rather difficult to put forward a detailed reconstruction of the still unsolved problem of residual assets with the resources at hand, but although there is not much evidence to go on it is nevertheless possible to supply some information.⁹⁷ The approval of the Memorandum of 16 May 1958 and the expiry of the prescriptive period enabled the EGELI to initiate procedures for the acquisition of unclaimed assets. Documentary evidence suggests that initiatives concerning this started to be taken from November 1959 onwards, when a series of letters urged the appropriation of Jewish property.⁹⁸ At the same time, the EGELI informed the Paymaster General of the Office for Allied

4) Inventories held by the administering bodies:

The plot of land in Saltrio [...] is worth about L. 300, 000 [...] reducible [...] to L. 150,000 ([...] verification is under way for this inventory due to the claims laid to it [...])

5) Deposits and Securities in the banks:

It is believed that such deposits and securities cannot constitute an offset in favour of the Union of Jewish Communities, since neither the State nor the EGELI are benefitting or are likely to benefit from these sources in question, in view of the planned settlement. Indeed, the said securities and deposits have always been kept in the banks, and after the abrogation of the racial laws and subsequent release of the assets the banks could benefit from the possible expiry of the prescriptive period as laid down in art. 1161 of the Civil Code and in art. 1 of the cited dlgt 393/1946."

On the basis of these statements, Vania's memorandum concludes by saying:

I) should the deadline for submission of claims prove to be 4 June 1956, no basis exists for a settlement with the Union; II) should the deadline have been extended to 24 December 1958, the settlement would be possible but from an economic point of view scarcely convenient.

7 May 1958 Treasury Paymaster General's Office, Inspector General, handwritten letter from Barberis (?) to Corbo, registered 13 May 1958.

⁹⁶ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 25, 6 December 1958, Concise report on operations already undertaken by the EGELI up to 30 November 1958, and on commitments still outstanding.

⁹⁷ ACS, *Egeli*, b.47, fasc. Liquidazione Egeli, sfasc. Correspondence, acts and documents dated prior to the liquidation of the EGELI, 21 December 1957 from the Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde to the EGELI (reply to a note from the EGELI of 13 December 1957 No. 10679/Amm/1). The Cariplo sent a list of its securities and deposits still in its keeping. Amongst other things the following were mentioned: Cabibbe Pia, widow of Polacco, 15 Montecatini shares and 105 Unes shares; bank deposit of L. 11,106 on 30 November 1957; Perugia Giacomo, savings book from Credito Varesino, Viggì branch, containing L. 9,722 on 1 May 1944; bank deposit with L. 16,040 on 30 November 1957; Vitale Michele, certificate with 8 shares in Ital. Assicuraz. sulla vita Ltd.; certificate of 1 share in Ital. Assicuraz. Incendio Ltd.; bank deposit of L. 589 on 30 November 1957; Weil Louis, 38 Acna shares of no value. Also mentioned: 1 savings book – with a handwritten note to say that the sum had been paid; 2 passbook with accounts closed, 1 savings book issued by the Credito Agrario Bresciano in the name of the Head of Province with L. 4,428 on 31 December 1943. On 24 January 1958 the EGELI made a request to collect the deposits and securities held in the bank, see ACS, *Egeli*, b. 1, 24 January 1958 carbon copy No. 142 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Cariplo; 1 March 1958 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Cariplo No. 517.

Also see 25 February 1958 from Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Monte di Credito su Pegno No. 475, with regard to the sale of furniture confiscated from Jews; 28 June 1958 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Monte di Credito su Pegno No. 1571, concerning the arrival of the cheques relating to the sale of furniture belonging to Lea Bekar and Lea Hasselnuss.

⁹⁸ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 47, fasc. Liq. Egeli, sfasc. Recovery of bank deposits, 25 November 1959 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Credito Italiano No. 610490, concerning the request for the crediting of the sum and interests accrued on bearer savings

and Enemy Property of these initiatives, requesting the banks involved to credit the balances from the deposits. “As for the other sources of income”, it added, “it will be necessary to proceed to sell off the property where possible, using the simplest and fastest means [...]

“However, before going ahead with these sales, we would like to know if this Office, which supervised the operations undertaken by the EGELI in that period concerning the implementation of the provisions contained in dlgt 393/1946, agrees to the aforementioned operations.”⁹⁹

The Office for Allied and Enemy Property deemed it advisable to ask the opinion of the State Lawyer’s Office,¹⁰⁰ which replied in these terms:

“Confiscation and sequestration of property ordered by any administrative or political organ operating under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana are to be considered legally null and void, as laid down by art. 1, No. 2 of dlgt 249 /1944 of 5 October.

“Dlgt 393/1946 of 5 May governs the ‘claims for assets that were confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted citizens under the rule of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana’, stipulating that the original owners and their heirs or those entitled to the assets may claim these back from whoever appropriated them, excepting the rights of third parties who bought the property in good faith (art. 1), within the prescribed time of 10 and 3 years respectively, according to whether the claim is put in for property in the State’s keeping or for the proceeds of the sale of the property, that is to say a claim put in for property bought by a third party from the State.

“In relation to the confiscation law that was rendered ineffectual, the rights conceded to the persons concerned to put in a claim means that the property owners, subject to the provisions contained in art. 1 of dlgt 393/ 1946 of 5 May, have kept their rights to ownership, which are not subject to the extinction of the prescriptive period. However, the right to the property is lost only if other persons purchase the property via the possession of the said property for a certain period of time (ex art.1158 et seq. of Civil Code).

book No. 924, issued by the branch in Fiume on 20 June 1942, in the name of Ferruccio Voghera, with an apparent balance of L. 3,495 on 26 October 1943. The savings book, formerly confiscated and held by the EGELI, remained unclaimed. Hence, the request was formulated on the basis of the fact that “as a result, usucaption takes place in favour of the current owner, according to the law [...]”.

ACS, *Egeli*, b. 47, fasc. Liq. Egeli, sfasc. Post-office savings books, savings bonds and investment certificates sent to the Ministry for Post Offices and Communications for the appropriation of the relevant amounts in favour of the State, 26 November 1959 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Provincial Head Post Office in Genoa No. 610553/AG, concerning the request for the crediting of the sum in the personal savings book No. 20707 issued by the Post Office in Genoa No. 10 on 6 December 1943; 12 January 1960 from the Ministry for Post Offices and Communications to the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office No. VII/2314/7, containing a negative reply based on art. 140 of the current postal law. Furthermore, it informed the Liquidation Office that the credit would be appropriated by the Ministry for Post Offices on expiry of the thirty-year prescriptive period. On 29 March 1960 No. 600420/AG, the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office replied accepting this and sending the post office savings books belonging to Carolina Tedesco and Cesare Franco. ACS, *Egeli*, b. 47, sfasc. Bank deposits already returned by the banks to the rightful owners or withdrawn by the same; ACS, *Egeli*, b.2, 7 January 1960 from the Treasury EGELI Liquidation Office to the Credito Italiano, Turin No. 611397/AG; 13 January 1960 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Turin No. 611671/AG; 23 January 1960 to the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the Cariplo No. 600122/AG.

⁹⁹ ACS, *Egeli*, b. 47, fasc. Liquidazione EGELI, 26 November 1959 from the Treasury EGELI Liquidation Office to the Treasury, UBAN No. 610543/AG.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. Liquidation of the EGELI, 23 January 1960 from the Treasury, UBAN to the EGELI Liquidation Office No. 404824; *ibid.*, fasc. Unclaimed Jewish assets, 9 March 1960 from the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office to the State Lawyer’s Office No. 602619/AG.

“With regard to the aforementioned principles, it is considered that articles 2 and 3 of dllgt 393/1946 of 5 May partially depart from the norms contained in art. 1158 et seq. of the Civil Code, shortening the normal lapse of time required by the law (positive prescription) for real estate. As a consequence of the provision regulating confiscation, the State was able to acquire possession of the property together with ownership. When the confiscation law was declared ineffectual by art. 1, No. 2 of dllgt 249/1944 of 5 October, it did not annul the effects of possession and art. 2 of dllgt 393/1946, making an exception to what was laid down by art. 1158 of the Civil Code concerning real estate and according to art. 1161 of the Civil Code concerning chattels, essentially stipulates that the possession of property for ten years from 5 June 1946 results in the effective acquisition of the property by the State, even though the possessor is not in good faith. For the third party purchaser in good faith, who bought the property prior to such a date, art. 3 of the said dllgt 393/1946, in its turn departed from art. 1159 of the Civil Code, reducing the ten-year prescriptive period to three years, for the positive prescription of real estate. Whereas the first paragraph of art. 1 of dllgt 393, in so far as it maintained the rights legitimately acquired by third party purchasers as the result of possession in good faith, confirmed, with regard to chattels, the provisions laid down in art. 1153 of the Civil Code, in which whoever purchased a chattel from a non-owner in good faith acquired ownership via possession.

“To sum up, it is therefore the case that at the end of the ten-year period following the dllgt 393/1946 coming into effect on 5 June 1946, the State acquired ownership of the property that had been originally confiscated, and likewise no longer has a duty to return the proceeds from the sale of the property (art. 3 cpv.) and interest received in the three-year period prior to the claim. Hence, the State may dispose of the aforesaid property as it sees fit.

“With regard to the enforceability of law 1404/1956 of 4 December, it is deemed that a positive solution can be reached, as this Ministry would not be able to disclaim the EGELI’s power to alienate the aforesaid property where necessary for the administration of the assets formerly assigned to it.

“Indeed, art. 12 of the above-mentioned dllgt 393/1946 rules that the State, and as representative of the State the Treasury, may have recourse to the EGELI to implement the norms contained therein. Hence, the EGELI may exercise all rights due to the State and it is passively legitimised as regards all action taken by the original owners and their heirs or those eligible, as well as third parties.

“It is true that the EGELI shall have to submit administration accounts, paying out to the Treasury any credit balance that may remain. However, this does not preclude activity concerning property and real estate that will lead to the settlement of liabilities - indeed it will be essential to proceed in this direction.

“On the other hand, the EGELI was abolished and put into liquidation in accordance with law 1404/1956 of 4 December, and all relevant operations have subsequently been assigned to the Liquidation Office at the Treasury, which thus shall be able to apply all the special norms contained in the said law, when undertaking activities on behalf of the EGELI, proceeding to alienate all unclaimed assets where necessary in order to complete liquidation operations, even departing from public accounting law”.¹⁰¹

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. Unclaimed Jewish assets, 23 March 1960 from the State Lawyer’s Office to the Treasury, EGELI Liquidation Office No. 7290.

On 28 April 1960, the Liquidation Office sent a copy of the advice given by the State Lawyer's Office to the UBAN, giving the go-ahead for sale of the assets in question.¹⁰²

The information extracted from the following provides a picture of the state of residual assets by 28 April 1961: "Inventory of government bonds, land bank securities, industrial shares, valuable effects and miscellaneous objects deposited by Giuseppe Vania with the accountant at the Liquidation Office [...]":¹⁰³

"[...]

STATE PROPERTY (unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets)

A – Government Bonds and Land Bank securities that are saleable

1 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 15.2.949, Series N, No. 0044487, nominal capital L. 500; No. 10 with related coupons;

2 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 15.2.949, Series Q, No. 0092012, nominal capital L. 1,000 - No. 10 with related coupons;

3 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 004089, nominal capital L. 5,000 - No. 2 with related coupons;

4 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944 Special Series, No. 006164, nominal capital L. 500 - No. 2 with related coupons;

5 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 006422, nominal capital L. 500 - No. 2 with related coupons;

6 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 006542, nominal capital L. 500 - No. 2 with related coupons;

7 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 006177, nominal capital L. 1,000 - No. 2 with related coupons;

8 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 005686, nominal capital L. 1,000 - No. 2 with related coupons;

9 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 5%, expiry date 1.9.944, Special Series, No. 005685, nominal capital L. 1,000 - No. 2 with related coupons;

10 – Nine-year Treasury Bond 4%, expiry date 15.12.943, Series I, No. 187023–187024, nominal capital L. 1,000;

11 – Bearer Bond No. 149445 of 10 Land Bank securities 4% from the Credito Fondiario

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, fasc. Liquidation of the EGELI, 28 April 1960 from the Treasury, Liquidation Office EGELI to the UBAN No. 600932/AG.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, fasc. Unclaimed Jewish assets; also see *ibid.*, fasc. List of securities and objects that on expiry of the prescriptive period were handed over to the State, Treasury, Liquidation Office, assessment report on the verifications to the Treasurer's Office and assessment of securities within the competence of the bodies, (dated 19 August 1966); 25 July 1969 Note on the securities and objects from the EGELI, held in custody by the Treasurer's Office.

dell'Istituto Bancario S. Paolo di Torino, nominal capital L. 5,000

23 with related coupons – issued 1934, expiry date 1955.

B – Industrial Shares that are saleable

1 – Share certificates from the Società Montecatini and No. 8 certificates of 1 share, No. 082587, 082588, 082589, 082590, 1288237, 1288238, 1288239 and 1288240, in the name of Cabibbe Pia widow of Polacco - 40 coupons per share;

2 – Share certificates from the Soc. Montecatini of 10 shares, No. 424140, in the name of Cabibbe Pia widow of Polacco, (40 coupons)

3 – Share certificates from the Unione Esercizi Elettrici, Roma, No. 5 securities of 1 share, No. 005117, 005118, 017751, 16 with related coupons, 034938 e 034939, 29 with related coupons, in the name of Cabibbe Pia widow of Polacco;

4 – Share certificates from the Unione Esercizi Elettrici, Roma, No. 2 securities of 5 shares each No. 110871 and 107106 with 16 coupons per bond, in the name of Cabibbe Pia widow of Polacco;

5 – Share certificates from the Unione Esercizi Elettrici, Roma, No. 9 securities of 10 shares each, No. 205550 - 205551 - 205552 - 205553 - 220861 - 220862 - 220863 - 16 certificates/coupons cedole attached and 240577 - 240578 with 42 coupons; in the name of Cabibbe Pia widow of Polacco;

6 – Share certificate from the Soc. Az. Italiana per l'Assicurazione contro l'incendio - Milan, No. 9132, of 1 share, nominal capital L. 1,000, in the name of Vitale Michele son of Aronne, interest payment up to 1956;

7 – Share certificate from the Soc. An. Italiana per l'Assicurazione sulla vita - Milan, No. 4897, of 8 shares, nominal capital L. 800, in the name of Vitale Michele son of Aronne, interest payment up to 1956.

C –Valuable effects and other objects that are saleable

1 – formerly belonging to Gruemberg Adele, Enrico, Egone and Perugini Regina:

a) 1 men's gold alloy pocket watch [...];

b) 1 gold "Vetta" wrist watch;

c) 1 ladies wrist watch [...];

d) 1 ladies "Edenna" wrist watch;

e) 1 men's gold pocket watch, unknown mark;

f) 2 mens' metal wrist watches;

g) 1 ladies gold "Pierce" wrist watch;

h) 2 men's gold watch chains;

i) 3 yellow metal bracelets;

l) 1 yellow chain;

m) 4 gold pendants;

- n) 1 bangle;
- o) 1 necklace with a pendant;
- p) 1 diamond necklace;
- q) 1 cultured pearl necklace;
- r) 1 pair of gold earrings with precious stones and diamonds;
- s) 1 brooch with precious stones; one stone missing;
- t) 2 pairs of earrings: one with diamonds, one with stones missing;
- u) 6 gold rings: 1 wedding-ring, 5 with stones, diamonds, rose diamonds and pearls;
- v) 3 silver rings;
- z) 9 cufflinks, 7 gold and 2 silver;
- aa) 8 coins (4 silver, 4 metal);
- bb) 1 metal medal;
- cc) 1 silver cigarette case, inscribed with the initials E.C.G. in gold;

2 – formerly belonging to Ancona Ada:

- 1 ladies gold watch, unknown mark;

3 – formerly belonging to Sacerdote Giacomo:

- 1 gold chain;

4 – formerly belonging to Ottolenghi Bice, daughter of Mosè:

- a) 1 “Omega” metal men’s watch;
- b) 1 gold bracelet;
- c) 1 ladies “Alois” watch;
- d) 1 pair of earrings;

5 – formerly belonging to Besso Menachem, Pisetzki Arturo and Foà Alessandro:

- a) 1 small ivory statue of Christ;
- b) 1 silver jewel box containing 1 pair of gold-framed spectacles;
- c) 1 gold-plated fountain pen;
- d) 1 men’s “Dubois, Genève” pocket watch, serial no. 19078;
- e) 1 men’s “Baser, Genève” pocket watch, serial no. 1446;
- f) 1 engraved silver cigarette case, 77.60 g;
- g) 1 men’s 18Ct gold ring, 11.60 g;
- h) 1 18Ct gold ring in silver setting, total weight 18 g, with around 5½ diamond grains, stained and of poor clarity;
- i) 1 tortoiseshell powder compact;

- l) 1 small metal clock;
- m) 1 amber necklace, 63.50 g;
- n) 1 ladies gold pocket watch 23.20 g including mechanism,
mark “Duboise, Genève” serial No. 9289;
- o) 1 gold bracelet 650/1000 43.70 g;
- p) 2 pairs of broken corral earrings, 18.70 g;

D – Bank deposits that are not convertible as the amounts do not exceed L. 500 - (art. 9 last paragraph of law 1404/1956).

1 – bearer passbook No. 5010 - Credito Italiano – Turin branch in the name of A.F.	L. 94.10
2 – bearer passbook No. 15074 - Cassa di Risparmio Turin – in the name of Franco Cesare	L. 1.42
3 – savings account No. 13093 - Istituto S. Paolo Torino – in the name of Sacerdote Marianna	L. 14.60
4 – savings account No. 13859 - Istituto S. Paolo Torino – in the name of Sacerdote Marianna	L. 13.90
5 – savings book no. 21208 - Cassa Risparmio Saluzzo – in the name of Lattes Angiolina	L. 20.80
6 – personal savings book no. 19069 - Banca Naz. del Lavoro – in the name of Di Colloredo Fides	L. 36.30
7 – personal savings account no. 554 of the Banca Brignone – in the name of Levi Sacerdote Marianna	L. 324
8 – savings book Cassa R.PP.LL. di Milano – bearer passbook No. 1291292 – in the name of Soavi Leo	

E – Deposits that have already been reimbursed by the banks to their rightful owners or appropriated by the banks themselves

1 – savings account No. 455 at Credito Italiano Torino – in the name of Diaz Dario (letter dated 16.12.59 from the Credito It. Turin branch and received by the Liquidation Office on 21.12.959 – reference No. 611461)	L. 21,108
2 – savings account no. 343 - Credito Italiano Torino – in the name of Funaro Adua (letter from Credito It. Torino - dated 17.12.59 received by the Liquidation Office on 23.12.1959 - reference No. 611550)	L. 15,029
3 – bearer passbook No. 21878 della Cassa Risparmio - Saluzzo in the name of Valobra Lazzaro (letter from Cassa di Risparmio dated 9.12.59 No. 14161 received by the Liquidation Office on 14.12.59 - reference No. 611217)	L. 10,000
4 – savings book No. 91799 at Cassa Risparmio di Genova in the name of Tedesco Carolina (letter from the Cassa R. dated 1-12-1959 received by the Liquidation Office on 7.12.59 reference No. 610920) -	L. 3,182

F – Securities, effects, documents and objects of little value

- 1 – Bearer shares from the Francesco Agostini Torino Ltd.:
15 of 1 share, 7 of 10, 85 shares in all.
(company no longer exists)
- 2 – Bearer shares from the Genovese Lattifera Agricola Ltd.: 4 of 25 shares, 4 of 10, 8 of 5,
180 shares in all.
(company no longer exists)
- 3 – Bearer shares Aziende Chimiche Nazionali Associate Ltd.- ACNA - Milan: 8 of 1, 3
of 10: total 38 shares.
(company no longer exists)
- 4 – Diaz Giuseppe: 2 bills worth a total of L. 50,000 signed by Lavorazioni Autarchiche Maglierie
e Affini Ltd., Turin.
- 5 – Levi Giuseppe – Greek bonds, bills, bank cheques, correspondence and commercial registers.
- 6 – Vamos Frederick - No. 2 documents.
- 7 – Nissim Elio - No. 3 documents and 1 empty envelope.
- 8 – Voghera Ferruccio - INA life insurance policy and various receipts.
- 9 – Valduga Ester – Pension certificate No. 639011.
- 10 – Gruemberg – Various objects of no value.
- 11 – Colombo Rita - No. 5 bank cheques.
- 12 – Levi Giuseppe – bills and bank cheques.
- 13 – N.N. – various objects, bills and bank cheques.
- 14 – Besso Menachem, Pisetzki Arturo and Foà Alessandro
 - 1 – galalite fountain pen
 - 1 – automatic metal pencil
 - 1 – amber cigarette holder broken in two.”

Some of these assets were appropriated during the 1960s.¹⁰⁴ On 6 April 1970 unclaimed and unsold assets were destroyed,¹⁰⁵ as illustrated by the following report:

¹⁰⁴ With regard to these acquisitions see records kept in ACS, *Egeli*, b.47

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, fasc. Inventory of securities and objects that have been appropriated by the State on expiry of the prescriptive period, 6 April 1970 from General affairs department to Accounting dept. and Treasurer's Office No. 653693 with report of 6 April 1970 enclosed.

Also see in the same b. 47 fasc. Unclaimed assets , where the two following handwritten notes are kept (difficult to interpret):

1°: “EGELI. Confiscated and sequestered Jewish assets. On the statement of account at 31 December 1970, the credit balance states some credit items owed to the EGELI by the following banks with the amounts due next to each bank:

- Cassa di Risparmio PP.LL c/ compensi Milan	L. 5,748,288
- Banca Agricola Mantovana – Mantua	L. 1.071.933
- Istituto di Credito Fondiario delle Venezie – Verona	L. 1,705,000
- Istituto S.Paolo di Torino – Turin	L. 5,925,153
- Monte di Bologna – Bologna	<u>L. 35,328</u>
	L.14,485,702

As such accounts have ceased any activity since 1959, we would like to have some information as regards their present situation”.

Added to this is a note which says: “Avv. Vania. Note from Dr. Scandriglia 17/3/71. Could you please check this out before writing up preliminary notes for Accounting Dept. Simoni”.

“On the sixth day of the month of April in the year nineteen hundred and seventy in Rome, at the Liquidation Office of the Treasury, in Via Quintino Sella No. 54, at **, the following persons met in order to proceed with what is specifically indicated in the report below:

- 1) Dr Alfonso Corbo , Inspector General, Head of Liquidation Office;
- 2) Dr Antonio Napoletano, Head of Department, government official at the Liquidation Office;
- 3) Dr Francesco Simoni, Head of Department, government official at the Liquidation Office.

WHEREAS

the aforesaid Office, in charge of the liquidation activities formerly carried out by the EGELI (now abolished) under the ministerial decree of 13.11.1957, still has a residual number of bonds, shares, promissory notes and miscellaneous objects left over from the confiscation and sequestration of assets implemented through the racial persecutory measures of the self-styled government of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana;

the securities, valuables and objects in question have not been claimed by their rightful owners, neither during the period established by dllgt No. 393 of 5.5.1946, nor subsequently for a period of more than twenty years. Hence, the proceeds of the sale thereof should be in favour of the State;

the said sale has not been possible, as the bonds, shares, promissory notes and objects are of no value whatsoever, for the reasons given above, and consequently shall have to be destroyed;

Therefore

The following is declared:

I) – In the presence of the undersigned witnesses in the Liquidation Office room No. 3, all securities, shares, promissory notes, policies, registers and correspondence listed below, previously stamped and annulled, were incinerated in the office fireplace:

A) Passbooks that are not convertible, as the amounts do not exceed L. 500 (art. 9 – last paragraph of law 1404/1956):

- 1) Bearer passbook No. 5010 Credito Italiano – Turin branch – in the name of AF amount L. 4.10;
- 2) Bearer passbook No. 15074 Cassa di Risparmio Turin, in the name of Franco Cesare, amount L. 1.42;
- 3) Savings book of C/A account No. 13097 San Paolo Turin, in the name of Sacerdote Marianna, amount L. 14.60;

The second note states: “At present it is impossible to trace each credit item that went to make up the Current Accounts. There appears to be no evidence at the Paymaster General’s Office about this; research carried out at the EUR archives has proved negative”.

- 4) Savings book of C/A account No. 13859 Istituto San Paolo Turin, in the name of Sacerdote Marianna, amount L. 13.90;
- 5) Savings book No. 21208 Cassa di Risparmio Saluzzo, in the name of Lattes Angiolina, amount L. 20.80;
- 6) Savings book No. 19069 Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, in the name of Di Colleredo Fides, amount L. 36.30;
- 7) Savings account No. 554 Banca Brignone, in the name of Levi Sacerdote Marianna, amount L. 324.00;
- 8) Savings book No. 1291292 Cassa di Risparmio delle PP.LL. Milan, in the name of Soavi Leo, amount L. 94.00;

B) Savings books whose amounts have either been reimbursed to their rightful owners or else have been appropriated by the banks themselves, as communicated by the issuing banks:

- 1) Savings book of account No. 455 Credito Italiano – Turin branch, in the name of Diaz Dario (letter of 16.12.1959 from said Credito, received by the Liquidation Office on 21.12.1959, ref. No. 611461), amount L. 21,108;
- 2) Savings book of account No. 343 Credito Italiano – Turin branch, in the name of Funaro Adua (letter of 17.12.1959 from said Credito, received by the Liquidation Office on 23.12.1959, ref. No. 611550), amount L. 15,029;
- 3) Deposit book No. 21878 Cassa di Risparmio Saluzzo, in the name of Valobra Lazzaro (letter from said Cassa of 9.12.1959 received by the Liquidation Office on 14.12.1959 - ref. No. 611217), amount L. 10,000;
- 4) Deposit book No. 91799 Cassa di Risparmio Genoa, in the name of Tedesco Carolina (letter from said Cassa of 1.12.1959, received by Liquidation office on 7.12.1959 - ref. No. 610920), amount L. 3,182;

C) Bearer shares from companies that no longer exist:

- 1) No. 85 share certificates in the limited company Francesco Agostini, head office in Turin, of which 15 of 1 share and 7 of 10;
- 2) No. 180 share certificates in the limited company Genovese Lattifera Agricola, head office in Genoa, of which 4 of 25 shares, 4 of 10 and 8 of 5;
- 3) No. 38 share certificates in the limited company Aziende Chimiche Nazionali Associate, Head Office in Milan, of which 8 of one share and 3 of 10;

D) Securities, promissory notes, bank cheques, policies and cards whose prescriptive period has expired:

- 1) No. 2 unsigned promissory notes at L. 25,000 each;

- 2) No. 11 promissory notes at L. 600 each – various expiry dates ranging from 25.11.1941 to 6 December 1941, issued by Tessitura Fratelli Pirovano in favour of Ditta Levi e Figli;
- 3) No. 6 promissory notes at L. 3,000 each, expiry date 4 January 1943, issued by Ditta Fratelli Pirovano in favour of Ditta Levi e Figli;
- 4) No. 5 promissory notes, two at L. 15,000 and three at L. 10,000, expiry date from 5 December 1941 to 10 July 1943, issued by Ditta Magno Agenore in favour of Ditta Levi e Figli;
- 5) No. 2 promissory notes at L. 3,000 each, expiry dates in May and August 1936, issuer illegible, beneficiary Levi Giuseppe;
- 6) No. 1 promissory note at L. 500, expiry date on 15.10.1933, issuer illegible, beneficiary Marco Iessola;
- 7) No. 1 cheque for 1,380.70 dollars issued in Beyrut on 16.10.1940 by the H.A.Zilkka Banque in favour of G.F. Levi e Figli;
- 8) No. 2 cheques for 471,80 dollars and 1,100.85 dollars, issued on 2.8.1940 in Montevideo by the Banca della Repubblica dell'Uruguay in favour of G.F. Levi e Figli;
- 9) No. 5 bearer shares in the Banca Nazionale Greca, bearing numbers 157894, 174384, 128597, 018278 and 178898, total amount 500 drachmas;
- 10) No. 1 cheque issued by the Banco di Napoli for L. 52;
- 11) No. 4 cheques issued by the Banca Commerciale Italiana total amount L. 1,288.50;
- 12) No. 1 cheque issued by the Banca d'Italia for L. 5,000, bearing the number 0218599;
- 13) No. 1 cheque for L. 1,000 issued by the Istituto Bancario Piemontese, bearing the number 100749, issuer Ditta Cravario, beneficiary Lidia Tapparone;
- 14) No. 1 cheque issued by the Banca Commerciale Italiana for 96,000 Marks, bearing the number 5774, issued in Florence on 3.4.1922 in favour of Edward Farnall;
- 15) No. 2 unsigned promissory notes, at L. 8,000 each, signed by Dr. Alberto Cassin;
- 16) No. 1 I.N.A. life insurance policy in favour of Ing. Ferruccio Voghera, bearing the number 1037306 expiry date 16.11.1946, with No. 35 paid premium receipts;
- 17) No. 1 social security card – Trento – issued on 28.7.1944;
- 18) No. 1 membership card of the Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro (workers' travel and leisure association) in the name of Frederich Mira;
- 19) No. 1 passport No. 710311, issued on 28.12.1937 by the police headquarters in Fiume to Sig. FREDERICH Yanos Andra;
- 20) No. 34 expired coupons of Nine-year Treasury Bonds amounting to L. 850, and with regard to securities a total of L. 12,000, realized by the Liquidation Office on 12 January 1962 at the Provincial State Treasury;

E) Registers, miscellaneous correspondence and documents that have expired:

- 1) No. 2 contracts on stamped paper L. 6 each, with accompanying letter signed by Nissim Elio;

- 2) No. 2 registers of commercial notes;
- 3) No. 1 envelope of miscellaneous correspondence;

II) In the presence of the undersigned the following objects were also destroyed, being of no use whatsoever and of no worth:

- 1) No. 1 empty case;
- 2) No. 1 powder compact;
- 3) No. 1 briefcase;
- 4) No. 1 wallet;
- 5) No. 1 note-book;
- 6) No. 3 purses;
- 7) No. 1 pair of spectacles with case;
- 8) No. 1 torch;
- 9) No. 3 fountain pens;
- 10) No. 1 automatic pencil;
- 11) No. 1 amber cigarette holder”.

The EGELI offices were only really closed down once the administration of taxable assets and Allied property had been completed.¹⁰⁶ In compliance with the law of 29 December 1997, the Treasury ruled that the “Organisation for the Management and Liquidation of Property (EGELI) has been terminated to all intents and purposes”.

¹⁰⁶ See the Treasury, *Elementi di informazione sullo stato della liquidazione dell'Ente di Gestione e Liquidazione Immobiliare (Egeli)*, cit.