

## Warsaw Declaration on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes, 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2011

**Considering** that Europe has suffered under totalitarian regimes, be they communist, national socialist or of any other nature, which have brought about unspeakable violations of fundamental rights and the complete denial of human dignity, of which the holocaust is the most horrendous manifestation;

**Considering** that totalitarian regimes, irrespective of their origins, ideology or intentions, are a source of inhuman treatment, degradation of the human being, cruelty and widespread persecution, and that totalitarian regimes are responsible for most heinous acts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;

**Considering** that public condoning, denial or gross trivialization of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes may lead to rebirth of totalitarian ideology and totalitarian regimes;

**Believing** that the remembrance of our shared history is indispensable for the understanding of modern-day Europe;

**Believing** that true reconciliation and forgiveness are impossible without an honest and thorough debate and without justice;

**Noting** that the recognition of past tragedies is one of the objectives of the European Union as stated in the Stockholm Program<sup>1</sup>;

**Understanding** that lack of remembrance can lead to future generations being likely to repeat the mistakes of their predecessors as was acutely demonstrated by the most serious crimes still taking place in Europe in the 1990s;

**Noting** that awareness of our common history and the fostering of European values are necessary to avoid the resurgence of extremism leading to further tragedies;

**Recalling** the European Parliament's Resolution of 2 April 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism, the Council of the European Union's Conclusions of 15 June 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism and the Council of the European Union's Conclusions of 9 and 10 June 2011 on the memory of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in Europe,

We, the signatories do hereby:

**declare** that the crimes of the totalitarian regimes in Europe, whatever their nature and ideology, will be recognized and condemned,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the European Council on 10/11 December 2009; OJ C 115 , 04/05/2010 P. 0001 - 0038

**declare** our support to the victims of totalitarian regimes and our assurance that their suffering shall not sink into oblivion, their rights shall be recognized and the perpetrators of crimes shall be brought to justice,

**commemorate** The European Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian regimes on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, in the light of our countries' history,

**declare** our determination to uphold the remembrance of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, in particular through raising awareness of our common history and by fostering European values, and thus prevent their reoccurrence,

**undertake** to consider, according to adequate standards, taking into account, where appropriate, national circumstances and legal traditions and respecting the freedom of expression, legal aspect of the public condoning, denial or gross trivialization of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes,

**undertake** to work constantly to ensure that the tragedy of totalitarian regimes is never repeated,

**call on** the European network of contact points in respect of persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes to address the question of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes,

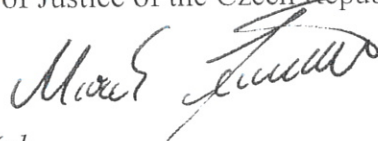
**declare** our support for the foundation of a Platform of European Memory and Conscience within existing EU-programs as a means of addressing Europe's fractured experiences and perceptions of its totalitarian past,

**call on** the Council and the Commission to support activities of non-governmental organizations, including the organizations from the countries of Eastern Neighborhood, which are actively engaged in researching and collecting documents related to the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes and in spreading the knowledge of history,

**call on** the Commission to use the existing financial support programs for such activities.

Signed in Warsaw on the 23rd of August, 2011

For the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic



Mr. Marek Ženíšek

Deputy Minister within Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic

ZASTĘPONA DYREKTORA  
Biura Ministra

Anna Suska-Baranowska

<sup>2</sup>  
ZA ZGODNOŚĆ  
Z ORYGINAŁEM

For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia

Mr. Dražen Bošnjaković

Minister of Justice of the Republic of Croatia



For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Estonia

Mr. Kristen Michal

Minister of Justice of the Republic of Estonia



For the Ministry of Justice and Liberties of the French Republic

Mr. Nicolas Guillou

Political Advisor to the Minister of Justice of the French Republic

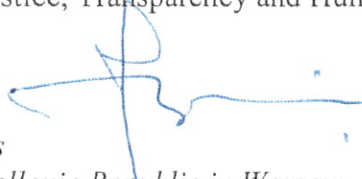
Ministry of Justice and Liberties of the French Republic



For the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights of the Hellenic Republic

Mr. Gabriel Coptsidis

Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic in Warsaw

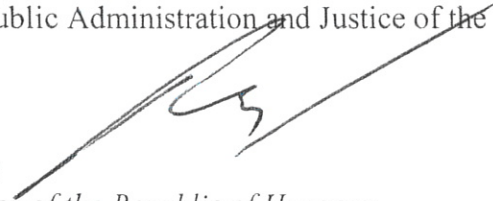


For the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of the Republic of Hungary

Mr. Tibor Navraicsics

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary

Minister of Public Administration and Justice of the Republic of Hungary

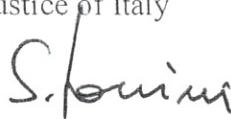


For the Ministry of Justice of Italy

Mr. Stefano Zanini

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Italy in Warsaw

For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia



WZSTĘPCA DYREKTORA  
Biura Ministra

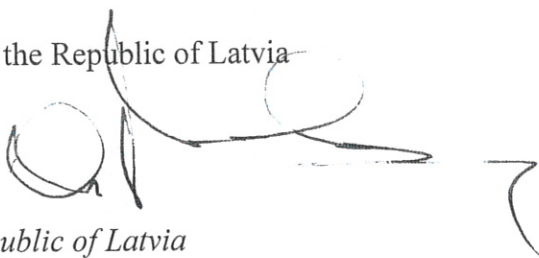
Anna Suska-Baranowska



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Z ORYGINAŁEM

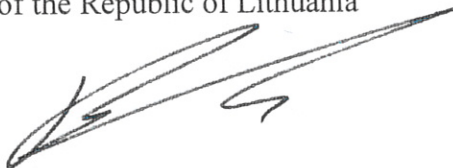


For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia



*Mr. Aigars Štokenbergs*  
*Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia*

For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania



*Mr. Remigijus Šimašius*  
*Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania*

For the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs of the Republic of Malta



*Mr. Joseph Fenech Adami*  
*Parliamentary Assistant in the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs of the Republic of Malta*

For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Poland



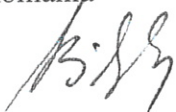
*Mr. Krzysztof Kwiatkowski*  
*Minister of Justice of the Republic of Poland*

For the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Portugal



*Ms. Luísa Sobral*  
*Chief of Staff of the State Secretary for Administration of the Property and Premises of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Portugal.*

For the Ministry of Justice of Romania



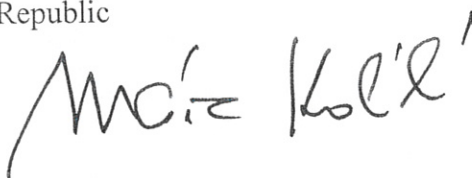
*Ms. Lidia Barac*  
*Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice of Romania*

ZASTĘPCA DYREKTORA  
Biura Ministra

*Anna Suska Baranowska*

ZA ZGODNOŚĆ  
Z ORYGINAŁEM

For the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic



*Ms. Maria Kolikova*

*State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic*

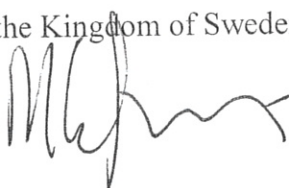
For the Ministry of Justice of the of the Kingdom of Spain



*Ms. Purificación Morandeira Carreira*

*Undersecretary of State in Ministry of Justice Kingdom of Spain*

For the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Sweden



*Mr. Magnus Graner*

*Secretary of State in Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Sweden*

For the European Parliament



*Mr. Jerzy Buzek*

*President of the European Parliament*

ZASTĘPCA DYREKTORA  
Biura Ministra

  
*Anna Susza-Baranowska*

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**ZA ZGODNOŚĆ  
Z ORYGINAŁEM**