

Tuesday 5 June 2012 from 08.30 to 18.00 hrs  
Room PHS 7C50 European Parliament, Brussels

International Conference

# Legal Settlement of Communist Crimes

Panels:

*Crimes of Communism – Why does Europe need to do more?*

Cases with European-wide relevance

International justice for the Communist crimes

The next steps toward international justice – discussion

Concluding remarks:

Hans-Gert Pöttering (DE) and Jerzy Buzek (PL)

former Presidents of the European Parliament

For the programme please visit  
[www.memoryandconscience.eu](http://www.memoryandconscience.eu)





**International conference**

## **Legal Settlement of Communist Crimes**

**5 June, 2012**

**European Parliament, Brussels, room PHS 7 C 50**

**Under the auspices of**

**Ms Sandra Kalniete (LV), Mr László Tökés (RO), Mr Milan Zver (SI),  
Mr Tunne Kelam (EE), Mr Vytautas Landsbergis (LT), Mr György Schöpflin (HU),  
Mr József Szájer (HU), Mr Paweł Robert Kowal (PL), Ms Monica Luisa Macovei (RO),  
Mr Olle Schmidt (SE), Ms Anna Ibrisagic (SE), Ms Radvilė Morkūnaitė (LT),  
Mr Marek Migalski (PL), Mr Konrad Szymanski (PL),  
Members of the European Parliament, and**

**Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering (DE) and Mr Jerzy Buzek (PL),  
former Presidents of the European Parliament**



## About the conference

The conference is being convened in response to growing calls for strengthened international justice formulated, e.g., in the Prague Declaration on European Conscience and Communism of 3 June, 2008, in the European Parliament resolution on European Conscience and Totalitarianism of 2 April, 2009, in the Declaration on Crimes of Communism of 26 February, 2010, in the European Council's Stockholm programme of 4 May, 2010 and in the Warsaw Declaration of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the EU on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes of 23 August, 2011.

The conference "**Legal Settlement of Communist Crimes**" wants to particularly examine the need for the creation of a new judicial body in the EU for the crimes of Communism which are not subject to statutory limitations. The urgency and need for action are further supported by an initiative of associations of former political prisoners and victims of Communism from different EU member states, mostly senior citizens, who, in their "**Declaration 2012**", are asking the authorities of the European Union to finally resolve the issue of justice for the perpetrators of crimes of Communism.

To this end, the conference "**Legal Settlement of Communist Crimes**" is bringing together key thinkers and experts in the field of international justice and crimes of totalitarian regimes, as well as representatives of associations of victims and European policy makers. A viable new model of international justice will be sought which could finally settle the ethical, moral and legal debt which the democratic European Union of today has toward its citizens who suffered severe violations of human rights under totalitarian Communist rule and toward the perpetrators who committed them.

The objective of the conference is to contribute toward supporting equal rights for all EU citizens, upholding the values anchored in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and thus to contribute toward strengthening the process of reconciliation and integration of Europe.

## Greetings to the participants

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish you most welcome to the conference.*

*This is the first major public event organized by the **Platform of European Memory and Conscience** since its establishment last year. It is also the first time ever that there will be a serious discussion involving experts and politicians on whether and how it is possible to bring Communist perpetrators to international justice.*

*We have a large unresolved issue in the free and democratic Europe of today. There are innumerable victims of Communist crimes and persecution living among us, brave people who fought, resisted and dissented the dictatorship, most of whom have not seen appropriate moral restitution and rehabilitation in society, let alone economic compensation for the suffering they had to endure. At the same time, the perpetrators are enjoying unbroken careers and economic benefits based on their service and active support for the totalitarian regime. This year, dozens of associations of former political prisoners and victims of Communism from a number of countries have joined their voices in an international appeal for justice called "Declaration 2012" which we are going to hear about today.*

*We hope that the legal experts present will help us to understand whether it is possible to achieve justice and what kind of tribunal would be required. Can an existing court be used, given additional jurisdiction, or is there a need for a new international court? What legislation would have to be passed to that end?*

*For all of us on the Platform Board, this conference is only a starting point for hard work that lies ahead. In order to be successful we need the help from all of you who have found the time to join us in Brussels today.*

*Our hope is that this conference will inspire public debate about totalitarian crimes that have been committed in recent history, and are continuing to be committed in countries where Communist regimes are still at large.*

*On behalf of the Board,*

**Göran Lindblad**

*President of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience*

*Even now, while living in free and democratic states, in a rich and law-abiding European Union, the burden of history is ever present. We live together with the victims of men who in the name of the state and ideology perpetrated crimes against our relatives. Not all crimes against our peoples have been judged, some perpetrators have remained nameless. It is our legal and moral obligation to remember and support victims of the past. The **European Network Remembrance and Solidarity** was created to ensure that the memory of tragic times of National Socialism and Communism, and their victims' memory, is passed along to new generations, to our children, so that they can learn about these traumatic times from books and films, and never again from experience.*

**Rafał Rogulski**

*Director of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity Secretariat*

*The **European Solidarity Centre** is pleased to be able to greet you as a partner of the conference "Legal Settlement of Communist Crimes". The Centre, founded in 2007 in Gdansk, wants to see to it that the ideals of the Solidarność movement, such as democracy, an open and solidarising society as well as the culture of dialogue, maintain their attractiveness and timeliness in Europe. This will only be possible if we foster a European culture of remembrance. The Brussels conference is an important contribution toward this goal.*

**Basil Kerski**

*Director of the European Solidarity Centre*

# Programme

8.30

## Welcome and greetings

8.45

## Opening speech

*Prof. Jerzy Buzek, MEP (PL), former President of the European Parliament*

9.00 – 10.30

## Crimes of Communism – why does Europe need to do more?

*(The moral and legal obligation to provide international legal settlement for the Communist crimes)*

**Chair: Sandra Kalniete, MEP, Chairwoman, Reconciliation of European Histories group (LV)**

- Communism and its crimes – overcoming history dialectics – **Dr. Ján Čarnogurský**, former Prime Minister of Slovakia (SK)
- Communist Crimes without statutory limitations - **Dr. Martin Alm**, Department of history, Aarhus University (DK)
- Prosecuting Communist crimes – Polish experience – **Dr. Łukasz Kamiński**, President, Institute of National Remembrance (PL)
- Legal and political constraints in prosecuting the Communist crimes in Romania – **Dr. Raluca Groseanu**, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (RO)
- Initiative "Declaration 2012" – **Dr. Zdeněk Boháč** (90), leader of the initiative (CZ)

10.30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-12.30

## Cases with European-wide relevance

*(Crimes against humanity committed under the Communist regimes transcending national borders)*

**Chair: Prof. György Schöpflin, MEP (HU)**

- The Berlin Wall shootings as a precedent – **Prof. Egils Levits**, Judge at the European Court of Justice (LV)
- Killings along the Iron Curtain – **Miroslav Lehký**, Ján Langoš Foundation (SK)
- Forced assimilation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria in the 1980s – **Vasil Kadrinov**, Faculty of Philosophy, St. Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia (BG)
- Mass deportations of civilians and their qualification under international law – **Prof. Lauri Mälksoo**, University of Tartu (EE)
- Mass killings, torture, mass graves in the EU – **Dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič**, European Faculty of Law (SI)

12.30 – 14.00 lunch

14.00-15.30

### **International justice for the Communist crimes**

*(What could the new institution of international justice look like?)*

**Chair: Tunne Kelam, MEP (EE)**

- Transnational reinforcement of the prosecution of international crimes – **Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Albin Eser**, Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg, former Judge at the ICTY (DE)
- Considerations on jurisdictional aspects of the International Criminal Court – **Renata Vaišvilienė, LLM**, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University (LT)
- Establishment of a new court in the EU? – **Prof. Frank Meyer**, Institute of Legal Sciences, University of Zürich (CH)
- Prosecution in third countries – **Juergen Schurr, LLM**, REDRESS (UK)

15.30-16.00 coffee break

16.00-17.30

### **The next steps toward international justice – panel discussion**

*(What is needed to establish the new institution of justice? Which political steps to take?)*

**Chair: Göran Lindblad**, President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience (SE)

- *Members of the European Parliament*
- **Prof. Jan Rydel**, chair of the Steering committee, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (PL)
- **Dr. Gabriel Toggenburg, LLM**, Programme Manager – Legal Research, Equality and Citizen's Rights Department, Fundamental Rights Agency (AT)
- **Vincent Depaigne**, JUST. C.1: Fundamental rights and rights of the child, Directorate General Justice, European Commission (BE)
- **Matevž Pezdirc, LLM**, Secretariat to the Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (NL)

17.30

### **Closing remarks**

**Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering**, MEP (DE), former President of the European Parliament

17.40-18.00

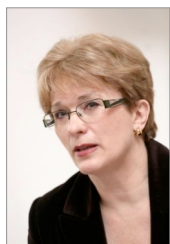
**Press Doorstep and Reception** hosted by Mr László Tökés, MEP and Mr Milan Zver, MEP

## Short Biographies of the Speakers



**Prof. Jerzy Buzek**  
*MEP, Former President of the  
European Parliament (PL)*

In the 1980s, Mr Buzek was involved in anti-Communist movements, including the trade union movement Solidarity. He has been a member of the European Parliament since 2004. President of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2012. In 1997-2001, he was Prime Minister of Poland, guiding Poland into NATO in 1999 and initiating the country's accession negotiations to the European Union in 1997.



**Sandra Kalniete**  
*MEP, Chairwoman, Reconciliation  
of European Histories group (LV)*

Born in Siberian exile where her family was deported after the Soviet occupation of Latvia. At the end of the 1980s, she entered politics and promoted the independence of Latvia from the Soviet Union. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Latvian EU Commissioner. Author of most-translated book in recent Latvian history, an autobiography "With dance shoes in Siberian snows". She is the chair of the Reconciliation of European Histories Group in the European Parliament.



**Dr. Ján Čarnogurský**  
*Former Prime Minister of Slovakia  
(SK)*

Former Prime Minister of Slovakia in Czechoslovakia (1991-1992). A democracy activist before 1989, imprisoned shortly before the Velvet Revolution. Doctor of law, advisor to opposition groups and attorney for the accused in political trials. Awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta of the Republic of Poland for development of Polish-Slovak relations and promoting democratic change in Central Europe. Chairman of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity's advisory board.



**Dr. Martin Alm**  
*Department of history, Aarhus  
University (DK)*

Martin Alm has a Ph.D. in history from Lund University, Sweden, and is employed at Aarhus University, Denmark. He has studied Swedish images of the USA and of the Soviet Union and has written about crimes of communist regimes for the Living History Forum in Sweden.



**Dr. Łukasz Kamiński**  
*President, Institute of National  
Remembrance (PL)*

Assistant professor at Institute of History at the University of Wrocław (since 1999), President of the Institute of National Remembrance (since 2011), author and co-author of more than 300 scientific and popular science publications [inter alia: "Workers' Strikes in Poland in 1945-1948" (1999), "The Poles towards New Reality 1944-1948. Forms of the "Non-institutional, Spontaneous Social Resistance" (2000), and "Roads to Freedom of the Copper Field" (2006)].



**Dr. Raluca Groseescu**  
*Institute for the Investigation of  
Communist Crimes and the  
Memory of the Romanian Exile  
(RO)*

PhD in Political Science at the University of Paris Ouest Nanterre, she has studied the political conversion of the Romanian Communist elites and the transitional justice following the demise of the Communist regime in 1989. Since 2006, she has coordinated the Research and Documentation Department within the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania, actively involved in research and educational projects. Research interests: political elites in comparative perspective; transitional justice; political transformation and legacy in post-Communist states.



**Dr. Zdeněk Boháč**

*Leader of the initiative „Legal settlement of crimes of Communism“ (CZ)*

Born in January 1922. Active in the anti-Nazi resistance. Arrested after the assassination of Heydrich, saved from death by an anti-Nazi police organisation. From 1945 he was a medical student at Charles University in Prague. Banned from studies in 1949 for his active and successful anti-Communist resistance activities. Founder and chairman of the Prague Academic Club 48. Initiator and head of the initiative „Legal settlement of crimes of Communism“ in the Czech Republic, initiator of the “Declaration 2012“.



**Miroslav Lehký**

*Ján Langoš Foundation (SK)*

In the 1960s, he studied at the Faculty of Catholic Theology in Bratislava. He could not finish his studies due to political purges. In the 1980s, co-organizer of the underground university in Bratislava. Charter 77 signatory and Charter 77 spokesman for the year 1990. In 1995 – 2002, employee of the Office for Documentation and Investigation of Communist Crimes, worked in department for investigation. In 2003, assisted in the establishment of the Nation's Memory Institute in Slovakia. In 2007-2010, deputy director at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian regimes in Prague.



**Prof. György Schöpflin**

*MEP (HU)*

Politician and academic, he is a Member of the European Parliament since 2004 for Fidesz and the European People's Party, and is a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. Formerly Jean Monnet Professor of Politics, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, he also teaches at the University of Bologna. He has published extensively on questions of nationhood, identity and political power.



**Vasil Kadrinov**

*Faculty of Philosophy, St. Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia (BG)*

Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Philosophy, St. Kliment Ohridski University, Director of Hannah Arendt Center – Sofia; former political prisoner of the Bulgarian communist regime – witness of the communist crimes during the campaign for forced assimilation of the Bulgarian Turks.



**Prof. Egils Levits**

*Judge at the European Court of Justice (LV)*

Graduated in law and in political science from the University of Hamburg; Research Assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Kiel; Adviser to the Latvian Parliament on questions of international law, constitutional law and legislative reform; Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Justice, acting Minister for Foreign Affairs (1993-94); Conciliator at the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE; member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration; elected as Judge at the European Court of Human Rights in 1995, re-elected in 1998 and 2001; numerous publications in the spheres of constitutional and administrative law, law reform and European Community law; Judge at the European Court of Justice.



**Prof. Lauri Mälksoo**

*University of Tartu (EE)*

Professor of International Law and Director of the Institute of Constitutional and International Law at the University of Tartu in Estonia. He is member of the executive board of the European Society of International Law and is currently having a grant of the European Research Council to study the contemporary Russian approaches to international law and human rights.



**Dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič**  
*European Faculty of Law (SI)*

Assistant Professor of Human Rights Law at the School of Government and European Studies, where he also acts as Vice-Dean. Worked at the European Ombudsman's Office, the Superior Court of the Republic of Slovenia, the Law Institute in Ljubljana, the International Criminal Court, and has taught at the University of Aberdeen, University of Lund, New York University and European University Institute. He is a member of the International Human Rights Committee and Feminism and International Law Committee of the International Law Association and of the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme.



**Tunne Kelam**  
*MEP (EE)*

In the 1980s, he was a leading dissident in Estonia, founding member of the Estonian National Independence Party. In 1990-1992, he was chairman of the Estonian Committee and since 1992, member of independent Estonia's Parliament. Since 2004, Member of the European Parliament for the Pro Patria Union (Estonia). He is a member of a number of non-governmental organisations and recipient of prominent awards including the French Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Merite (2001).



**Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Albin Eser**  
*Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg, former Judge at the ICTY (DE)*

Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany. Former Judge at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague/The Netherlands. Numerous publications in German, comparative and international criminal law. In particular co-editor of a 14 volume comparative project on "Criminal Law in Reaction to State Crime".



**Renata Vaišvilienė, LLM**  
*Faculty of Law, Vilnius University (LT)*

A lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University, specialising in International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law. Her areas of research include institutional aspects of individual criminal responsibility and jurisdictional studies of international criminal tribunals.



**Prof. Frank Meyer**  
*Institute of Law, University of Zürich (CH)*

Chair of Criminal law and Criminal Procedure including International Criminal law, University of Zurich. Studied law in Hamburg and New Haven, Yale Law School, Doctoral thesis 2002, Hamburg, LL.M., Yale 2005, Professorial thesis and "Habilitation" 2011, Bonn).



**Juergen Schurr, LLM**  
*REDRESS (UK)*

Jürgen joined REDRESS in 2006 as project coordinator on universal jurisdiction in the European Union, having previously worked for various human rights organisations. In 2009 he took a position as Associate Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Since 2010, he works as legal advisor with REDRESS on universal jurisdiction and on victims' rights, with a focus on Africa. Jürgen obtained his law degree from the University of East Anglia and a LLM from the University of Trier.

**REDRESS** is a human rights organisation based in London which helps torture survivors obtain justice and reparation. REDRESS works with survivors to help restore their dignity and make torturers accountable.



**Göran Lindblad**  
*President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience (SE)*

He served as the Council of Europe rapporteur on crimes of

totalitarian communist regimes, drafting and championing the Council of Europe resolution 1481 on the Need for international condemnation of crimes of totalitarian communist regimes. Former President of the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Since 2011, President of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience.



**Prof. Jan Rydel**

*Chair of the Steering committee, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (PL)*

Historian, habilitated professor at the Institute of Political Sciences of the Pedagogical University of Cracow. Specialist in Polish-German relations and Austrian 20th century history. Lecturing professor at Jagiellonian University in Cracow and at the State Higher Vocational School in Oświęcim. Also curator of the Regional Museum of Young Poland "Rydlówka" in Cracow. Chairman of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity's steering committee.

Justice of the European Commission. Previously Administrator in the Unit "Action against discrimination: legal questions", Directorate General Employment and in the external relations department of the European Commission. PhD candidate in Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, and MST, international human rights law, Oxford University.



**Matevž Pezdirc, LL.M.**

*Secretariat to the Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (NL)*

Matevž Pezdirc is the Coordinator of the Secretariat to the Network for investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Lawyer, coming from Slovenia. Previously worked as the Head of the Criminal Law Unit in the Slovenian Ministry of Justice and as a Counsellor for Justice and Home Affairs at the Slovenian Permanent Representation in Brussels.



**Dr. Gabriel Toggenburg, LL.M.**

*Programme Manager – Legal research, equality and citizens' rights department, Fundamental Rights Agency (AT)*

Gabriel N. Toggenburg has been working at the FRA since 2009 as a Programme Manager in the field of Legal Research. Before joining the Agency he was in academia dealing with human and minority rights.

*The Network of contact points was set up by Council Decision, and reaffirmed by Council Decision, to ensure close cooperation between the national authorities in investigating and prosecuting the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The purpose of the Network is to facilitate cooperation and assistance between the Member States' law enforcement and judicial authorities; to exchange information on criminal investigation and prosecution of alleged perpetrators of the relevant crimes; and to share investigative, prosecutorial and trial experiences with these crimes, related methods and best practices.*

**The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** was established by the EU in 2007 with the specific task of providing independent, evidence-based advice on fundamental rights. The aim of the FRA is to contribute towards ensuring full respect for fundamental rights across the EU. To do this, the FRA performs the following main tasks: collecting and analysing information and data; providing assistance and expertise; communicating and raising rights awareness.



**Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering**  
*MEP, Former President of the European Parliament (DE)*

He studied law, political sciences and history at the University of Bonn, the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and at Columbia University in New York, earning a Ph.D. in political science and history in 1974 and the second state exam in jurisprudence in 1976. He served as President of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009. He is one of six MEPs to have served continuously in the EP since the first direct elections in 1979. Since 2009, he is the Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



**Vincent Depaigne, MSt.**  
*Directorate General Justice, European Commission (BE)*

Policy Officer in the Unit "Fundamental rights and rights of the child", Directorate General

# Declaration 2012

**"Driven by a sincere effort to achieve legal redress for the crimes of communism and redeem the immense suffering that affected millions of citizens under totalitarian communist regimes, we request the legislative bodies of these countries and the authorities of the European Union to adopt effective legal norms that will allow just punishment of communist criminals and abolition of all benefits they still enjoy."**

Signatories as of 3 June, 2012 (45):

## **Belarus - exile**

Office of the Rada of the Belarusian Democratic Republic, Canada

## **BG**

Hannah Arendt Center – Sofia, Citizen initiative FOR dismantling of the soviet army monument in Sofia, Асоциация на свободното слово "Анна Политковская" (Association for free speech "Anna Politkovskaya"), SPCB - Society of holders of compensatory bonds-bonds issued by the Bulgarian government for compensation for non-restituted property confiscated in the time of the communist regime, Bulgarian association for art therapy

## **CZ**

Akademický klub 48 Brno (Academic club 48 Brno), Asociace soukromého zemědělství České republiky (Association of private farmers in the Czech Republic), CAROLINUM – Spolek absolventů a přátel Univerzity Karlovy (CAROLINUM – society of alumni and friends of the Charles University), Český svaz technických praporů (Czech association of technical units), Dcery 50. Let (Enemy's daughters), Klub Dr. Milady Horákové (Milada Horáková club), Konfederace politických vězňů České republiky (Confederation of political prisoners of the Czech Republic), Křesťanské akademické fórum Praha (Christian academic forum Prague), Orel (Eagle), Pražský akademický klub 48 (Prague academic club 48), Sdružení křesťanských seniorů (Association of Christian seniors), Společnost Antonína Švehly (Antonín Švehla society), Společnost Edvarda Beneše (Edvard Beneš society), Svaz PTP-VTNP České republiky (Association of the auxiliary technical units – military forced labour camps), Svaz vlastníků půdy (Association of landowners), Umění bez bariér (Art without barriers)

## **DE**

Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten (Saxon Memorial Foundation), Sächsischer Landesbeauftragter für die Stasi-Unterlagen (Saxon state commissioner for the Stasi records), Gedenkstätte Berlin-Hohenschönhausen (Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial)

## **HU**

Történelmi Igazságtétel Bizottság (Committee for Historical Justice), 56-os Szövetség (Alliance of 56), Magyar Politikai Foglyok Szövetsége (Hungarian Association of Political Prisoners), The Public Foundation for the Research of Central and East European History and Society – House of Terror Museum

## **LT**

Lietuvos politinių kalinių ir tremtinių bendrija (Lithuanian community of political prisoners and deportees), Lietuvos politinių kalinių ir tremtinių sąjunga (Lithuanian union of political prisoners and deportees), Lietuvos politinių kalinių sąjunga (Lithuanian union of political prisoners), Lietuvos Laisvės Kovos Sąjūdis (The Movement of the Struggle for Freedom of Lithuania), 1941 m. birželio 22–28 dienų sukilėlių sąjunga (The Union of the Rebels of June 22–28, 1941), Lietuvos kariuomenės karių, nukentėjusių nuo sovietinio ir nacistinio genocido, artimųjų sąjunga (The Union of the Kin of the Lithuanian Soldiers who Suffered from Soviet and Nazi Genocide), Lietuvos laisvės kovotojų sąjunga (The Lithuanian Union of Freedom Fighters), Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės gynimo Sausio 13-osios brolija (Brotherhood of January 13, the Defense of Lithuanian Independence), Laisvės kovų dalyvių sąjunga (The Union of Participants of Freedom Fights), Kolymos draugija (The Society of Kolyma), Laptevų jūros tremtinių brolija Lapteviečiai (Brotherhood of the Laptev Sea Exiles), Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras (Genocide and resistance research centre of Lithuania)

## **LV**

Latvijas okupācijas muzeja biedriba (Occupation Museum Association of Latvia)

## **RO**

Asociația Pro Democratia (Pro Democracy Association), Asociația Corneliu Coposu (Cornelius Coposu Association)

## **SI**

Nova slovenska zaveza (New Slovenian commitment)

*The Declaration 2012 was adopted on 17 January, 2012 in Prague by representatives of 17 associations of victims of totalitarianism from the Czech Republic in the presence of Ambassadors (or their representatives) of European countries belonging to the former region of Soviet communist influence.*

Further signatories are welcome to join the Declaration by sending an e-mail with the text **"We support the Declaration 2012: name of the organisation, address, name of the statutory representative"** to the e-mail address [jar.muller@seznam.cz](mailto:jar.muller@seznam.cz).

## Platform of European Memory and Conscience



The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is a non-governmental association founded in 2011 in Prague. Its establishment was endorsed by the European Parliament resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism of 2 April, 2009 and by the EU Council during the Czech, Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the EU.

The purpose of the Platform is to support cooperation among national research institutes, archives, museums and other organisations, public and private, specialising in the subject of the history of totalitarian regimes in Europe, with special emphasis on National socialism, Communism and other totalitarian ideologies. The Platform wishes to further the respect among European citizens and the understanding of the essential importance of democracy, human rights, European values and the rule of law in all of Europe with the goal of avoiding future threats to democracy, and to help prevent intolerance, extremism, anti-democratic movements and the recurrence of any totalitarian rule in the future.

### Members of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience:

- Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial, DE
- Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, EE
- Foundation History of Totalitarian Regimes and their Victims, NL
- Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, LT
- Hannah Arendt Center – Sofia, BG
- Hannah Arendt Society, DE
- Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, RO
- Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, CZ
- Institute of National Remembrance, PL
- Jan Langos Foundation, SK
- Secretariat of The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, LT
- Security Services Archive, CZ
- Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten, DE
- Study Centre for National Reconciliation, SI
- The Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR, DE
- The Institute for Information on the Crimes of Communism, SE
- The Occupation Museum Association of Latvia, LV
- The Occupation of Latvia Research Society, LV
- The Public Foundation for the Research of Central and East European History and Society – House of Terror Museum, HU
- Unitas Foundation, EE
- Warsaw Rising Museum, PL

For more information on the **Platform**, please see [www.memoryandconscience.eu](http://www.memoryandconscience.eu).



**The Platform of European Memory and Conscience wishes to thank the following partners  
for their kind support of the conference:**

**the offices of Ms Sandra Kalniete, Mr László Tökés and Mr Milan Zver,  
Members of the European Parliament**

**European Network Remembrance and Solidarity**

**European Solidarity Centre**

**Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten**

**Robert Schuman Foundation**

**Estonian Institute of Historical Memory**

**Aarhus University**



**Contact:**

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