



Press release

Platform expresses regret that Mr Jean-Claude Juncker took part in ceremonies commemorating Karl Marx

Brussels / Prague, 7 May 2018. The European Union is founded on freedom, truth, human dignity and human rights. These values, along with many others, were violated by the Communist system, which was based on Marxist ideology. Therefore, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience wishes to express its regret that Mr **Jean-Claude Juncker**, the President of the European Commission, took part in ceremonies commemorating Karl Marx.

We cannot approve of such actions, since they are offensive to the memory of the millions of victims of Communism. The Communist ideology, rooted in Marx's works, continues to kill and enslave people in many places in the world. This applies especially to China, the sponsor of the statue which was unveiled during the event Mr Juncker attended. We believe that the victims of Communism deserve an apology.

Platform member organisation, the **Estonian Institute of Historical Memory**, which researches the history of totalitarian regimes, released a statement on 5 May declaring that *"by participating in the festivities in Trier, Germany, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx, the founding father of Communism, the President of the European Commission is ignoring the fate of millions of victims of Communism."* (<http://mnemosyne.ee/en/participation-of-the-european-commissions-leader-in-marxs-birthday-party-is-ignorance-of-victims-of-communism/>)

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The Platform of European Memory and Conscience brings together 57 public and private institutions and organisations from 14 EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, Albania, Canada and the USA working in the field of coming to terms with the legacy of totalitarianism on European soil. We represent about 200,000 Europeans and over 1,100,000 North American citizens with European roots.

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The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is an interest association of legal persons founded according to the Civil Code of the Czech Republic and registered by the Municipal Court of Prague under section L, insert 58675. Id.-No.: 72559071

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