

DECLARATION

Regarding the creation of the European Network '*Remembrance and Solidarity*'

The Culture Ministers of Hungary, Germany, Poland and Slovakia, mindful of Europe's 20th-century history, marked by wars and totalitarian dictatorships that claimed a huge number of victims and imposed untold sufferings upon mankind,

- on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as political treaties and accords concluded with the strength of international law from 1945, which are now acknowledged as historical facts,
- recognising the political breakthrough that have occurred in Europe from 1989, in particular the European Union's enlargement on 1 May 2004 which has imparted a new shape and character to international relations within the framework of the involved countries,
- wishing to support common analysis, documentation and propagation of knowledge of the past in order to achieve a better understanding thereof,
- guided by the European spirit of reconciliation, linking the history of Europe's nations and contributing to the development of the European culture of remembrance in order to strengthen mutual trust and build friendly relations amongst the states involved,

Do hereby declare the will to establish the European Network "*Remembrance and Solidarity*".

The countries establishing the European Network "*Remembrance and Solidarity*" will be open to the admission of other European countries.

1. The Network's purpose of activity:

The purpose of the Network's activity will be to analyse, document and propagate the history of the 20th century, a century of wars, totalitarian dictatorships and the suffering of civilian populations, the victims of wars, persecution, conquest, forced expulsions and nationalist, racist and ideologically motivated repression.

2. The Network's tasks:

The tasks of the Network are:

- linking together existing initiatives in individual countries, establishing co-operation between public and state institutions and non-governmental organisations, scientific-research centres and memorial sites,
- Supporting, financing and conducting jointly scholarly and educational projects as well as organising conferences and engaging in publishing activities as well as other undertakings.

3. The Network's structure:

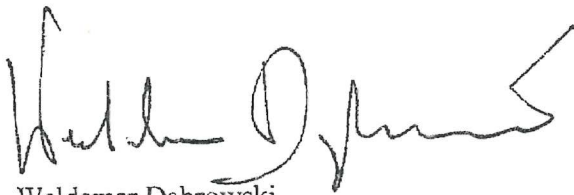
In order to co-ordinate the European Network "*Remembrance and Solidarity*", a Secretariat based in Warsaw will be established. It will be headed by a director who will also be a member of the Steering Committee. A Steering Committee, comprising one co-ordinator from each involved state, is being set up to support the work of the Secretariat. An Advisory Council and Board comprising public personalities will be created as well.

4. Co-operation with European institutions

The European Network "*Remembrance and Solidarity*" will strive for close co-operation with the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, and will also seek jointly to apply for EU funding.

5. The countries which declare will to establish of the Network express their interest in signing an agreement containing precise regulations concerning the functioning of the Network, including the financial aspects.

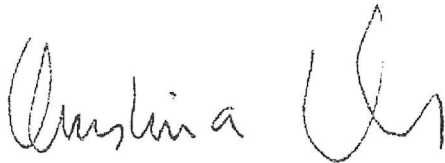
Warsaw 2nd February 2005



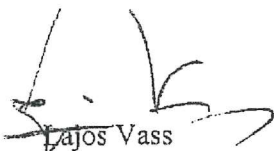
Waldemar Dąbrowski
Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland



Rudolf Chmel
Minister of Culture of the Republic of Slovakia



Christina Weiss
Minister of State, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media of the
Federal Republic of Germany



Lajos Vass
State Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Hungary