

Programme of the conference

April 20, 2015

By [admin](#)



Hungarian-English simultaneous translation provided throughout

Tuesday 5 May 2015

8.00 *Registration and refreshments*

9.00 - 9.15 **Welcome**

- Réka Földváryné Kiss (Chairperson, Committee of National Remembrance)

9.15 - 9.25 **Opening speech**

- Gergely Gulyás, Deputy Speaker of Parliament

9.30 - 11.00 **Session I: The planning and execution of the division of Europe**

1939 Hitler-Stalin pact, Teheran, Jalta and Potsdam conferences...

Moderator: Viktor Attila Soós (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

- Paweł Ukielski (Deputy Director, Institute of National Remembrance, PL)
- Valters Nollendorfs (Chairman of the Board, Occupation Museum Association of Latvia)
- Áron Máthé (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

11.00 - 11.30 *coffee break*

11.30 - 13.00 **Session II: From one totalitarianism into another - the Communist takeover in Central and Eastern Europe**

Methods employed by the USSR and the Communist parties in Central and Eastern Europe to install the dictatorship: mass killings and atrocities, terror, election fraud and manipulation

Moderator: Viktor Attila Soós (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

- Petr Blažek (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, CZ)
- Tibor Zinner (Team leader, VERITAS Research Institute, HU)
- Gábor Balogh (House of Terror Museum, HU)

13.00 - 14.00 *lunch*

14.00 - 15.30 **Session III: Victims of the Iron Curtain**

State of knowledge about the numbers of victims of the Iron Curtain from individual countries, from Finland to Turkey

Moderator: Áron Máthé (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

- Łukasz Kamiński (President, Institute of National Remembrance, PL)
- Vasil Kadrinov (Hannah Arendt Center Sofia, BG)
- Attila Horváth (Director, Institute of State and Social Theory, National University of Public Service, Faculty of Public Administration, HU)

15.30 - 16.00 *coffee break*

16.00 - 17.30 **Session IV: Life behind the Iron Curtain and its fall in 1989**

The official propaganda, life in the border regions, the civilian collaborators of the border guards, how much did the citizens of the Eastern bloc know, stories of escapees across the Iron Curtain, the fall of the Iron Curtain

Moderator: Áron Máthé (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

- Réka Kiss (Chairperson, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)
- Krisztina Slachta (research fellow, Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security, HU)
- József Ö. Kovács (Scientific advisor, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Centre for the Humanities)

17.30 - 17.45 **Concluding remarks**

- Norbert Kis (Vice-Rector for Continuing Education and International Affairs - National University of Public Service, HU)

Wednesday 6 May 2015

8.00 *Registration and refreshments*

8.55 - 9.00 **Opening**

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

9.00 - 10.30 **Session V: How the West accommodated to the Iron Curtain**

How much did the Western administrations know? Trade with the Eastern bloc, the Eastern bloc as a production site (IKEA, etc.), Western broadcasts across the Iron Curtain

Moderator: Zsolt Szilágyi (member of the Executive Board, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, RO)

- Göran Lindblad (President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, SE)
- Johann Grünbauer (Foundation Memory of Totalitarian Regimes and their Victims, NL)
- Wolfgang-Christian Fuchs (President, Inter-Asso, DE)

10.30 - 11.00 *coffee break*

11.00 - 12.30 Session VI: How the Iron Curtain was built

History of the erection of the barriers in Europe, destruction of settlements, the technology and devices used to harm and kill people, the regime of border control, the secondary Iron Curtains within the Eastern bloc
Moderator: Zsolt Szilágyi (member of the Executive Board, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, RO)

- Miroslav Lehký (Ján Langoš Foundation, SK)
- László Tökés (Member of the European Parliament, RO)
- Barbara Bank (Member, Committee of National Remembrance, HU)

12.30 - 13.30 *lunch*

13.30 - 15.00 Session VII: Justice for the crimes committed along and behind the Iron Curtain

The total human toll of Communist totalitarianism in Europe, prosecution of the perpetrators after 1989, prosecution of Nazi perpetrators today
Moderator: Göran Lindblad (President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, SE)

- Neela Winkelmann (Managing Director, Platform of European Memory and Conscience)
- Gábor Katona (Head, Legal and International Department, Office of the Committee of National Remembrance, HU)
- Andrej Umansky (Research Fellow, Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, University of Cologne, DE)

15.00 - 15.30 *coffee break*

15.30 - 17.00 Session VIII: Commemoration of the division of Europe and lessons learned

Memorials to people killed along what is today called the “Green belt“, education, a pan-European memorial to the victims of totalitarianism in Europe
Moderator: Göran Lindblad (President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, SE)

- Andreja Valič Zver (Director, Study Centre for National Reconciliation, SI)
- Miroslav Kasáček (Director, Civic Association Memory, CZ)
- Alexander Stipsits (Chairman of the Board, Centre for the Future, CZ)

17.00 - 17.15 Concluding remarks

- Szabolcs Takács, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, HU