



PLATFORM
OF EUROPEAN
MEMORY AND
CONSCIENCE



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Press release

Strong mandate for Stasi Records Commissioner needed

Prague, 22 January 2016. The Platform of European Memory and Conscience is alarmed by attempts coming from the German SPD in the Bundestag to dismantle the mandate of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records. A letter was sent today to all chairpersons of the political groups in support of a strong position for Roland Jahn who is standing for re-election next month.

The Chairman of the Bundestag's Committee for Culture wants to instate the Federal Commissioner for a short temporary time, under the pretext of necessary reforms. The Platform interprets this as an attempt to paralyse the work of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records as well as an attempt to pave the road to dismantling the Office itself. The Stasi Records Office has served as a blueprint for establishing many similar memory institutions in Central and Eastern Europe.

"The fact that we are witnessing attacks against memory institutions in difficult times for democracy in Europe is alarming. More than ever, these institutions need to be strengthened today", says Platform President Göran Lindblad.

For more information, please contact:

Göran Lindblad, President, president@memoryandconscience.eu, +46-706710366

Neela Winkelmann, Managing Director, director@memoryandconscience.eu, +420-222 561 053

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience brings together 51 public and private institutions and organisations from 13 EU Member States, Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, 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.

Londýnská 43 ■ 120 00 Praha 2 ■ Czech Republic ■ tel.: +420 - 222 561 053 ■

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Bank account EUR: No. 4977492, Česká spořitelna, a.s., Czech Republic IBAN: CZ160800000000004977492 BIC: GIBACZPX

Bank account CZK: No. 5004692, Česká spořitelna, a.s., Czech Republic IBAN: CZ030800000000005004692 BIC: GIBACZPX