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## Press release

# Call on 21 representatives of Communist Czechoslovakia to apologise for the killing of Hartmut Tautz and other civilians on the Iron Curtain

**Bratislava / Prague, 10 August 2016.** At the inauguration of a memorial to Hartmut Tautz, eighteen-year-old East-German refugee who was killed on the Czechoslovak-Austrian border in 1986, participants signed an open letter to 21 representatives of Communist Czechoslovakia calling on them to publicly apologise for his death and killings of other defenceless civilians on the Iron Curtain.

More than 100 people gathered yesterday in Bratislava – Petržalka for unveiling of a monument to Hartmut Tautz. The event was organised by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience together with the Bratislava self-administration region and the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute. It was attended by Mr Pavol Frešo, chairman of the Bratislava Region, Ms Iveta Plšeková, deputy Mayor of Bratislava, Mr Ondrej Krajňák, chairman of the Nation's Memory Institute, Neela Winkelmann, Managing Director of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, Jaroslav Müller, Chairman of the Prague Academic Club 48, members of the diplomatic corps, several Members of the Slovak Parliament, guests from Magdeburg Ms Birgit Neumann-Becker, Regional Commissioner for the Stasi records and Mr Maik Reichel, Director of the Central office for political education, representatives of organisations of victims of Communism, the public and numerous representatives of the media.

At the occasion, the Platform of European Memory and Conscience announced the names of 21 persons responsible for the death of Hartmut Tautz. Participants signed an open letter to them, asking for a public apology for the killing of Hartmut Tautz and other refugees on the Iron Curtain during Communism (see enclosed).

### For more information, please contact:

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**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.

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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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