



## **International Seminar “The Righteous and the resistance to totalitarianism”**

**Warsaw, 9-12 february 2009**

### **FINAL DOCUMENT**

Starting from the working experience shared by the participants, they agree on the following points:

- The encounter between people of different nationalities and belongings with different disciplines has created a great cultural richness and at the same time has highlighted the need to proceed with the identification of common issues of reference. They are needed to overcome the difficulty of mutual understanding, so everybody hopes that the joint work will continue in the future by the implementation of other initiatives.
- The national memory often makes it difficult for everyone to take the others' views. At the same time it can not simply be thrown behind but it should integrate and find the resources to build a common European memory which is moving its first steps. This will result from a steady comparison and a common acknowledgement, which will prevent this memory from turning into a celebration or an archeological issue.
- To this end a better understanding of totalitarianism and resistance to it can play a very important role, especially in education, where the focus is put on the exchange of teaching experience.
- In terms of education and culture there should be a more thorough knowledge of the history of those peoples and those individuals who experienced at first hand both the Nazi and communist totalitarianisms.
- Finally, even if it is advisable not to abuse the category of 'Righteous' - developed in memory of the Holocaust - it is not correct to compare the 'Righteous' with the category of 'moral resisters to totalitarianism', which is

better suited to accommodate the diversity of experiences that characterize the anti-totalitarian struggle. The issues of the righteous and the resisters, even so different, being the first orientated to the protection of the victims and the latter to the defense of the truth against the theoretical lies in order to safeguard personal dignity and coherence even at risk of life – share a common moral ground. This is the aspects which the experts are exploring thoroughly. *Their inheritance represent a unifying element in the European consciousness.*

- It warmly welcomes the Resolution P6\_TA-PROV (2009) 0213 of 2 April 2009 on the European consciousness and the totalitarianism of the European Parliament which, by declaring August 23 (day of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939) European Day of Memory for the victims of Stalinism and Nazism, calls for investing resources in research on totalitarian regimes in order to remove those obstacles that prevent the development of a common European memory.

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