



European Commission
Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President-elect

Strasbourg, 16 July, 2014

Dear President-elect Juncker,

We would like to wholeheartedly congratulate you on your election as the President of the European Commission. We wish you a lot of success in bringing the European Union forward and in fulfilling your "Agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change" in the course of the next five years.

We believe that the European project is based on our common values of democracy, truth and reconciliation. As a follow-up to our discussion during the meeting of the EPP Group on 9 July, 2014, we would like to draw your attention to the need to increase public awareness about European history and the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes. We are of the opinion that the European institutions, and notably the European Commission, should encourage a broad, European-wide discussion about the causes and consequences of totalitarian rule.

This is not merely a historic or emotional problem. It is a problem for a truly comprehensive integration of Europe. It is a question of reasserting and defending European values, which are being challenged by those countries outside the EU that have not done *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* and are using falsified history to justify aggression against their neighbours.

Unaddressed and neglected heritage of totalitarian crimes has become a real obstacle to deepened integration and remains fertile soil for Euro-scepticism and extremism.

You will certainly recall that the European Parliament has emphasized in its resolution "On European Conscience and Totalitarianism" of 2 April, 2009, that the goal of disclosure and assessment of the crimes committed by the Communist totalitarian regimes is reconciliation, which can be achieved by admitting responsibility, asking for forgiveness and fostering moral renewal.

Moreover the EPP Action Programme (2014-2019), adopted in March 2014 at the Congress in Dublin, calls also for swift implementation of all necessary reforms including the adoption of lustration legislation which will ensure consistent enforcement of the rule of law and democratic principles in all post-communist countries where the decomposition of totalitarian residues failed.

In this respect we would like to remind you of the valuable work of the "Platform of European Memory and Conscience", which gathers 42 institutions and organizations from 13 EU member states as well as Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, Canada and USA. The Platform successfully acts through networking meetings and conferences, exhibitions and youth education in achieving these goals.

In order to attain the objectives of the EP 2009 Resolution, we believe that it would be necessary that one of the new Commissioners in your team also includes in her/his portfolio topics related to the European history and memory. Also, we are of the opinion that the Commission should find the most appropriate means to ensure an adequate degree of institutional and financial support to the work of the "Platform of European Memory and Conscience", which assumed a key role in promoting the prevention of intolerance, extremism, anti-democratic movements and the recurrence of any totalitarian rule in the future.

We hope that you will favourably consider our plea and would be very grateful for your support.

Sincerely yours,

EPP MEP's (signed)

Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group

Elmar Brok

Franc Bogovič

Michael Gahler

Andrzej Grzyb

Gunnar Hökmark

Sandra Kalniete

Tunne Kelam

Karinš Krišjanis

Eduard Kukan

Gabrielius Landsbergis

Monica Luisa Macovei

Ivana Maletić

Jan Olbrycht

Artis Pabriks

Lojze Peterle

Marijana Petir

Andrej Plenković

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

György Schöpflin

Davor Ivo Stier

Dubravka Šuica

Patricija Šulin

Romana Tomc

Milan Zver