

*Conclusions of the meeting on the crimes against humanity, committed by totalitarian regimes*

Tallinn, 23 August 2017

With regard to the United Nations Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity,

With regard to Resolution 1096 (1996) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on measures to dismantle the heritage of former communist totalitarian systems,

With regard to Resolution 1481 (2006) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the need for international condemnation of crimes of totalitarian communist regimes,

With regard to the European Parliament resolution of 2 April 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism and the proclamation of 23 August as a Europe-wide Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes,

With regard to the Warsaw Declaration of the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes of 23 August 2011,

With regard to the Tallinn Joint Statement of the Conference for the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Crimes Committed by Totalitarian Regimes of 23 August 2015,

on the European Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, we commemorate all victims of those regimes.

Under the Communist dictatorships in Europe, hundreds of thousands of innocent people were executed, killed, imprisoned, tortured, forced to perform slave labour or deported. No process of truth-finding and justice comparable to that staged by the international community after World War II against the perpetrators of Nazi crimes has been undertaken during the more than 25 years that have passed since the fall of the Communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Communist regimes in Europe committed international crimes, particularly crimes against humanity, after World War II, in many cases even until the collapse of the Soviet Bloc. Crimes against humanity are not subject to statutory limitations and the perpetrators can be tried at any time.

The memory of the victims of the Communist regimes demands the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of those crimes. Many countries have had great success in this work, but there are still people responsible for the crimes of the Communist regimes living unpunished among us. International cooperation is needed to bring these individuals to justice. It is also important to strengthen international cooperation in bringing to justice all perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

Today, at the meeting of the representatives of the ministries of justice of many EU countries the participants were informed of the initiative for establishing the Council for Investigation of Crimes of Communist Regimes (CICROC) that was launched at the meeting in Tallinn on 23 August 2015. The aim of the CICROC is to promote bringing the most heinous crimes of Communist regimes to light, to identify the perpetrators of these crimes and to facilitate international cooperation in this regard, to build general awareness of the atrocities committed by Communist regimes, and through these to contribute to the improvement of such investigations and prosecutions.

The meeting was informed that the representatives of countries participating in the CICROC initiative are continuing their cooperation for the establishment of the CICROC.

The representatives of the countries have expressed their respect for all victims of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes.

*At the meeting the delegations of ministries of justice of Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia participated.*