

Institute of National Remembrance

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Council of Members meeting of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience – Ljubljana, Bled, 14–15 November 2018

Representatives of the Institute of National Remembrance took part in the Council of Members meeting in Slovenia. The IPN is one of the founding members of this organisation gathering members not only from Europe but from around the world.









On 14 November Dr Władysław Bułhak from the Historical Research Office and Joanna Kumor from the Division of International Relations took part in the accompanying international conference organized by the Slovenian Study Centre for National Reconciliation, also being a Platform member. The conference is entitled “The Dark Side of the Moon: Dealing with the Totalitarian Past: Confrontations and Reflections.”

The culmination of the event was the ceremonial awarding of the annual Prize of the Platform, granted for special contribution made against the reviving totalitarian regimes. In addition, the conference participants visited the former prison of special services in Ljubljana.

On 15 November in Bled, a meeting of the Council of Members was held, during which a new Managing Director and a member of the Supervisory Board was elected. Candidacies of five organizations that apply for membership in this international structure were also considered.

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience was established in 2011, and the Institute of National Remembrance is one of the 21 founding members. The goals of the Platform are cooperation for the dissemination of knowledge on totalitarian systems and

commemoration of victims of criminal regimes. One of the Platform's projects in which the IPN has been participating actively is JUSTICE 2.0 - the project of establishing an international mechanism for the settlement of communist crimes. The Board of the Platform has unanimously supported the Polish proposal to create an international tribunal that would deal with this problem.

The press release of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience:

Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience 2018
awarded in Ljubljana

Ljubljana / Prague, 14 November 2018

The Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience was awarded on 14 November in Ljubljana at the National Assembly during the international conference *The Dark Side of the Moon: Dealing with the Totalitarian Past – Confrontations and Reflections*.

The Prize is awarded annually to a person/persons who are fighting today against totalitarianism, for the ideals of democracy, fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rule of law. The Prize of the Platform should support its winner(s) in their struggle, help to protect them against persecution and help to support international publicity of their cause.

The Members of the Platform voted this summer for Mr **Oleg Sentsov**, in recognition of his personal courage, struggle and sacrifice for upholding fundamental democratic values and freedoms after his show

trial in the Russian Federation. By awarding the Prize, the Platform wishes to express its respect and support for Ukrainian citizen Mr Sentsov whom the Platform considers, since his detention in May 2014, a political prisoner in the Russian Federation. The Platform calls for his immediate release.

At the ceremony which took place on 14 November 2018 at the National Assembly, Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Ukrainian Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia H.E. Mr. **Mykhailo F. Brodovych** expressed gratitude for the awarding of the Platform Prize to the filmmaker, writer and prisoner of conscience Mr Oleg Sentsov. He highlighted that Ukraine considers this as an award for one man but also for 80 other political prisoners who were sentenced in the Russian Federation for such simple acts as hanging the Ukrainian flag in a window, etc. They are people of good conscience, with a drive for independence and they were sentenced just for expressing their thoughts and their elementary freedoms; their human rights were suppressed.

At the ceremony Mr **Janez Janša**, leader of the Slovenian Democratic Party, former PM and Member of the Board of Trustees, said that the Prize should help raise awareness in the times we are living through today. Ukraine is Russia's first victim of the post-Cold War period. These events should wake us up. He stressed that in 2014, after Mr Sentsov's arrest, there was no mention of it in the Slovenian media, probably because Slovenia is still dealing with the dark side of its history and we all share the destiny of the post-soviet countries. We took a few steps forward but there are a number of issues which we

left far behind. Only with common effort can we move forward.

Photos courtesy of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience.

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