

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**With regard to a collective project on to establish a Museum-Memorial Site within the area of the former Nazi German extermination camp Sobibor**

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland,

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Department Victims and Remembrance World War II, of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Government of the State of Israel

Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Department of Human Rights and Equal Treatment,

hereinafter the Participants,  
have agreed as follows,

- That the remembrance of the Holocaust and the events that led to it can and must not be lost;
- That respect must and will be shown to the Jewish and other victims brought to extermination camps from various countries and that these victims are entitled to a dignified final place of rest;
- That it is of great importance that the victims of the Nazi German extermination camp will not be forgotten;

The participants have therefore decided to set up a collective project concerning the realization of the former location of the Nazi German extermination camp Sobibor as a place of commemoration and remembrance, hereinafter to be referred to as the Project-thereby including the following specific objectives:

- the protection of the ashes of the victims murdered at this place, possibly in conformity with the applicable religious traditions of the victims, with measures taken to provide an adequate level of security for the place;
- the realization of a respectful place of remembrance where surviving relatives in particular can show their respects •
- the realization of a Museum – Memorial Site with a view to relating the story of the mass extermination to contemporary and future generations.
- the preservation and the protection of the remaining historic substance and the terrain of the former Nazi German extermination camp Sobibor:

The Project will be carried out with special respect for the place, the ashes of the victims and the authentic remaining traces of the extermination camp, as well as for the relevant initiatives taken in this very place in the past decades.

1. The method of cooperation in the Project

The participants in the Project will cooperate among other things as follows:

- They will cooperate with regard to the realization of this Project that on its completion will become a national Polish museum;
- They will involve as many surviving relatives and other relevant third parties from their own States as possible with the joint effort;
- They will make every effort to involve surviving relatives and relevant third parties, also via other states;
- To this end, they will provide each other with expertise;
- They will make every effort to make a financial contribution to this end;
- They will make every effort to procure other financial means from funds, other states or other financiers;

2. The Project components

The point of departure will be the *Recommendations for the Master Plan included in the Report of the Expert Meeting on the Sobibor Memorial Site 17-18 November 2010*. These components include the following:

- As far as is possible, the grounds will be marked out according to the boundaries of the former Nazi German extermination camp;
- As far as is possible, the new spatial lay-out of the former Nazi German extermination camp will be designed by means of archaeological and other historic investigations, so that clear marking can be made with regard to the location of important events in connection with the Project objectives. Remains of the camp buildings etc will be conserved as well as possible;
- At areas where mortal remains are situated, the grounds will be laid out as a cemetery; the mass graves will be identified and clearly marked;
- a dignified remembrance place will be realized where surviving relatives and other people concerned can show the victims their respects;
- a Museum – Memorial Site will be built in which an exhibition will be realized giving insight into the history of the camp within the context of Nazi politics and into the fate of the victims;
- informative material will be developed for visitors and distributed to those interested;

- a suitable infrastructure will be realized (including sufficient parking places, adequate sanitary facilities and clear road signs) for the needs of the future place of commemoration and remembrance;

The Project will have been completed when the above-mentioned objectives have been realized, after which the cooperation will end and the location will be further managed as a place of commemoration and remembrance under the responsibility and by the Polish state. Participants anticipate that the Project will commence in the planning phase in December 2008 and will be completed in 2013.

### 3. Implementation and Management of Project

- The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will be responsible for carrying out the Project on the territory of the Republic of Poland. The Ministry will be acting in cooperation with local authorities and the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation;
- In accordance with the applicable EU regulations and international law, the Project will be set up and carried out pursuant to the stipulations and guidelines of the Polish law;
- In its implementation of the Project, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will be responsible for maintaining all contact with other government bodies in Poland;
- A Steering Group will be set up for the Project;
- The Steering Group will consist of representatives of each of the Participants involved, and will be chaired by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The Steering Group will be advised by representatives of the Polish chief rabbinate and the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation, who may be invited to attend meetings of the .
- The tasks of the Steering Group are as follows:
  - monitoring the proper directing of the processes of the implementation of the Project;
  - decision-forming with regard to the Project as a whole and monitoring the coordination between the separate components of the Project as mentioned above.
- The Steering Group will also decide on all questions arising in connection with the implementation which are relevant for the whole Project as well as the coordination of the separate components of the Project, with due respect for initiatives taken in the last decades;
- The Steering Group will decide on the conditions for making room for and fitting initiatives of States, International Organisations and other legal and natural persons into the Project;
- The Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation will be invited to cooperate in the process of the implementation of the Project. The extent of the cooperation will be established by the Steering Group;

- The Steering Group will take its decisions on the basis of consensus and will determine its own procedures,
  - The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will issue periodic reports to the Steering Group with regard to the progress made in the implementation of the Project. This report will include a statement on all income and expenditure related to the implementation of the Project in that period.
4. Financial provisions
- Participants will decide on a financial contribution toward the Project
  - The sum of the final contribution will be determined per participant in mutual consultation, depending on the costs of the total plan;
  - The participants will all undertake to contribute a starting sum in order to enable the commencement of the Project in its plenary phase;
  - The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will be responsible for proper spending of the funds received from the participants according to the decisions of the Steering Group;
  - The funds contributed by the participants and others for the purpose of the Project will be exclusively used for the Project
  - The expenditure of any remaining sums on completion of the Project will be decided on by the Steering Group

#### Final stipulations

The participants have decided that if they wish to leave the Project prior to its completion, they will give each other due notice, such that the other participants are able in all reasonableness to take appropriate steps to complete the Project;

The Signatories hereto shall indicate persons and institutions that shall represent the Participants in this Understanding in the course of the implementation of the Project.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any rights or obligations under international law.

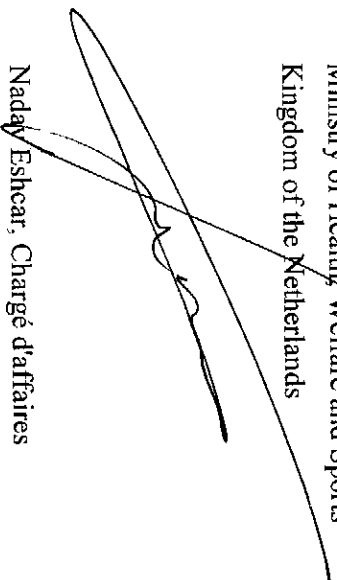
The above Memorandum was drawn up in Warsaw on 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011 in 4 copies, each in the Polish and English languages; both texts are equally binding.

In the presence of the Head of the Włodawa County executive (Starosta Powiatu Włodawskiego) Wiesław Holaczuk and the Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation Dariusz Pawłoś, the Memorandum was signed by:

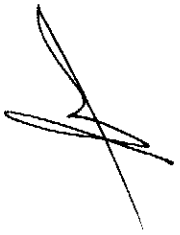
Piotr Zuchowski, Secretary of State  
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
Republic of Poland



Marcel Floot, Head of Department Victims and Remembrance WWII  
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports  
Kingdom of the Netherlands



Nadav Eshcar, Chargé d'affaires  
Embassy of Israel in Warsaw  
State of Israel



Kálmán Petőcz, Director General,  
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