

DECLARATION OF MADRID

Meeting in Madrid on 2 November 2019 - on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camps - we, Chairpersons and Secretaries-General of the International Committees of Nazi extermination and concentration camps, salute the work accomplished by the Spanish authorities and the *Amical de Mauthausen y Otros Campos* for the recognition of the deportation of the Spanish Republicans to the Nazi camps.

Having taken note of the European Parliament resolution of 19 September 2019 on **the Importance of European Remembrance for the future of Europe** (2919/2819 RSP), we express our deep concern at the erroneous view of the history of 20th century contained in this text. We see this resolution as an attempt to put the victims of Nazi terror and Stalinism on an unequal footing under the thoughtless term of "totalitarianism". We will always bow with the deepest respect to the suffering of the victims of Stalinism, but we cannot accept any attempt to conflate the victims of Stalinism and Nazism or to play one group against the other.

We cannot accept that the philosophical underpinnings of the Nazi camps, where systemic violence prevailed, namely racism and anti-Semitism, the industrial-level extermination of entire ethnic groups - men, women and children - are not named in this resolution. .

We hope to be able to make our contribution so that, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and the end of the Second World War, the Members of the European Parliament draw up a **new resolution respectful of the memory** of all the victims of Nazism and of the ambitious messages they have left us; a resolution demonstrating a clear commitment of the European Parliament **against** racism, antisemitism, nationalism, and exclusion and an unequivocal stance **for** Human Rights, solidarity, and an attitude of openness towards the Other.

We reaffirm our demand for full compliance with the European Parliament resolution of 11 February 1993 on the European and international protection of Nazi concentration camp sites as historic monuments.

We welcome the initiative taken by the *International Committee of Mauthausen* to launch a new cultural route within the framework of the specific programme of the Council of Europe in this regard: this itinerary intends to make history visible in geography and in the European area. It will document the European network of Nazi terror, whether in concentration camps and extermination camps or in the ghettos and during death marches.

We welcome **the commitment of many young Europeans** to the remembrance of the victims of the Nazi camps. We encourage them to continue their peaceful struggle for the preservation of the values of freedom, respect for human rights and international solidarity, bequeathed to us by the deportees and internees who have nourished the construction of Europe.

Signatories:

International Committees of Auschwitz, Buchenwald-Dora, Dachau, Mauthausen, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen; Flossenbürg Association, Associazione Nazionale Ex Deportati Campi Nazisti (ANED), International Freedom Fighters Federation (FIR), International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).