

Letter of Understanding between Yad Vashem and the Council of Europe

Preamble

Recalling that the Council of Europe ("COE") was created in the aftermath of World War II to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe;

Bearing in mind the parties' association with the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research ("Task Force"), the COE being a permanent observer to the Task Force and Yad Vashem acting as a non-governmental organization with the Task Force.

Recalling the particular significance of the COE project "Passing on the remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity", which has pursued objectives based on the requirements of Recommendation (2001) 15 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on teaching history in Europe and has responded to the commitment made by European Ministers of Education in Strasbourg on October 18, 2002 to introduce a "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity" in schools, on dates chosen in line with the histories of the individual member states as well as the considerable participation of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem with the project;

Convinced of the correlation between preservation of memory and the shaping of a better future;

Underlining the importance and necessity of supporting Holocaust education and commemoration in Europe;

Emphasizing the ongoing need to combat antisemitism, racism and xenophobia through formal and informal education in Europe;

In consideration of the longstanding cooperative relationship between Yad Vashem and the COE;

Recalling the numerous occasions of joint participation of the COE and Yad Vashem in Holocaust education policy forums;

Bearing in mind the professional contributions of Yad Vashem expertise to COE meetings and seminars;

Bearing in mind the many educators and students from COE member states that access and derive benefit from Yad Vashem educational programs and materials;

Aware of the potential positive outcome that may result from continued association, consultation, and cooperation;

Yad Vashem and the COE agree to take steps to:

I. Explore the organization of a Holocaust education policy forum at Yad Vashem for educational policy makers. Policy makers may include for example, parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly, judges of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, field officers in COE member states, media experts and/or teacher trainers. The forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the status of Holocaust education throughout member States of the European Cultural Convention and promote remembrance in the respective states.

II. Foster and develop cooperative relationships between the member States of the European Cultural Convention and respective affiliated non-governmental organizations and Yad Vashem. Particular effort will be placed on promoting partnerships with those member states that do not yet have associations with Yad Vashem.

III. Encourage within the framework of the COE infrastructure, activities and network greater cooperation between Yad Vashem and educators of non-COE member states.

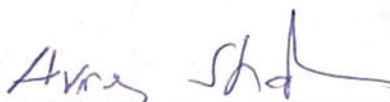
IV. Allow Yad Vashem access to COE European Youth Centres without venue fees as a working environment for the purpose of conducting Holocaust education programs for students, educators and displaying exhibits.

V. Seek to invite Yad Vashem experts to attend and/or contribute to COE seminars, meetings, conferences and gatherings.

VI. Seek to invite COE representatives of Teaching Remembrance to Yad Vashem events and/or courses held in Israel or abroad.



Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General
Council of Europe



Avner Shalev
Chairman of the Yad Vashem
Directorate
Yad Vashem

29-05-2012

Date

29/5/12

Date