

Opening of the screening of the documentary film "Intercepted"

Strasbourg, 2 October 2024

Speech by Theodoros Rousopoulos
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,

Mr President of the Ministers' Deputies, Ambassador Krivas,

Dear Ms Karpovych,

Ambassadors, Excellencies,

dear members of the ARTE crew, Ladies and gentlemen,

We, members of the Assembly, fight in the Hemicycle for justice and the respect of dignity with our words.

You, Ms. Karpovych, fight for the same values with your images.

Images are powerful; they can reach deep into your heart and mind.

Alex, a Jewish prisoner from Greece, took photos inside the Auschwitz concentration camp at the risk of his life, so that the world would have, with these pictures, real proof of the horrors of the gas chambers and the unimaginable affront to human dignity.

Today, we followed the debate on "Missing persons, prisoners of war, and civilians in captivity" from our colleague Maria, present with us now.

And I also see familiar faces in the room today, the representatives of the Centre for Civil Liberties.

Yesterday, I welcomed these women to my office, determined to shed light on the fate of their dearest ones, their husbands, their sons, their fathers. Determined to put a face to each story. Bringing them out of the darkness of a regime that believes crimes are invisible if they remain in shadow. But darkness does not exist; darkness is merely the absence of light.

And it is our role, as the Assembly, and your role, Ms. Karpovych, as an artist, to shine light on these crimes.

And I would also like to extend a special thanks to the ARTE channel for their project "Generation Ukraine," which supports documentaries that shed light on the lives of the people of Ukraine during the war.

Light – lux in Latin.

I know, Ms. Karpovych, that your documentary has been shortlisted for the LUX Audience Award 2025, organised by the European Parliament. The public has until April 2025 to decide on the winner.

I wish you all the success with this.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want you to know that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe firmly stands by Ukraine and its people.

And now – let's watch the film!