

The Foundation for the Investigation of Communist Crimes

Inaugural Meeting and Seminar

“CRIMES OF COMMUNISM: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CURRENT ISSUES”

Budapest, House of Terror/ *Hotel Gellért*, March 6-8 2009

This inaugural meeting and seminar will be held in Budapest, March 6-8. The event is organised by the Foundation for the Investigation of Communist Crimes (FICC) and its partners – the Educational Initiative for Central and Eastern Europe, Civic Institute and Terror Haza (the House of Terror Museum).

About 50-70 historians, intellectuals, journalists, politicians and scholars from Europe and the United States will participate. The programme includes presentations and discussions as well as meetings between the participants. The aim is to open discussions, introduce the initiatives of the participants and further develop the network of co-operation partners.

The theme of the inaugural event is *Crimes of Communism: Historical Background and Current Issues*. The conference will provide an overview of different subjects related to communist crimes, will raise questions and initiate dialogue. It provides an opportunity to discuss relevant questions on historical, theoretical and practical levels.

Taking place in the centre of Europe, the event will contextualize both the debates about the communist legacy and the debate about it in Europe. The Foundation and its partners also wish to commemorate the landmark anniversaries of 2009 in Europe; namely the 70th anniversary of the start of the Second World War and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall.

PROGRAMME

Friday, March 6th

INFORMAL PROGRAMME

Afternoon: Arrival and registration to Boutique Hotel Zara

Só u. 6, Budapest

16.30 Transport from Boutique Hotel Zara to Terror Haza

Terror Haza, the House of Terror Museum, Andrassy út 60

17.00 Reception with refreshments

Terror Haza, House of Terror Museum café

Welcome address by Dr. Maria Schmidt (*Terror Haza*)

Information about the event

18.00 Documentary programme in Terror Haza

19.00 Disorganized walk or outing to restaurant

20.00 Dinner at *Restaurant Mátyás Pince*

Restaurant Mátyás Pince, Marius 15. ter 7.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Mart Laar

End of informal programme

Accommodation at Boutique Hotel Zara

Só u. 6, Budapest

Saturday, March 7th

Breakfast at Boutique Hotel Zara

12.00 Meeting in the lobby of the Boutique Hotel Zara

13.00 Opening of the seminar at St. Gellért Hotel

Welcome address by Mr. Damian von Stauffenberg, founder of the FICC

Session 1: Introduction of the initiatives of the FICC

Moderator: Dr. Mart Laar/Mr. John O'Sullivan

13.15 – 14.30

- **Introduction and presentation of the FICC and the EICEE**
Mr. Meelis Niinepuu

Presentation of the FICC initiatives:

- **The website at www.comunistcrimes.org**
Mr. Ranno Roos and Mr. Madis Lunkov
- **The Europe-wide international network of research institutions for the investigation and evaluation of Communist crimes in Europe**
Mr. Jüri Luik

Presentation and discussion:

- **The debate over the historical record of Communism in the European Union**
Mr. Tunne Kelam

14.30 – 15.00

Communist regimes, crimes against humanity and human rights violations in post-communist world: legacy, present issues and prospective co-operation projects

Network for discussion and proposals (Part I)

Moderator: Dr. Mart Laar/Mr. John O'Sullivan

15.00 – 15.30 Lunch/Catering

Hotel Gellért

Session 2: Main topics and discussion

Moderator: Dr. Mart Laar/Mr. John O'Sullivan

15.30 – 15.50

- **The challenge of believing the unbelievable: Stalin's crimes and the 'Grand Alliance' in World War II**
MA Kaarel Piirimäe
Discussion

15.50 – 16.10

- **Communist crimes and international law: legal and quasi-legal issues**

Prof. Evhen Tsybulenko

Discussion

16.10 – 16.30

- **On the moral blindness of communism and the condemnation of totalitarian regimes in Europe**

Fr. Marcel Guarnizo

Discussion

16.30 – 16.50

- **Communism and Nazism in comparative discourse: the uses and abuses of comparison**

To be confirmed

Discussion

16.50 – 17.10 Network for discussion and proposals (Part II)

17.10 – 17.20 Coffee break

Session 3: Current issues and discussion

17.20 – 17.40

- **Current crimes and human right violations in Asia**

Mr. Göran Lindblad

Discussion

17.40 – 18.00

- **Cuban society: current issues and future problems from the European perspective**

Representative from People in Need

Discussion

18.00 – 18.20

- **Residual effects of communism and problems of reconciliation and transitional justice in Central Europe**

Dr. Roman Joch

Discussion

18.20 -18.40

- **Communist crimes towards religion in the Soviet Union during the Khrushchev period (1959-1964)**

Prof. Michael Bourdeaux

Discussion

18.40 – 19.00

Network for discussion and proposals (Part III)

Moderator: Dr. Mart Laar/Mr. John O’Sullivan

20.00 Dinner at Hotel Gellért Danubius Restaurant

Keynote speaker Mr. Viktor Orban *(to be confirmed)*

Sunday, March 8th

Breakfast at Boutique Hotel Zara

09.30 Departure for Hotel Gellért conference centre

10.00 – 13.00 Introduction of participating institutions and their projects:

The Institute for Information on the Crimes of Communism (Sweden)

The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (Czech Republic)

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (the United States)

Etc.

13.00 Conclusions and closing

Final words by the International Board of the Advisors of the FICC

14.00 Lunch/Catering

14.30 – 16.30 Visit to the sites of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 (optional)

14.30 – Departures