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Ms  
Liisa-Ly Pakosta

Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs  
of the Republic of Estonia

Suur-Ameerika 1  
10122 Tallinn  
Estonia

Warsaw, 3 September 2024

Dear Ms Minister,

on behalf of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, please accept our sincere congratulations upon assuming the post of the Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Estonia. Following our cooperation with the previous Ministers of Justice, and with Estonia being an observer member to our Network, allow me to **present to you the main concept behind our initiative and its activities in the field of remembrance – in hope of adopting a more stable and permanent format of Estonian membership in the ENRS.**

The ENRS is an international network established in 2005 by the Ministers of Culture of four European countries to conduct research, document and disseminate knowledge about Europe's 20th-century history and ways in which it is commemorated. Currently, ENRS members include Poland, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, while its advisory assemblies additionally involve representatives of the observer countries: Albania, Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and Latvia.

Envisaged as an ever-developing project, the Network goes in its activities beyond the member states, expanding the area of dialogue about 20th-century history to other European countries that had experienced a difficult and turbulent past. So far, we have run more than 200 projects in 30 countries, engaging over 500 partner institutions from 39 states, and our activities are supported by the European Commission through an operating grant.

In the recent years, Estonia has been present in the Network, both as a partner and a venue for ENRS' projects. Since 2020, despite the

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challenging times of the pandemic, we have jointly carried out a number of important initiatives, such as the extremely successful 9th edition of the European Remembrance Symposium, held in Tallinn in October 2021 under the theme 'Memory and Identity in Europe: Present and Future', as well as the presentation of the outdoor exhibition 'After the Great War. A New Europe 1918-1923' in the Estonian capital. Both events enjoyed the interest and recognition of a broad international audience.

This year we will be present in Estonia with 2 more projects: our travelling exhibition 'Between Life and Death. Stories of Rescue during the Holocaust' and a youth educational project 'In Between?', carried out at the Estonian-Finnish neighborhood region on 5–13 September 2024.

Knowing that history is of personal interest to you, please allow me to take this opportunity to extend to you our sincere invitation to take part in the opening of our 'Between Life and Death' exhibition, to take place on **18 September 2024 at 16.00 at the Great Guild Hall of the Estonian History Museum**. We would be honored if you decided to deliver a short speech during this ceremony. The exhibition, which has now been displayed in 24 cities across Europe and Japan, tells unique experiences of helping Jews during the Second World War told from the perspectives of the rescuers and survivors in twelve European countries. An additional thematic panel features profiles of diplomats who have assisted Jews. The historical context serves as the foundation for the individual stories, demonstrating the legislation and the plight of Jews and those who assisted them throughout the German occupation.

At this point, we cannot fail to mention the outstanding cooperation with the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, which contributes to the development of international dialogue on history and memory with the inclusion of the Estonian perspective.


However, Estonia's **observer status has already expired** and its future engagement in the Network requires the decision be made at the ministerial level. Bearing in mind our fruitful cooperation in the past years, **we would gladly welcome the opportunity to establish permanent cooperation with Estonia based on the full-membership status.**

Let me provide you with more details on the structure of the ENRS, the cooperation between the member states and the formal accession procedure in the attachment. For all questions that may arise in connection to the membership I remain at your disposal.

We are convinced that Estonia's permanent presence in the Network would significantly contribute to enriching the discussion about various aspects of troubled history of the 20th century and to building a multidimensional image of the past in Europe, especially in view of the ongoing unprovoked invasion of Russia on Ukraine. Deepening our cooperation would mark an important step on the road of our common

efforts in educating and raising awareness about history and its consequences, crucial in preventing the atrocities of the past repeating in the present.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours sincerely*  


**Rafał Rogulski**

Director

ENRS Institute

**CC:**

Martin Andreller, member of the ENRS Advisory Board

Meelis Maripuu, Chair of the Board of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory

**Attachment:**

1. ENRS Structure and Financing
2. Declaration regarding the creation of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity
3. ENRS Catalogue