

Invitation to the press

Researching the Holocaust and keeping the memory alive

- Launch of EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure
- November 16, 13.30 – 17.00
- Brussels, Royal Museums of Art and History, Parc du Cinquantenaire 10

Brussels, November 1, 2010

Future generations must know and acknowledge the European tragedy of the Holocaust, which led to the killing of over six million Jews. That was the plea of the world leaders who gathered at the ceremonies, which took place on January 27th 2010 in Poland.

To answer to this plea, international historical research into the Holocaust and its impact as a European phenomenon has to be continued. Twenty institutions have decided to join forces and transform the dispersed data available for Holocaust research around Europe and elsewhere into a cohesive corpus of resources. By integrating key collections we will enable historiographical progress and stimulate collaborative research in this important area of Europe's and the world's history. This project is named **EHRI**, the **E**uropean **H**olocaust **R**esearch **I**nfrastructure.

EHRI, which is financially supported by the EU, will be formally launched in the presence of Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Mr. Gideon Saar, Minister of Education of Israel and Mr. Halbe Zijlstra, State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science of The Netherlands. This event takes place on Tuesday November 16th 2010. You are cordially invited to this official event of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Conny Kristel
Coordinator EHRI

please register for the EHRI-launch herman@topiq.com

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Programme

13.30 – 14.00

- **press interviews: possibility to interview Mrs. Geoghegan-Quinn and other representatives. Please contact Herman Nieuwenhuis or Florian Frank in advance.**

14.00 – 16.00

- Opening Dr. Michal Frankl – chair, Jewish Museum, Prague
- Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn – European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
- Mr. Gideon Saar – Minister of Education, Israel
- Mr. Halbe Zijlstra – State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands
- Mr. Nathan Ramet – The Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance, Belgium
- Prof. dr. Peter Longerich – Royal Holloway, University of London
- Dr. Michal Frankl interviews:
 - Dr. Sheila Anderson – Director of the Centre for e-Research of King's College London,
 - and
 - Dr. Conny Kristel – NIOD. Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Director of EHRI
- Prof. dr. Jerzy Holzer – Institute of Political studies, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Official launch – introducing EHRI

16.00 – 17.00 **press interviews**

Some EHRI-facts

- This launch is an official event on the agenda of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union;
- European Council President Herman Van Rompuy gave his 'patronage' to the start of EHRI;
- The EHRI consortium consists of 20 partners from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom;
- EHRI will give access to the dispersed archives. EHRI develops online tools to integrate data and information. In this way, EHRI will attain unprecedented levels of collaborative research in the humanities and digital history. EHRI will develop and test new methodologies, address new research topics, and reach new, more precise conclusions, covering significantly more historical data and locations.
- The EHRI-project will also stimulate and facilitate research into relatively unknown aspects of the Holocaust. This entails special attention to Eastern Europe, since the vast majority of Holocaust victims lived in Eastern Europe;
- Special attention will be paid to education and outreach by ensuring online availability and open access to the Holocaust material to the public. As such, the project will make an essential contribution to the ability of (non-governmental) organizations, teachers and individual citizens to make new generations aware of what happened.
- EU financial contribution: € 7 million
- Duration: 48 months
- Coordinator: NIOD, Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, Dr. Conny Kristel