

THE PRESERVATION OF  
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
FUTURE GENERATIONS









# WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI'S APPEAL

THE GENERATION OF AUSCHWITZ SURVIVORS IS FADING AWAY.

We, former concentration camp prisoners and eyewitnesses of the Shoah, have devoted all our lives to the mission of keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. Today, as our mission is coming to an end, we understand better than anyone else that our whole work and toil might be in vain if we do not succeed in bequeathing the material evidence of this terrible crime to future generations.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp remains the most important of these testimonies: once a place of suffering and death for hundreds of thousands of Jews, Poles, Roma, Sinti and people from all over Europe, today it is a memorial site visited by millions of people from around the world.



# WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI'S APPEAL

The Auschwitz camp buildings were hand built by us – the camp's prisoners. I clearly recall that back then none of us thought about how long they would last. Today, we are not the only ones that understand that it is in that particular place that every man can fully grasp the enormity of this particular tragedy which struck Europe and the world in the Twentieth Century. The barracks, the barbed wire, and the ruins of the crematoria and gas chambers are the best guardians of memory; through their silent presence they ensure that nobody can ever deny that the worst of the Twentieth Century's crimes actually occurred. People from all over the world come to this place to commemorate their relatives and friends who were victims of the mass murder carried out in this and many other death camps. Finally, it is here in Auschwitz that the youngest generation can understand the meaning of the struggle for human rights and the dignity of others, and learn about tolerance and peace among nations. By seeing what men were capable of doing to each other in the past, young people will understand the meaning of our efforts to ensure that the future will be different.

Therefore, by ensuring the preservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site and maintaining the testimonies of the past, we are, in fact, taking care of the future – the futures of our children and grandchildren who will have a chance to live in a world where crimes such as those committed at Auschwitz will not be allowed to happen. However, for that to happen, we need to nurture responsibility, awareness, and memory. We must save from destruction these buildings which were a place of execution of thousands of innocent people murdered in gas chambers, and thousands of others starved to death in barracks, and which later the perpetrators tried to destroy in an attempt to erase the evidence of their heinous acts. We must save the knowledge of what transpired at this place from being lost to oblivion.

Thus far, the entire financial burden of preserving the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site has fallen on the Republic of Poland. Since the end of World War II, Poland has made a continuous effort to preserve the remnants of Auschwitz and to collect and preserve countless testimonies and documents. Today Poland is a member of a united Europe and large international organizations whose goal is to ensure peace and security in the world. Auschwitz-Birkenau, a place very important in the history of Europe and the world, should now become the object of common concern for the preservation of memory.

Therefore, in order to allow for concerted action to preserve this place for future generations, I established the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation in January 2009. Its goal is to amass the Perpetual Capital, whose sole purpose will be to cover the conservation costs of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site. It is my strong belief that the creation of a permanent source of funding, which will safeguard the Memorial Site for future generations, constitutes an obligation not only for Europe but also for the entire democratic world. By contributing to this fund, every government, institution, or private donor can contribute to fulfilling the foundation's mission. This is, perhaps, the only moment in history when we can, through our joint efforts, allow future generations to create a different, better world in which places such as Auschwitz will only be witnesses to the tragic past. Let us not waste it.

Władysław Bartoszewski, Chairman of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation Council; Chairman of the International Auschwitz Council; former prisoner of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, camp number 4427; recognized as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.



## THE CHALLENGE

More than 1.3 million people from all over the world visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site every year. A constantly increasing number of visitors come here to see not only what was the largest Nazi German concentration and death camp in the whole Nazi system but also what is today a world-renowned symbol of the Holocaust. The authenticity of the Memorial Site leaves the biggest impact on visitors – original grounds, buildings and objects which document the horrific crimes committed during the Second World War.



# THE CHALLENGE

Maintaining the authentic historical substance of the largest preserved historical site among all the Holocaust Memorials is a daunting financial challenge. To this day, 155 structures, about 300 ruins, kilometres of roads and fencing, and hundreds of thousands of documents and personal belongings of the victims that constitute the Memorial Site are preserved within an area of about 191 hectares. To date, the conservation work performed at Auschwitz has been of a 'reactive' nature, meaning only the most urgent of repairs have been carried out.

After almost 60 years of grappling with the passing of time and the ongoing deterioration of the material testimony to Auschwitz we now find ourselves – more than ever before – obliged to undertake complex, long-term conservation tasks. The financial resources at the disposal of the Museum barely cover basic and current operations. If we do not find a way to permanently finance the conservation plan today, many of the historical objects located at the site will face accelerated natural erosion and deterioration which may become irreversible. That is why we are looking for a solution that will make it possible to safeguard the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site for future generations.

In 2003 the help received from Ronald Lauder enabled the Museum to set up a professional conservation section that now employs the best conservation science specialists. The Museum has analyzed and identified its most pressing conservation issues. Since then, in cooperation with experts and institutions in the field of monument preservation, we have designated the areas of the site which are of the highest priority. The interdisciplinary approach used by the conservationists has made it possible to make full use of the experts' knowledge in order to find the best possible solution.

Today it is clear that conservation work based on sporadic financial help is no longer sufficient to match the challenge of preserving the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site. The best and only way to ensure a safe future for the site is to create the Perpetual Capital Fund whose annual income will be assigned solely to finance long-term conservation tasks. Through the creation of this kind of stable and secure source of funding we are providing the best technical and political solution to all of the problems that may be encountered in the upcoming decades – regardless of external factors, the safety and authenticity of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site will not be endangered. It is our strong belief that for the first time in history we have a real chance not only to preserve the memory of the past but to ensure the safety of the future and, once and for all, to provide future generations with the opportunity to better understand the Holocaust and the tragic history of the Twentieth Century.

The most noteworthy of the high-priority tasks for the next few years include:



1. Conservation of the most deteriorated brick barracks at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site



2. Conservation of the most deteriorated wooden barracks at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site



3. Conservation and explanation of the vestiges of the wooden barracks at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site



# HIGH PRIORITY CONSERVATION TASKS AND PROJECTS AT THE AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU MEMORIAL SITE



4. Conservation of the wooden guard towers at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site

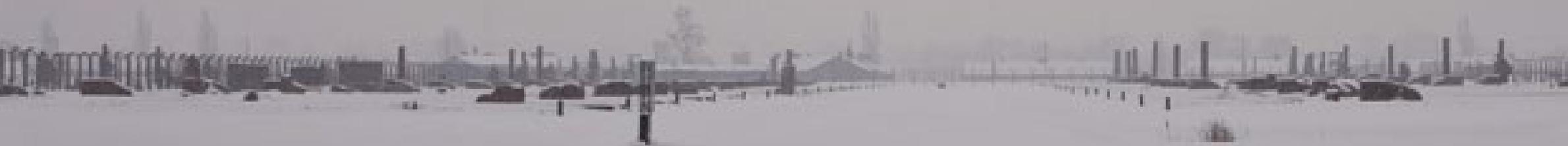


5. Conservation of II blocks in connection with the new main exhibition at the Auschwitz I site



6. Conservation of archival and moveable objects

7. Continuation of conservation work already underway



1

The conservation of 45 brick barracks located at segment BI at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site.



# HIGH PRIORITY CONSERVATION TASKS AND PROJECTS DETAILS

## THE CONSERVATION OF 45 BRICK BARRACKS LOCATED AT SEGMENT BI AT THE AUSCHWITZ II – BIRKENAU SITE.

This is the oldest part of Auschwitz II – Birkenau camp with a large number of habitable barracks, wash-rooms and latrines preserved here. This is also the only area which allows visitors to see the block in which prisoners were kept after selection before being transported to the gas chambers, or the so-called children's barrack

## PRIORITY TASKS

### REGULATION OF GROUND WATER

- renovation of drainage ditches
- ensuring the drainage of rainwater

### CONSERVATION OF 45 BRICK BARRACKS

- reinforcement of foundations
- structural reinforcement of walls, especially deformed and leaning upper walls
- reinforcement of roof frames
- conservation of original architectural landmarks: brick facades, plaster, paint layers, drawings, inscriptions, wall paintings, woodwork, floors, etc.

The cost of conserving 1 brick barrack is approximately €670 – €890 thousand.

The time needed to conserve 1 brick barrack is 1-2 years. Assuming the conservation of 3 barracks per year, the cost is: €1.35 – €2.7 million.

Assuming the conservation of 3 barracks per year, the time required for the conservation of 45 barracks is 15 years.

2

The conservation of 22 wooden barracks located at the Auschwitz II – Birkenau site.



## THE CONSERVATION OF 22 WOODEN BARRACKS LOCATED AT THE AUSCHWITZ II – BIRKENAU SITE.

The wooden barracks are located at segment BIIa – the so-called quarantine camp where prisoners were placed right after their arrival at the camp. This is the only fully preserved part of the whole BII segment, which nowadays consists mostly of vestiges such as chimneys and floors. The preserved wooden barracks enable all visitors to enter original interiors and see the conditions in which the majority of the camp prisoners were kept.

### PRIORITY TASKS

#### COMPLETE CONSERVATION OF WOODEN BARRACKS

- structural repair; repair of wall panels and roofing tiles
- mycological impregnation
- reinforcement with artificial resin
- conservation of original paint layers
- repair and conservation of interiors
- fire-prevention impregnation of facades

The cost of conserving 1 wooden barrack is approximately €310 thousand.

The time required to conserve 1 barrack is 6–8 months.

We plan to conserve 1 wooden barrack per year.

3

The conservation and explanation of the remains of 210 wooden barracks.



## THE CONSERVATION AND EXPLANATION OF THE REMAINS OF 210 WOODEN BARRACKS.

Little remains of the largest part of the Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp. For the most part, all that remains are the vestiges of wooden barracks, which are in very poor technical condition and which require urgent conservation work. These remaining vestiges make up a characteristic landscape that enables visitors to imagine the whole of the terrain and the scale of the crimes committed there.

In the first stage, the Museum envisions the conservation and explanation of 30 of the most endangered vestiges of wooden barracks in sector BII at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau site. The condition of these vestiges of the barracks is highly varied. This results, above all, from the fact that some of them underwent various repairs in the past.

### PRIORITY TASKS

- conservation of the existing remains
- structural reinforcement
- disinfection and cleaning
- strengthening of building materials
- securing the remaining elements
- new explanation of the remains (outlines) of the barracks

The cost of conserving and explaining the remains of 1 barrack is approximately €78 thousand.

We plan to conserve and explain the remains of 10 barracks per year, at a cost of approximately €780 thousand.

4

The conservation of 6 large  
and 21 small guard towers.



## THE CONSERVATION OF 6 LARGE AND 21 SMALL GUARD TOWERS.

The guard towers are not accessible to visitors, however, they remain a very important visual element of the camp. Visible from almost every place in the Auschwitz II – Birkenau camp and, along with kilometres of fences, they held a vital role in the creation of a system of terror, oppression and isolation.

### PRIORITY TASKS

- impregnation
- reinforcement of damaged elements

The conservation of 1 small tower costs approximately €18 thousand.

The conservation of 1 large tower costs approximately €44 thousand.

We plan to conserve 2 guard towers per year.

The cost of conserving 2 guard towers (1 small and 1 large) per year is approximately €62 thousand.

The conservation of 11 blocks in connection with the new main exhibition at the Auschwitz I site.



## THE CONSERVATION OF 11 BLOCKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW MAIN EXHIBITION AT THE AUSCHWITZ I SITE

(including 5 blocks being left in their original condition).

One of the most important tasks facing the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum is the refurbishment of the main exhibition. The exhibition now open to visitors dates back to 1955. It has remained basically unchanged since then. The new exhibition, which has been approved in principle by the International Auschwitz Council, will make use of a much higher number of original camp objects. The fact that the exhibition is located on the grounds of the former camp means that a balance must be struck between the exhibition and the solemnity and dignity suitable for this place. The increase in the number of visitors also makes it necessary to relieve the loads on the beams upstairs and the stairwells, and to improve the flow of the visitors (about 1.2 million in 2007). The planned relocation of all the exhibition elements to the ground floors of the buildings (I-I I) will enable the continuous safe use of the historical buildings. It will also provide better access for the elderly and disabled.

### PREPARATORY STAGES

- archival research
- detailed multidisciplinary architectural-structural inventory
- consultation with technical experts
- conservation research
- conservation planning
- construction design

### COMPLETE RESTORATION OF ORIGINAL CAMP BLOCKS

- reinforcement and repair of damaged structural elements
- conservation of layers of wall paint
- conservation of floors
- conservation of window and door frames
- conservation of facades

Conservation of 1 block costs from  
€900 thousand to €1.4 million.

Preparing all the documentation and obtaining  
the necessary permits takes 12 to 24 months.

Carrying out the conservation work  
on 1 block takes about 3 years.

In any given year, we plan to be working  
on 3 blocks at a time.

The funding required for working  
on 3 blocks at a time, per year, is  
€900 thousand to €1.4 million.



## THE CONSERVATION OF ARCHIVAL AND MOVEABLE OBJECTS

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site possesses a unique collection of hundreds of thousands of objects and documents that constitute evidence of the crimes committed there. To a large degree, these are items that the Nazis plundered from the people condemned to be killed at the camp.

There are thousands of items of everyday life such as kitchen utensils, shoes, eyeglasses, shoe polish containers, brushes and combs. They bear witness not only to the scale of the plunder carried out by the Germans, but also to the suffering and death of their owners. Suitcases with names, birth dates, transport numbers, and addresses have important documentary value and are often the only proof that a given person was deported to Auschwitz.

Ensuring the security of these items is a matter of absolute priority for us. It must be stressed that certain items made of perishable materials are subject to unavoidable deterioration that can be slowed down only by rigorously maintaining the optimal temperature and humidity in the storage areas.

Improved conditions and monitoring of moveable objects and, in the long run, the construction of state-of-the-art storage facilities for archival and moveable objects.

## COMPLETE CONSERVATION OF ARCHIVAL AND MOVEABLE OBJECTS

- approximately 250 meters of archival material
- approximately 39 thousand negatives of photographs and several thousand photographs
- approximately 3800 suitcases
- approximately 460 prostheses
- approximately 260 prayer garments
- approximately 40 kg of eyeglasses
- approximately 12 thousand pots and pans
- approximately 6 thousand works of art
- bunks, cabinets, stools, tables, etc.

The annual cost of the conservation of these objects is estimated at approximately €250 thousand.

The continuation of conservation projects already underway.



## THE CONTINUATION OF CONSERVATION PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY

One of the most important conservation tasks in recent years has been the work begun in 2004, and which is still underway, aimed at securing and conserving the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria II and III. The gas chambers and the crematoria were the core of the whole Nazi extermination system. It was here, in the gas chambers, where the Nazis murdered hundreds of thousands of people and then burned their bodies in the crematoria. Most of them were Jews deported to Auschwitz from different occupied European countries.

Today, the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria constitute some of the most important material evidence of the crimes of the Holocaust. Before abandoning the camp, as the Red Army approached in January 1945, the fleeing Germans blew up these buildings. The preservation of the remains of the gas chambers and crematoria was an absolute priority from the start of the whole conservation process at the site. Carrying on with this work makes it possible to preserve the most distinct symbol of Auschwitz and the Shoah.

Conservation work will also be undertaken on other original objects and structures at Auschwitz II-Birkenau, including:

- the ruins of gas chamber and crematoria IV and V
- the remains of a provisional gas chamber-bunker II, known as the little white house
- the unloading ramp
- the Gate of Death
- the remains of the sewage treatment plant
- air-raid shelters.



## THE MISSION

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation was founded in January 2009 by Minister Władysław Bartoszewski, a former prisoner of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The mission of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation is to secure the conservation and the preservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site for future generations by implementing a long-term, comprehensive conservation plan prepared by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum's team of historic preservationists. This plan assumes that the annual sum of €4 to €5 million will make it possible to plan and systematically carry out essential conservation work at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site. In order to achieve an annual income of €4-5, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation has dedicated itself to raising a Perpetual Capital Fund of €120 million. This fund will not be spent, but rather invested so that the annual income from such investment will secure the authenticity of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site. Therefore, for the first time in its history the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial has a real chance of creating an ongoing, long-term conservation program that will make it possible to safeguard the remains of the camp for future generations. The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's objective is to promote global solidarity with the mission of amassing €120 million for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Perpetual Fund by approaching international governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other donors who recognize the unquestionable importance of the Foundation's mission.

## THE STRUCTURE

Four separate bodies of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation (the Council, the International Committee, the Management Board, and the Financial Commission) ensure the transparency, efficiency, and accountability of their respective work, all of which is of crucial importance to the Foundation. The Foundation's Statutes regulate the structural and functional integrity of the process behind the creation and management of the Perpetual Capital. Moreover, the Foundation has established a professional relationship with two renowned companies that advise it on legal matters, accounting, and bookkeeping. All of these factors emphasize the Foundation's primary objective of securing the safety of the Perpetual Capital and guaranteeing transparency with respect to the disposal of funds.

## I. THE COUNCIL

The Foundation's Council is the decision-making, supervisory and opinion forming body. The tasks of the Council include appointing and recalling members of the Foundation's Management Board, supervising its decisions and defining the main aims of the Foundation's activities.

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**Władysław Bartoszewski (Poland)** – former prisoner of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, co-founder of the Żegota Jewish Aid Council, chairman of the International Auschwitz Council and the Board for the Protection of the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Government of the Polish Republic (twice), Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Plenipotentiary for International Dialogue.

**Eleonora Bergman (Poland)** – director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, member of the International Consultative Council creating the new main exhibition at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

**Henryk Flug (Israel)** – former prisoner of Nazi concentration camps, chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors and the International Auschwitz Committee, member of the International Auschwitz Council.

**Piotr Kadlčík (Poland)** – chairman of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Polish Republic, chairman of the Jewish Community in Warsaw, member of the board of the European Congress of Jews.

**Serge Klarsfeld (France)** – historian, lawyer, deputy chairman of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah), chairman of the Fils et Filles des Déportés Juifs de France (Sons and Daughters of the Deported Jews of France), member of the Board of Trustees of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum-Birkenau.

**Edward Kosakowski (Poland)** – Chairman of the Chair of the Conservation and Restoration of Wall Paintings at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, member of the Board of Trustees of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

**Paweł Machcewicz (Poland)** – historian, professor at the Mikołaj Kopernik University in Toruń, plenipotentiary of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.

**Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska (Poland)** – former consul-general of the Republic of Poland in New York, the ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Israel, member of the International Auschwitz Council.

**Zbigniew Nosowski (Poland)** – former co-chairman and now deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews, editor-in-chief of *Więź* magazine, co-founder and chairman of the Social Committee for the Remembrance of the Jews of Otwock and Karczew.

**Kalman Sultanik (USA)** – former prisoner of Nazi concentration camps, deputy chairman of the World Jewish Congress and the United Israel Appeal, member of the International Auschwitz Council, chairman of the financial commission of the International Auschwitz Council.

**Jürgen Rüttgers (Germany)** – minister of education in the Helmut Kohl government from 1994-98, former Prime Minister of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

**Józef Wancer (Poland)** – banker, deputy chairman of Citibank of New York for 23 years, former chairman of the board of Bank BPH.

**Marek Zając (Poland)** – secretary of the International Auschwitz Council, lecturer at the Rev. Józef Tischner Higher European School.

**Archbishop Józef Życiński (Poland)** – Metropolitan of Lublin, theologian, philosopher, member of the Polish Academy of Science, member of the Papal Culture Council, Great Chancellor of the Lublin Catholic University, lecturer at Berkeley and Oxford Universities.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The statutes allow an International Committee to ensure that the functioning of the Foundation is completely transparent to the public and to its benefactors. The members of the Committee come from countries and institutions which contributed to the creation of the Perpetual Capital Fund. The International Committee has constant access to information about the work of the Foundation, and assesses the work of the Foundation and examines its plans at special sessions. No changes to the Foundation's statutes will be possible without first consulting with the Committee.

## 3. MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board manages the Foundation's activities and represents it externally. It consists of one to six members appointed by the Foundation's Council for three-year terms of office.

**Piotr M.A. Cywiński** – current President of the Management Board and also Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, long-serving secretary of the International Auschwitz Council, president of the Warsaw Catholic Intelligentsia Club from 2000-2010, Ph.D. in history.

**Rafał Pióro** – deputy director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum responsible for the preservation of the site, collections and archives; former head of the Preservation Department at the Museum; and creator of the conservation workshops and laboratories at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

**Łukasz Rozdeiczner** – lawyer, graduate of Harvard, Cambridge, and Warsaw Universities, lecturer in law at Georgetown University.

**Jacek Kastelaniec** – Director General of the Foundation responsible for fundraising for the statutory activity of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, graduate of the Department of Journalism and Political Science at the University of Warsaw and of the University of Montpellier.

## 4. FINANCIAL COMMISSION

The Financial Commission, consisting of renowned experts in the field of safe fund investing, advises the Foundation's Management Board on fund investing strategy. The objective of the commission's members is to: coordinate and oversee the financial work of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation; selectively choose the appropriate banking institution in which the endowment fund shall be deposited; develop recommendations for investing the Perpetual Capital; cooperate with companies that specialize in such investments. Mr. Józef Wancer is the current chairman of the Commission. The members of the Financial Commission include: Józef Wancer, Włodzimierz Grudziński, Antoni F. Reczek, Ekkehard Thiesler and Claude Trink.

## THE PERPETUAL CAPITAL

All of the funds contributed to the Foundation will automatically be allocated to the Perpetual Capital, unless a donor's statement or donation agreement explicitly indicates another designation for the donated financial means, objects or rights. To ensure the safe and professional investment of the resources allocated to the Perpetual Capital, the Council has appointed the Financial Commission consisting of independent experts, which, along with the Foundation's Management Board, will be in charge of the investment process.

### What happens with the money donated to the Perpetual Capital of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation?

1. The Donor declares the will to donate to the Perpetual Capital and contacts the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's Warsaw office.
2. The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation and the Donor sign a donation agreement (unless otherwise specified in the donation agreement, all donations are allocated to the Perpetual Capital for the conservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site). Subsequently, the donor transfers the money to the Foundation's account.
3. The Management Board of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, supervised by the Council and the International Committee, invests all of the allocated funds in accordance with the investment strategy prepared by the Financial Commission. As part of the Foundation's objective to achieve transparency in its work, an annual audit takes place at the Foundation's office.
4. The Management Board of the Foundation passes the minimum of 70% of the annual income to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum's conservation department. Once the sum of €120 million is raised, the Foundation's administrative costs cannot constitute more than 10% of the annual income.
5. The Foundation makes its annual financial and substantive report, as well as the audit report, public.

## REACTIONS OF THE WORLD SO FAR

From the very beginning, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation has received strong official support from the Government of the Republic of Poland, the International Auschwitz Council, and the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education. In a special letter addressed in January 2009 to the heads of the European states, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk asked for concrete financial support for the project. With great happiness and satisfaction the Foundation learned in December 2009 about the joint decision made by the Federal Republic of Germany and Representatives of all the German States, who declared their financial support for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Perpetual Capital and pledged €60 million. Moreover, in February 2010, the government of the Republic of Austria declared that it will donate €6 million for the Perpetual Capital. In light of the recently introduced comprehensive, long-term conservation master plan by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Preservation Department, these two sums amount to more than half of the needed capital of €120 million which will be supervised by the Foundation's Financial Commission and invested by the Foundation.

In July 2010, Hillary Clinton, on behalf of the US government, declared that the United States of America will donate \$15 million (i.e. ca. €12 million) for the Perpetual Capital.

Thus far, many countries have responded favourably to the Foundation's mission and the Perpetual Capital has been supported by five European governments, namely the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Estonia, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation.

Since the preservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site is an international duty that stretches beyond one country's borders and which depends on a joint international effort, we strongly believe that other countries will follow the example of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Austria, and the United States in the coming weeks and months.

## SUPPORT FROM INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES AND PRIVATE DONORS

Birkenau Foundation has received very important institutional support from various companies. Support which will allow to efficiently conduct the process of raising funds. In the first half of 2009 the Foundation begun its cooperation with two firms that represent us: the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges (representing us pro bono) and Ernst & Young (tax services, also pro bono). Additionally, one of the world's leading independent public-relations agencies, Daniel J. Edelman Ltd., agreed to support our cause by providing us with its services pro bono. It is our strong belief that cooperation with Daniel J. Edelman Ltd will bring more awareness to the Foundation's mission.

The reaction we have gotten from individuals and organizations from all over the world has been especially encouraging. They all share the belief that Auschwitz must be saved from deterioration and they have all declared their readiness to help. Individuals from France, Germany, the UK, Canada, the USA, Israel, and many other countries have stepped forward.

Importantly, the work of the Warsaw office of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation are funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009-2010) and by the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (2011).

Finally, this album wouldn't be published without the support of So Design, Gutenberg Networks and Pozytyw Poligrafia that have provided its services pro bono.





MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENT  
OF THE BOARD AND DIRECTOR OF THE  
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU STATE MUSEUM,  
PIOTR M.A. CYWIŃSKI:

Auschwitz remains the most comprehensible explanation of the post-war struggle for human rights. I believe that today every mature democracy depends on educating its young people in such a way so that they understand the profound importance of international and state efforts to build a different world. It might not always be a success, and it might not be completely ideal, but it will be different.

This place is necessary for all of us. This is where we can most fully understand the tragedy of a Europe plunged into war and mutual hatred. Here, too, the younger generations can best understand how much we must preserve the site in order for the future to be different. Auschwitz was both a concentration camp and an extermination centre. It is the only place of its kind to be entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Over the last seven years, the number of visitors has tripled. This is a sign of great hope. I am personally convinced that this is a place of fundamental significance to our entire European civilization—a place where we can grapple with questions of overriding importance - about man, society, and the poisoned fruits of anti-Semitism, race hatred, and contempt for others.

That is why I think that at the moment, when the last eyewitnesses to those tragic times are passing away, the preservation of Auschwitz is becoming a truly shared responsibility.



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Bank PKO BP

SWIFT: BPKOPLPW

PLN: PL 14 1020 1042 0000 8102 0210 8868

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USD: PL 26 1020 1042 0000 8602 0210 8892