

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation
Council Meeting
June 11 2010, Warsaw

The Substantive Report concerning all of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's past activities

Table of contents:

1. Introduction – general information on the Foundation and the Foundation's Warsaw office
 2. Information on the Foundation's fundraising efforts
 3. Information on the Grant allocated to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
 4. Information on the Foundation's Warsaw office work
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1. The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation was established in January 2009. The Foundation's office is located in Warsaw, 6 Twarda Street, in the building of the Jewish Community of Warsaw. In 2009 the Foundation employed four employees: Director General, Jacek Kastelaniec (since the moment the Foundation was established); Warsaw office Director, Maria Zalewska (since October 2009); project manager, Benjamin Bielecki (since October 2009); project manager, Jan Mencwel (since October 2009). In the period between January and October 2009, the Warsaw office's work has been limited by the lack of running costs funds. In October 2009, the funding obtained from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany allowed the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation to hire new employees, set up, organize the work and finance the running costs of the Foundation's Warsaw office, and intensify the fundraising efforts.

The Foundation's Management Board, which oversees the works of the Foundation, has met a few times with the following members present: Piotr M. A. Cywiński, President; Rafał Pióro, Vice President; Łukasz Rozdeiczer, Vice President; Jacek Kastelaniec, Director General. The President of the Foundation's Management Board, Piotr Cywiński and Director General, Jacek Kastelaniec, conduct talks with international officials to ensure that political decisions to financially support the Perpetual Fund translate into actual declarations and subsequent transfers of funds. The Vice President, Łukasz Rozdeiczer, oversees the legal aspects of the Foundation's work and advises on such issues as the change of the Foundation's Statutes. The Vice President, Rafał Pióro, is in charge of the issues concerning the cooperation between the Foundation and the conservation department of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation Financial Commission was established in December 2009. The commission's members include experts in the financial field, whose objective is to: coordinate and oversee the financial works 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 Fund; cooperate with companies that specialize in such investments. Commission members: Józef Wancer (chairman), Włodzimierz Grudziński, Antoni F. Reczek, Ekkehard Thiesler and Claude Trink (joined the Commission in March 2010). Thus far, the Financial Commission deliberated four times (December, March, April, June).

2. Many countries, including the French Republic, United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the United States, have responded favorably to Prime Minister Donald Tusk's special letter sent out in February 2009, with information about the Foundation's mission of securing €120 million for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Perpetual Fund. The Foundation has been conducting intensive talks with representatives of these countries. Thus far, the Perpetual Fund has been credited with sums donated by the following countries and cities:

- the Czech Republic (€77 000)
- the Kingdom of Sweden (€95 000)
- the Kingdom of Norway (€239 000)
- the Swiss Confederation (app. €70 000)
- the Republic of Estonia (€20 000)
- the city of Boulogne-Billancourt (€ 25 000)

Moreover, the Foundation received binding declarations of financial support from: the Federal Republic of Germany and Representatives of all the German States, who pledged €60 million for the Perpetual Fund in December 2009; the government of the Republic of Austria, which in February 2010 declared that it will donate €6 million for the Perpetual Fund; and the city of Paris (€310 000). All of these sums amount to more than half of the needed capital of €120 million. We are optimistic that the following countries will follow these countries' example in the upcoming weeks and months:

- **France** (the Foundation has been conducting intensive talks with the representatives of the French government; the President of the Management Board and Director General have conducted numerous talks in Paris, as well as meetings with the employees of the French Embassy in Warsaw; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)
- **United Kingdom** (the project to financially support the conservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum was supported by the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown; the Foundation has been conducting talks with the representatives of the British government, which were slightly held up due to the parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom; the Director General has conducted numerous meetings with the representatives of the British government in January 2010; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)
- **Belgium** (representatives of the Foundation have been conducting intensive talks with the representatives of the Belgian government; the Foundation expects to receive an official and binding declaration in June 2010)
- **United States** (the Foundation has been conducting very intensive talks with the representatives of the American Congress – with a great help and support from the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C.; the Director General met with few Congressmen

in Washington D.C. in January 2010 and received their declarations of support for the Foundation's mission; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)

- **Australia** – (the talks between the Foundation and the representatives of Australia have gained intensity and Her Excellency Ambassador, Ms. Ruth Pearce, expressed incentive to support the Perpetual Fund with the Australian funds; in August 2010, the President of the Management Board, Piotr Cywiński and Director General, Jacek Kastelaniec will travel to Australia)
- **Malta** (the Foundation has been conducting talks with the representatives of Malta in Warsaw; the representatives of the Management Board have conducted numerous telephone conversations with the Malta Embassy employees; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)
- **Serbia** (the Foundation has been conducting talks with the representatives of Serbia in Warsaw; Director General met with the Serbian Ambassador in Warsaw; the representatives of the Management Board have conducted numerous telephone conversations with the Serbian Embassy employees; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)
- **Portugal** (the Foundation has been conducting talks with the representatives of Portugal in Warsaw; the representatives of the Management Board have conducted numerous telephone conversations with the Portuguese Embassy employees; the Foundation has not received a specific and binding financial declaration)

The Foundation has also been conducting talks with the following countries:

- **Spain**
- **Holland**
- **Luxembourg**
- **Monaco**
- **Ukraine**
- **Russia**
- **Japan**
- **South Korea**
- **Croatia**

3. In November 2009 the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation received 156.700 PLN (ca. €37.000) from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany that covered Foundation's running costs until January 2010. Thanks to this generous donation our Warsaw office has begun its work that focuses on setting up the legal and practical framework for our office's operation and maintaining and strengthening an extensive network of contacts that will allow the Foundation to obtain further donations to the Perpetual Fund. The donation enabled the Foundation to purchase furniture, office equipment, and office supplies for our Warsaw office.

Moreover, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation Warsaw office began its cooperation with Ernst & Young (chosen in the auction among four companies: Ernst & Young, Deloitte, KPMG, and Price Waterhouse Coopers) and Weil, Gotshal & Manges. Both of these firms provide their services to the Foundation *pro bono*. Thanks to the Jewish Community of Warsaw, the Foundation was able to rent an office space (at a lower rate) in Warsaw, on 6 Twarda Street. The funding obtained from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany allowed to hire four employees (Director General; Warsaw Office Director and two project managers), whose work focuses on building an extensive network of contacts that will allow the Foundation to obtain further donations for the Perpetual Fund and creating graphic and audiovisual information material. The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation Warsaw office focuses on organizing Foundation's day-to-day work and ensuring the full transparency of the conducted activities. The Foundation has received two office equipment donations from Softex Data S.A. and Hewlett-Packard Polska Sp. Z o.o.

Unfortunately, the grant obtained by the Foundation in November 2009 had its end date in January 2010, which greatly complicated the perspective of the Warsaw office's further fund-raising work. Thus far, the Foundation has not received any funding since the German government's grant ended in January 2010 and is completely dependent on external donors' good will. Therefore, since February 2010, the Foundation has intensified its effort to acquire funds that will cover all of the running costs of the Foundation's Warsaw office.

4. The Foundation Warsaw office's operations revolve around the objective to secure further financial declarations for the Perpetual Fund. The office is responsible for arranging Foundation's Management Board, Financial Commission, and Council meetings, as well as keeping all of the Foundation's members up to date. Moreover, it also keeps in close touch with numerous Embassies in Warsaw and their respective governments' representatives. In 2010, the Foundation will continue its negotiations with representatives of the countries that had received a letter from the Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk in February 2009 urging them to support the Foundation's cause. Therefore, initiating and organizing meetings and talks with numerous Embassies in Warsaw is of utmost importance. Furthermore, as a consequence of our fundraising efforts, the office organizes Mr. Kastelaniec's travels abroad that aim to secure further declarations and donation.

The German financial contribution permitted the Foundation to organize and pay for Director General's fundraising travels to Berlin, London, New York, and Washington D.C. in January 2010. These visits clearly showed that conducting talks with international officials abroad remains the most effective way to ensure that political decisions to financially support the Perpetual Fund translate into actual declarations and subsequent transfers of funds.

The Foundation's plan for 2010 is to further negotiate with international governments and try to get specific declarations for the rest of the money needed for the Perpetual Fund while using the momentum created by the German pledge of financial assistance. In order to achieve this goal further travels will be crucial. We want to conduct talks with representatives of all the countries that favorably answered to the letters sent out by Prime Minister Donald Tusk in February 2009.

