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PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka

on behalf of the UEN Group

on declaring 25 May International Day Honouring the Heroes of the Fight
Against Totalitarianism

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**European Parliament recommendation to the Council on declaring 25 May
International Day Honouring the Heroes of the Fight Against Totalitarianism**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity,
 - having regard to the provisions of the following articles of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: Article 1 (Obligation to respect human rights), Article 2 (Right to life), Article 3 (Prohibition of torture) and Article 4 (Prohibition of slavery and forced labour),
 - having regard to Resolution 1481/2006 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the need for international condemnation of crimes of totalitarian communist regimes,
 - having regard to Rule 114(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the murders committed and the enslavement caused by the acts of aggression perpetrated by Fascism and Stalinism qualify as war crimes and crimes against humanity,
- B. having regard to the suffering of many nations during the two world wars (concentration camps, planned mass exterminations, the millions of victims of the Fascist and Stalinist regimes),
- C. having regard to the living testimony and steadfast attitude of many people, including Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki – the only person who voluntarily went to a concentration camp in order to organise a resistance movement there and to collect information about mass murders,
- D. accentuating the importance of keeping alive the memory of past events and of figures such as Witold Pilecki, whose names should be imprinted on the minds of Europeans as heroes of the totalitarian age, because of their dedication, faithfulness to ideals, honour and courage,
- E. whereas only a strong and historically aware Europe has the ability to create opportunities to overcome the monstrosities of the past,
- F. paying special tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives fighting totalitarian systems,
1. Addresses the following recommendation to the Council:
- declare 25 May (the day on which the death sentence on the Auschwitz hero, Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki, was carried out in 1948) International Day Honouring the Heroes of the Fight Against Totalitarianism, as an expression of respect for and tribute

to all those who, by fighting tyranny, proved their heroism and their true love for mankind, and in order to provide future generations with a clear indication of the correct attitude to adopt when faced with the threat of totalitarian enslavement;

2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the governments and parliaments of the candidate countries, the governments and parliaments of the countries associated with the European Union, the governments and parliaments of the members states of the Council of Europe, the United States Congress, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.