

# CHALLENGES OF FREEDOM

**International Conference  
8-9 October 2009  
Villa Decius, Krakow**

The *Challenges of Freedom* international conference is an attempt to reflect and discuss the questions connected with freedom in its public and private dimension and historical and future perspective. The programme of the conference combines intellectual contributions from internationally recognised personalities and outstanding European experts with debates and discussion sessions open to representatives of academic and cultural milieux, political organisations, NGOs, public administration, and media.

World history produced telling examples of struggle for freedom in the 20th century. Only in Central and Eastern Europe, the successive celebrations commemorating the bids for independence of Polish, Hungarian, Czech and Slovak nations reinforce the histories of victors and victims, and areas of struggle and defeat. The approaching 30th anniversary of the rise of the *Solidarity* movement in Poland becomes a stimulus to reflect over the essence of the ideologies of liberation and enthrallment, the sources of anti-totalitarianism, and the role of the ethical and moral values that trigger the sense of human and civic dignity and empower individuals with collective audacity and power which is indispensable to initiate processes of historical changes.

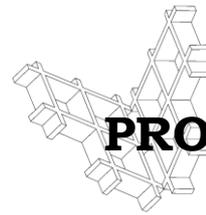
The geopolitical face of 21st-century Europe has changed and questions about freedom are asked again. This time, however, they are formulated in a different manner. What do those who used to lead the millions of “captive” citizens say today? What was the freedom they fought for like, and did their struggle end in 1989 with Poland’s Round Table, and later with the deconstruction of the Berlin Wall?

It seems that in the countries where the liberal present goes on the rampage, freedom has become restricted to the choice people make as consumers of specific goods. As Zygmunt Bauman observes, the code, essence and nature of values has changed. The reality and its exponents became liquid and the community – a subject to constant change and renegotiation. The distance and indifference towards those far away struggling to survive and those next door who cannot cope with the liquid reality of absolute freedom that capitalism offers, is growing.

Europe, Asia, Africa, the United States, Latin America - the worlds of parallel realities and values. Their distinctive feature is the ability to explore personal and civil freedom. The differences between these worlds are significant and the tensions between civilisations and their representations are intensified through the post-colonial discourse and manipulations on identities, which has become a derivative of political and economical practice and strategies of global mass media. What is the freedom that the denizens of parallel worlds speak of? What do human rights – the greatest 20th-century achievement of the Western civilisation – look like from their perspectives? Do these perspectives leave a room for the field of shared values?

The conference will close with an attempt at visualising “what has happened tomorrow”. What will turn out to be the New Big Brother; the one that will arise once the world’s finances have been set right and the new zones of political powers have been established. What will happen to the democratic state and freedom of the private realm, both so much favoured by the West? Will the future dialogue of cultures be based primarily on force? Will the postulates of radical sceptics be permanently ridiculed and manipulated, much like it happened to all the groups of the anti-capitalist left in the past? Who will use the pretext of practicing freedom to impose on the masses their goals in life and their ethical and political horizons, and to adjust their understanding of reality to the requirements of own goals, as it happened during the Cold War?





# PROGRAMME

**8 October 2009**

9.30	Registration of participants
10.00	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS: Aleksander Koj and Danuta Glondys</b>
10.30	<b>OPENING LECTURE: Paul Berman</b>
	<b>PANEL 1</b>
	<b>IDEOLOGIES OF LIBERATION AND IDEOLOGIES OF ENTHRALLMENT</b>
	The presentations and discussion will revolve around the essence of the ideologies of liberation, the sources of anti-totalitarianism, and the role of the ethical and moral values that stimulate human and civic dignity and empower the processes of historical changes. The experts will also undertake the issues and challenges of nowadays freedom and its limitations.
12.00	
–	
14.00	<i>(Power and the idealists - sources of anti-totalitarianism - justified violence - amnesia of Solidarity)</i>
	<b>Experts:</b> Richard Wolin Nina Witoszek-Fitzpatrick Henryk Wujec Jan Sowa
	<b>Moderator:</b> Karolina Wigura
14.00	Lunch
	<b>PANEL 2</b>
	<b>PARALLEL WORLDS</b>
	The debate will focus on the issues of the realities and values of parallel worlds, and the manner in which they explore personal and civil freedom. Experts will discuss the tensions between civilisations and their representations in the post-colonial discourse and manipulations on identities in political practice and global mass media. The theory of universality of human rights will be confronted with the practice of its implementation.
15.00	
–	
17.00	The experts will define the freedom that the citizens of parallel worlds can speak of and answer the question if these parallel perspectives leave a room for the field of shared values? <i>(Postcolonial discourse - liquid reality - fields of values - moving horizon of freedom)</i>
	<b>Experts:</b> Unni Wikan Michelle Sieff Pat Nash

	Ad Melkert <b>Moderator:</b> Zdzisław Mach
17.00	Coffee break
	<b>SPECIAL EVENT</b>
	<b>CEREMONY OF AWARDING THE SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE</b>
17.30	In 2003 the Villa Decius Association initiated establishing the Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since then The Prize has been awarded to a person and an organization for their active involvement in peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and denominations, and cultures.  <i>(Detailed programme of the event is presented separately)</i>

## 9 October 2009

	<b>PANEL 3</b>
	<b>THIS HAS HAPPENED TOMORROW</b>
	The last debate will focus on the question of what will happen to our freedom tomorrow. Until recently Western states have been organised around such postulates as democracy, freedom of choice, and freedom of speech. Global character of economy and corporationism of terror make the existing forms of organization of national states inefficient and superficial. In this debate the experts will try to answer the questions what the future of democracy and its immanent feature – freedom.
9.30 – 11.30	Another question addressed by experts will be: what or who will the citizens turn to in a situation in which the state is too weak? Will media satisfy the expectations of those who look for solutions or only manipulate them to satisfy its own political and economic goals? Foolished by those who used to control and observe ethical standards of political and social life, shall we become "capitve" citizens of somebody's agora?  <i>(Once the world's finances have been put right - signifiers of the new state sovereignty and the privatisation of the force - the world of global mass media - whose is my agora?)</i>
	<b>Experts:</b>  Susan George Marc Raboy

	Michael Daxner <b>Moderator:</b> Paul Gillespie
11.30	Coffee break
	<b>EXPERTS' ROUND TABLE</b>
12.00	(by invitations only)
–	<b>Introduction:</b>
14.00	Richard Wolin
	<b>Moderators:</b> Krzysztof Bobiński and Richard Wolin
	<b>ACCOMPANYING EVENT</b>
12.00	<b>COUPON FOR SUGAR - MULTIMEDIA EXPRESSION</b> <b>SOLIDARITY – EXHIBITION OF POSTERS from the collection of Krzysztof Dydo</b>
	<b>CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE:</b> Prof. Nina Witoszek- Fitzpatrick, Oslo University Olga Glondys, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



# **SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003)**

## **Honorary patronage:**

Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Poland  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Following the initiative of the Villa Decius Association, Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize was established in the year 2003 with an aim to promote democracy and tolerance, and to pay tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Prize is awarded to a person and an organisation for their special merits in peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and cultures.

The Prize might be awarded to individuals and institutions from Poland and abroad.



The Prize is awarded by the Award Committee composed of the High Representatives of: the President of the Republic of Poland; Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HE Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, HE Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Chairman of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance; consulates and foundations cooperating with Villa Decius Association in matters related to human rights and Founders of the Prize, the Chairman and the Director of the Villa Decius Association.

The Laureates are given a statuette by Andrzej Renes and a personal Diploma; the award might also have a financial dimension.

## **Laureates:**

2004	Tadeusz Mazowiecki One World Association
2005	Rev. Marian Żelazek SVD (1918-2006) Krzyżowa Foundation for European Understanding
2006	Alexandr Milinkevich Jewish Culture Festival
2007	Maryna Hulia Magurycz Association

2008

Krystyna Pryjomko-Serafin  
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
and  
Szewach Weiss, Michał Żejmis



## **SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (1948-2003)**



Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1948, he studied philosophy and humanistic studies at the Pantheon Sorbonne University of Paris. Being still a student, he started to cooperate with the United Nations, to become fully involved in the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He participated in numerous humanitarian and peacekeeping actions including Bangladesh, the Sudan, Cyprus, Mozambique and Peru.

In 1981 he became Senior Political Advisor of UN peace-keeping forces in Lebanon. In the period 1983-91, he was the Chief of the Cabinet of the High Commissioner, the Head of Regional Bureau of Asia and Oceania and the Head of Section of International Relations. In the years 1991-96 he acted as a Special Envoy of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Cambodia.

In 1996 he became the Assistant of the High Commissioner for Refugees of UN and in 1998 took his post in New York as the General Undersecretary for Humanitarian Actions. Then he acted as the special Envoy of UN to Kosovo and in the years: 1999-2002 as the Chief Representative of UNTAC in East Timor.

**On September 12, 2002 he was nominated to the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.** In May 2003, acting as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, he went for a mission to Iraq.

**He was killed in a bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003.**

### **Paying a tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello:**

UN Secretary General, **Kofi Annan**, said: *there was no-one we could less afford to spare, or who would be more acutely missed throughout the UN system.*

US Secretary of State **Colin Powell** called Mr Vieira de Mello: *a hero who dedicated his life to helping people in danger. (...) Sergio never shirked the most difficult assignments... Where others saw obstacles or despair, he created options and solutions.*

**Hedayat Abdel-Nabi**, president of the Geneva UN correspondents association, called Sergio: *the best of the best - a charismatic, brilliant character.*

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General **Lee Jong-Wook**, said: *Throughout a long and impressive UN career, Sergio has served the people who needed him most with skill, compassion and good humour. This single act of terrorism deprives the Iraqi people, and people everywhere, of a great advocate and a fine man. He will be sorely missed.*

Cambodia's King **Norodom Sihanouk** said: *Mr Vieira de Mello helped and served the peoples of every country in the world, including Cambodia, with self-sacrifice, efficiency and limitless devotion and without seeking any personal gain or glory.*

East Timor President **Xanana Gusmao**, whose country Mr Vieira de Mello helped steer to independence, said: *Our nation mourns the death of a unique and unforgettable friend. He fought tirelessly for democracy, human rights and sustainable justice for the people of East Timor.*



<p><b>Paul Berman</b></p>	<p>Paul Berman is a political writer and literary critic whose essays and journalism have appeared in 'The New York Times', 'The New Republic' (where he is a contributing editor), 'Dissent', 'Slate', 'The New Yorker' and many other journals in the United States and elsewhere. His books, which have been translated into fourteen languages, include <i>Terror and Liberalism</i>, interpreting radical Islamism as a kind of modern totalitarianism, and two volumes on the history of the generation of 1968 in sundry parts of the world: <i>A Tale of Two Utopias</i> and <i>Power and the Idealists</i>. His most recent book is an edited anthology of the work of the twentieth-century American poet, Carl Sandburg. His new book, <i>The Flight of the Intellectuals</i>, will appear at the end of this year. He is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.</p>
<p><b>Krzysztof Bobiński</b></p>	<p>Krzysztof Bobiński is the president of The Unia &amp; Polska Foundation and a board member of The Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation PAUCI. He occasionally writes for 'openDemocracy', 'European Voice' and is an associate editor of the Europe section of the 'Europe's World'. Bobiński read Modern History at Oxford and did an MA in regional studies at London University. He was the Warsaw correspondent of the 'Financial Times' from 1976 to 2000 and contributed to other publications such as 'The Observer' and 'Washington Post' as well as the BBC. He was the co-founder and publisher of the Polish 'Unia &amp; Polska' magazine.</p>
<p><b>Michael Daxner</b></p>	<p>Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies. Between 2000 and 2002 Daxner worked as Principal International Officer on Education, Science and Technology in Kosovo, followed by a role as Adviser to the Austrian Government for Issues on the Soft Sector Politics of South East Europe (2002-2006). During the following two years he worked as an Adviser to the Afghan Minister of Education, followed by research in the region. Former President of Oldenburg University. Lecturer at many European and American universities, presently at the Free University of Berlin and Oldenburg.</p>
<p><b>Paul Gillespie</b></p>	<p>Dr Paul Gillespie is a leader writer and columnist for 'The Irish Times' newspaper. He writes a regular column on Saturdays focusing on international news, monetary economics and geopolitics. He has special expertise and interest in European politics and political identities, British-Irish relations, transatlantic relations, Middle East affairs and Europe-Asian relations. He lectures at the School of Politics and International Relations at the University College Dublin and is a member of the executive council of the Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin and of the advisory council of the European Policy Centre, Brussels. The author of many articles, book chapters and academic papers. He edited <i>Blair's Britain, England's Europe</i> (Dublin 2000).</p>
<p><b>Susan George</b></p>	<p>President of the Board of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam. She is also honorary president of ATTAC-France (Association for Taxation of Financial Transaction to Aid Citizens) where she also served as vice president between 1999 and mid-2006 and remains a member of the scientific council. George is</p>

the author of fourteen books written in French and English and widely translated. Her most recent books are *Hijacking America: How the Religious and Secular Right Changed What Americans Think*, *We the Peoples of Europe*. Other books are: *Another World is Possible if...*, *The Lugano Report: On preserving capitalism in the 21st century*, *How the Other Half Dies*, and *a Fate Worse than Debt*.



<b>Danuta Glondys</b>	MA in English Philology and in Political Sciences. Currently doing her Ph.D. at Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities. In the period 1993-1999 director of Culture Department of the Municipality of Krakow. Former regional director of the USAID programme in Poland. Since February 2001, director of the Villa Decius Association. Since 2007 she is the European Commission expert in European Capital of Culture programme. Her research is devoted to relations between culture and politics and to European integration.
<b>Olga Glondys</b>	PhD student at Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and a laureate of the Spanish Government scholarships (University of Chicago, Stanford University). As a member of a research group GEXEL, dealing with Spanish political migration during General Franco dictatorship, she works on Spanish section of The Congress of the Liberty of Culture. Translator into Spanish of a famous book by Tomasz Kizny <i>Gulag</i> , contributor to numerous newspapers and magazines, incl.: 'Quimera', 'Laberintos', 'Zeszyty Literackie' and 'Studia Iberystyczne'. Member of Casa de l'Est Association.
<b>Aleksander Koj</b>	Medical doctor and scientist working in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology, author of approximately 200 papers, full professor at the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters (Krakow) and Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw). Laureate of the annual award of the Foundation for Polish Science in 1996 in the field of biomedical sciences, Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation in New York in 1998, annual award of the City of Krakow in the Field of Science and Technique in 2005, holder of honorary doctor's degree of three US State Universities (Cleveland, Hartford, Buffalo). Elected 3 times as the Rector (President) of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in the years 1987-1999, currently member of the Council of the Foundation of Polish Rectors, member of the Board of Directors of Polish-American Freedom Foundation and President of the Villa Decius Association in Krakow.
<b>Zdzisław Mach</b>	Professor of sociology and social anthropology. Head of the Institute of European Studies of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków. Former director of the Institute of Sociology of the Jagiellonian University (1991-1993) and former Dean of the Department of Philosophy (1993-1999). Author of numerous publications on social anthropology, sociology of culture, nation and ethnic relations. His publications include i.a.: <i>Kultura i osobowość w antropologii amerykańskiej</i> (1989), <i>Symbole, konflikt i tożsamość</i> (1993), and <i>Niechciane miasta: migracja i tożsamość społeczna</i> (1998).
<b>Ad Melkert</b>	In July 2009 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Ad Melkert as his Special Representative for Iraq. From March 2006 he served as the UN Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP. Previously, Mr. Melkert was a member of the Board of Directors at the World Bank for over three years where, as Executive Director, Mr. Melkert represented Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, The Netherlands, Romania, and Ukraine. Mr. Melkert joined the World Bank after a long and prominent political career in the Dutch Labour Party. He was member of Parliament and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, becoming the party's parliamentary leader in 1998. Mr. Melkert

has had a longstanding involvement in issues of international and development cooperation.

**Pat  
Nash**

Lieutenant General Pat Nash was commissioned into the Cavalry Corps in September 1966. Mr. Nash has a wide range of overseas experiences primarily with United Nations Forces, but also with the European Union Monitoring Mission in the Western Balkans. He has served as a Troop Commander in United Nations Force in Cyprus in 1967. He was a Company Commander with the 54 Irish Infantry Battalion, United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in Lebanon in 1983 and Operations Officer with the 71 Irish Infantry Battalion UNIFIL in 1992. He served as a Staff Officer at the Headquarters of the European Union Monitoring Mission in the Western Balkans. In 1999 he commanded the 85 Irish Infantry Battalion in UNIFIL (Lebanon). In 2007 Lieutenant General Nash took up the appointment of Operational Commander of the upcoming EUFOR Chad & CAR operation and is currently based in the Operational HQ in Paris.

<p><b>Marc Raboy</b></p>	<p>Marc Raboy is Full Professor and director of the Beaverbrook Chair in Ethics, Media and Communications in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He is a former journalist in a wide variety of media. He has been a consultant to a range of international organizations including UNESCO and the World Bank, a senior research associate in the Programme on Comparative Media Law and Policy at the University of Oxford, and is a member of the international council of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), past president of the Canadian Communication Association, and a member of several editorial boards. From 2001 to 2003 he served as expert advisor to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage for its study of Canadian broadcasting. His current research concerns media and communication governance issues in light of increasing globalization. Publications: <i>Media Divides: Communication Rights and the Right to Communicate in Canada</i> (forthcoming, 2010); <i>Media, Crisis and Democracy: Mass Communication and the Disruption of Social Order</i>; <i>Développement culturel et mondialisation de l'économie: un enjeu démocratique</i>; <i>Public Broadcasting for the Twenty-first Century</i>; <i>Global Media Policy in the New Millennium</i>.</p>
<p><b>Michelle Sieff</b></p>	<p>Michelle Sieff is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism, where she is writing a book on left-wing anti-Zionism. She completed her Ph.D. in Political Science at Columbia University and has worked on Africa for the Eurasia Group, Human Rights Watch, the Open Society Institute's Revenue Watch project, and, most recently, the American Jewish Committee.</p>
<p><b>Jan Sowa</b></p>	<p>Studied Polish philology, philosophy and psychology at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and at the University Paris 8 in Saint-Denis. Holds a PhD in Sociology. Co-originator, longstanding vice chairman, and currently the chairman of the board of Korporacja Ha!art Foundation and editor of 'Linia Radykalna'. A co-founder of the Goldex-Poldex Cooperative. He worked as a journalist at Polish Radio and as a curator of the Bunkier Sztuki gallery. He published a collection of essays <i>Sezon w teatrze lalek</i> (2003) and a book entitled <i>Ciesz się, późny unuku! Kolonializm, globalizacja i demokracja radykalna</i> (2008). He published several dozen articles in Poland and abroad, Inter alia: in 'Ha!art!', 'Praesens', 'Lampa', 'Kresy', 'Krytyka Polityczna', 'Gazeta Wyborcza', 'Philosophie Magazine', 'Przegląd Anarchistyczny' and '2+3D' magazine. He is currently a Researcher at the Institute of Culture of the Jagiellonian University.</p>
<p><b>Kinga Starzyk</b></p>	<p>Kinga Starzyk studied International Relations at the Tischner European University in Krakow and obtained a Master of Arts from Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen as well as from Jagiellonian University, specializing in human rights and their application in political discourse on the international arena. She has been working for Villa Decius as project coordinator since 2008.</p>
<p><b>Karolina Wigura</b></p>	<p>Karolina Wigura is a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Warsaw and at the Philosophy Institute in Munich. She is a journalist and writes for the political-cultural weekly 'Europa' as well as 'KulturaLiberalna.pl', an internet based non-profit magazine. She also contributes to 'Newsweek' and 'Dziennik'.</p>

**Unni  
Wikan**

Professor of social anthropology. She has done fieldwork in Egypt, Oman, Yemen, Bali, Bhutan and Scandinavia, and has published nine books, among others *Life Among the Poor in Cairo*, *Behind the Veil in Arabia: Women in Oman*, *Good Willing: Self-Made Destinies in Cairo*, and *Generous Betrayal: Politics of Culture in the New Europe*. She has published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals. She has been a consultant to UNICEF and the World Food Programme, the Norwegian Development Organization and the UNDP. She has conducted research on poverty, gender, development, emotion, social justice, welfare, multiculturalism, and law. In 2004, she was awarded the Norwegian Freedom of Expression Foundation Award.

**Nina  
Witoszek  
-  
Fitzpatrick**

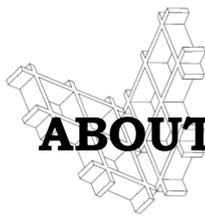
Prof. Nina Witoszek-Fitzpatrick navigates between being a cultural historian and a fiction writer. She is currently Research Director at the Centre for Development and the Environment at Oslo University and fellow at the Royal Norwegian Academy of Science. Her latest publications include, among others, *The Postmodern Challenge: East and West Perspectives* (1999), *Culture and Crisis* (2002), and a controversial pamphlet on Norway, *The Best Country in The World* (2009). As a fiction writer she is best known for her *Fables of the Irish Intelligentsia* (1991), *The Loves of Faustyna* (1995) and *Daimons* (2003). She is a recipient of The Irish Times-Aer Lingus Award for Fiction (1991) and the Norwegian Freedom of Expression Foundation Award for bringing Eastern European perspectives into the Scandinavian public debate (2005). She is also a co-founder of the Forum for the Studies of Totalitarianism at Oslo University.

**Richard  
Wolin**

Richard Wolin is a distinguished Professor of History and Comparative Literature at the City University of New York. He received a B.A. from Reed College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from York University in Toronto and has held faculty positions at Reed College Rice University and the University of Paris. His works on subjects such as Martin Heidegger, Walter Benjamin, the history of twentieth-century ideas, and modern cultural Criticisms, have been translated into ten languages. Wolin is also a regular contributor to publications such as the New Republic, Dissent, Tikkun, and The Los Angeles Times. Publications: *The Terms of Cultural Criticism: The Frankfurt School, Existentialism, Poststructuralism; Labyrinths: Explorations in the Critical History of Ideas; Heidegger's Children: Philosophy, Anti-Semitism, and German-Jewish Identity; The Seduction of Unreason: The Intellectual Romance with Fascism from Nietzsche to Postmodernism.; The Wind from the East: French Intellectuals, Cultural Revolution, and the Legacy of the 1960s.*

**Henryk  
Wujec**

One of the most outstanding dissidents and social and political activists. He graduated from the Physics Department at the University of Warsaw. In 1962 he became a member of the Catholic Intelligentsia Club in Warsaw. In 1980 he was one of the founders of the Solidarity movement. In 1989 he was taking part in the Round Table Talks. In the period of 1989-2001 he was the Member of Parliament. He was awarded The Order of Polonia Restituta (2002) for taking part in establishing the Higher Vocational School in Chełm and The Commander's Cross with Star (2006) on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Workers' Defence Committee. He is a laureate of the Andrzej Bączkowski Award (2006), and an honorary citizen of the city of Biłgoraj.



## **ABOUT THE VILLA DECIUS ASSOCIATION**

The Villa Decius Association was founded in 1995 by well known representatives of the world of science, economy and culture. Within several years it has established itself as a cultural institution of international outreach, an acknowledged think-tank that greatly contributes to research on Eastern European issues and a platform of cultural dialogue linking nations and uniting Europe.

The Association is composed of a team of researchers and academics as well as professional producers of cultural and educational events. The Board of Association is chaired by the former Rector of the Jagiellonian University, Professor Aleksander Koj and the Association's activities are supervised by Director Ms. Danuta Glondys.

Villa Decius' interdisciplinary programmes are addressed to representatives of scientific, artistic and political milieus, and also to managers and entrepreneurs working at the point of contact between different cultures. In its programmes Villa Decius gives important place to global and civilization issues, European integration, protection of cultural heritage as well as development of understanding and tolerance.

Villa Decius is visited by crowned heads of state, presidents, prime-ministers, ministers of foreign affairs, recognized scientists and artists; the greatest authorities in social, cultural and political milieus.