



Warszawa 14.08.2009 r.

PREZES
Polskiego Związku Działkowców

FOLKETING
Danmark

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Polish Allotment Federation (PZD) wishes to inform you, that on the 14th of July 2009 the first Congress of the PZD took place in the 110 year history of the Polish allotment movement.

The Congress was summoned in connection to the situation that arose when the Law and Justice party (PiS) submitted a draft of a legal bill concerning allotment gardens. In spite of catchy and appealing slogans promising the exclusive property of the plots to the gardeners, under which PiS advertised its bill, in reality this document aimed to annul the generally supported law on family allotment gardens and to liquidate the PZD, as well as nationalize the property of this non-government organization, which is the heritage of several generations of Polish gardeners. Therefore the Congress took place under two motto's: „*Our law on family allotment gardens - tradition and future of the Polish gardens*” and „*One million Polish gardeners are the PZD*”.

In this historic for our movement event nearly 2600 gardeners participated; they were selected during regional conferences that took place throughout the whole country. Among the 300 invited guests many important politicians arrived, including the Vice-Speaker of the Polish Parliament, the Vice - Prime Minister, numerous members of parliament and senators, and also a large group of local politicians from all of Poland. Central and local press were also numerously represented.

The Congress accepted ten resolutions and other documents expressing the views of the allotment gardeners on the most important issues concerning gardens and the PZD. The representatives of nearly one million Polish gardeners accepted inter alia a letter to the President of Poland and the Prime Minister of Poland, as well as a resolution concerning the PZD stance in building a civil society and a resolution concerning the meaning and role of allotment gardens during the economic crisis. The Congress also accepted letter to the European Parliament and European Union, governments and parliaments of EU member states, to the national allotment federations in Europe. We kindly enclose this document in a Polish and English version, hoping that you will agree with the views concerning the positive role and meaning of allotment gardens for the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Kondracki', is written over a horizontal line.

Eugeniusz Kondracki



I Congress of the Polish Allotment Federation

Warsaw, 14th July 2009

LETTER

I CONGRESS OF POLISH ALLOTMENT GARDENERS

proceeding in Warsaw
on the 14th of July 2009

**TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EUROPEAN UNION,
GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS OF EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES,
TO THE NATIONAL ALLOTMENT FEDERATIONS IN EUROPE**

The participants of the first Congress of the Polish Allotment Federation declare, that allotment gardens - fulfilling their social functions for the public – are still needed and the idea of the allotment movement is constantly topical in all the European states, where allotment gardens function.

The meaning of an allotment for families and gardens for the local communities was especially appreciated by the XXXV International Congress of Allotment and Family Gardens held last year in Cracow, that accepted an resolution concerning the future of allotment gardens in Europe, in which governments and parliaments were called upon to support and help in the process of developing allotment gardening in all the European countries.

With great satisfaction the Polish gardeners received this Resolution of the XXXV Congress and with full responsibility they are implementing the recommendations of this document, especially concerning the issues of garden arrangement and modernization, cooperation with local governments and accessing the gardens to the public. The purpose of these actions is to modernize allotment gardens and preserve them for future generations.

The Polish Gardiners recognize, that for the preservation and development of allotment gardens, for the cultivation of the allotment movement tradition, for the further service of gardens to the public, it is significant to fully implement the Resolution of the International Congress in all the European states. Therefore the first Congress of the Polish Allotment Federation participated by 2600 representatives from nearly 5000 Polish allotment gardens, acting on behalf over 1 million members of the Polish Allotment Federation, address:

- **the European Parliament and EU institutions** to create legal conditions, as well as political and economic instruments enabling the protection and development of allotment gardens in EU member states.
- **the parliaments and governments of European states** to acknowledge the role and meaning of allotment gardens for the public and support their functioning and development depending on social demand,
- **the local governments** for a full and comprehensive cooperation with national allotment federations in a common service to the local communities, for help in creating new gardens and their functioning for the good of the allotment families and local communities,
- **the national allotment federation** to tighten our cooperation, for a full integration of all federations around a common idea of allotment gardening in the service of the public,
- **the gardeners from Europe** –our goal an action are a result of over hundred year experiences in realizing the ideas created by wise people for needy families from cities and towns, therefore we should ensure, that the European allotment family takes joint action and work together so that the gardens can be preserved for our children and grandchildren, for future generations.

The participants of the first Congress of the Polish Allotment Federation express their conviction that the appreciation of the allotment movement will result in practical actions throughout Europe, and the gardens will serve the public until there is still a social demand for them.

I CONGRESS
of the
POLISH ALLOTMENT FEDERATION

Warsaw, 14th July 2009
