**Press Release of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage on War Cemeteries and Resting Places of Red Army Soldiers in Poland**

The Republic of Poland provides permanent and comprehensive maintenance of the graves and war cemeteries of Red Army soldiers fallen during World War II while fighting against Nazi Germany or deceased as prisoners of war in German camps on the territory of present Poland. Poland provides maintenance of Red Army war cemeteries pursuant to the international law, i.e. Geneva Convention of 1949 and Polish law, i.e. the Act of 28th March 1933 on graves and war cemeteries and also by implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Russian Federation on the graves and memorials of war and repression victims signed on the 22nd February 1994.

 On the territory of Poland there are approximately 700 sites in total – the resting places of Red Army soldiers fallen and deceased within 1941 – 1945. The total number of buried amounts to approximately 1,3 million people. 800 thousand people out of this number constitute prisoners deceased in German camps, and over 500 thousand were the soldiers died while fighting against Germans in the years 1944-1945 within present Polish borders.

 **The total expenses of Polish public administration in the years 2016-2017 on the renovation works and current maintenance of graves and cemeteries – the resting places of Red Army soldiers in Poland amounted to over 6 million PLN, i.e. 3 million PLN a year.**

Polish maintenance of Red Army cemeteries provides their good condition. When the acts of vandalism occurs, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Poland is informed and their effects are immediately removed.

 It shall be noted that due to the great number and surface of Red Army cemeteries in Poland the financial needs of the renovation works are huge. The implementation of the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Poland requires the full engagement of Polish public administration every year and the continuation of works on several dozens of cemeteries –resting places of Red Army soldiers.