



*Ambassador
of the Republic of Poland*

Bern, 12th of September 2013

**Her and His Highness
Herta Margarete and Sandor
Habsburg – Lothringen**

Vienna

Your Highnesses,

On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to express my gratitude for your decision of awarding me with the *Flame of Peace* distinction. As I have mentioned during the ceremony, I am proud, as a member of the Polish Foreign Service, of my participation in the Polish way to the European Union membership as an element of the EU enlargement in 2004. I do believe that it strengthened the stability and peace on the European continent.

The noble idea of the *Flame of Peace* is to give strength and energy to the people who engage themselves for the sake of countries, nations, culture and natural environment. I think we can all agree that culture, as the most universal language, is an excellent way of not only promoting countries but above all bringing the societies together. Therefore I am very pleased that during my diplomatic mission in the Swiss Confederation, together with my wife and the Embassy team, we could support the development of the Polish – Swiss cultural cooperation.

Of course, the promotion of the national culture abroad is much easier with the strong local partner. The Bachlechner Gallery, which owners were kind enough to host the ceremony of the decoration, is one of the places in Switzerland where Polish art and artists are promoted with passion and high professional level. Therefore I was very glad to learn that Mrs. and Mr. Béatrice and Hanns Bachlechner have been nominated the Ambassadors of the *Flame of Peace* in the Swiss Confederation. I am convinced they will contribute to the promotion of the *Flame of Peace* values, which I will be also gladly supporting.

With kind regards,


Jarosław Starzyk