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JM/cd

Via e-mail: [pcjustpax@justpeace.va](mailto:pcjustpax@justpeace.va)

Cardinal Renato Martino  
President  
Commission IUSTITIA ET PAX  
Piazza San Calisto 16  
I-00153 Roma

Dear Cardinal Martino,

On behalf of the ETUC, I write to you to express our sadness at the death of Pope Paul II.

Among his many achievements, we value especially the role he played in helping sustain independent trade unionism in Poland.

As Lech Wałęsa has said, without him, Solidarnosc would not have been able to continue; and without the success of that organisation, freedom would not have spread through Central and Eastern Europe in the powerful way that it has.

On a personal note, I valued an audience with him when your Commission hosted in the Vatican a trade union conference on globalisation in, I think, 1995.

So we share in the sorrow of the many millions who mourn his loss and please accept our deepest sympathy and condolences, as well as, of course, our best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

John Monks  
General Secretary

**CONFÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES SYNDICATS  
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