

The President

Mr Diego Goller  
Mr Gerhard Pross  
P. Heinrich Walter  
Sr. Nicole Grochowina  
Insieme per l'Europa | TOGETHER FOR EUROPE  
Via Frascati, 306  
IT - 00040 Rocca di Papa (RM)

D 307242 09.07.2020

Dear Sister Grochowina,  
Dear Father Walter,  
Dear Messrs Goller and Pross,

Thank you for your letter in which you informed me of the activities carried out by TOGETHER FOR EUROPE on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Europe Day, which also happens to be an important day for your ecumenical network.

I can only praise such initiatives that stimulate public discussions on civic matters, especially in our difficult times where physical distancing constraints make social interactions rather cumbersome. The discussion topics you chose in addition to references to the Union's founding fathers illustrate our shared approach based on solidarity and idealism. Indeed, the COVID-19 crisis, the need for more ecology and the way the European Union deals with third-country nationals arriving on its territory are all issues that cannot be tackled without fighting selfish and nationalistic temptations.

As you may know, the EU Treaties recognise the specific contributions of churches and religious associations or communities, as well as that of philosophical and non-confessional organisations. The European Parliament is certainly committed to the open, transparent and regular dialogue that EU institutions have to maintain with these organisations such as yours, and convenes regular debates in this framework.

Adenauer, De Gasperi and Schuman, to whom you referred during your event, started with a very pragmatic approach to bring our nations and people closer on some concrete and sectoral cooperation. They were however fully aware that political projects also live on spirituality. European shared values, as agreed upon by Member States when signing the EU Treaties, are more needed than ever to overcome crises, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. Concerted efforts to promote those common values are certainly precious and I look forward to continuing our exchanges in the future.

Yours sincerely,



David Maria SASSOLI



European Parliament



European Parliament

10.07.20



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**The President**

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