

MITEINANDER FÜR TOGETHER FOR
ENSEMBLE POUR L' INSIEME PER L'
MAZI GIA THN ВМЕСТЕ ДЛЯ



europa



Munich

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International site of TfE linked to national sites

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Unity is possible

Unity is possible. We have been experiencing it for more than 15 years among numerous Communities and Movements of various Churches. So a great desire for full, visible unity among all Christians has grown amongst us.

On our journey we experienced reconciliation, a reconciliation that purified memory and gave us the courage to make our way into the future together.

We live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we want to share it with the men and women of our time. We want to overcome the divisions between people, between peoples and parties, between cultures and also between our Churches and Christian denominations.

In 2016, we invite you to an experience of unity, a step deeper into a reconciled diversity of faiths and cultures.

We believe that it will be possible for this to happen during the Congress and the public Outdoor Rally of "Together for Europe" in Munich, July 2, 2016.

Let us pray and work for a large participation that day, so as to give a strong sign of hope for the future.

The Communities and Movements of "Together for Europe 2016"

Together for Europe, what is it?

Together for Europe is an initiative that sums up numerous activities carried out by Christian Communities and Movements at the service of: the family, to protect life and creation, a just economy, solidarity with the poor and marginalized, reconciliation and peace, the good of cities and fraternity on the European continent. We call these goals the Seven Yeses.

TfE is also the title of specific large European events, such as those held in 2004 and 2007 in Stuttgart, and in Brussels in 2012. The latter was accompanied by simultaneous events in 152 European cities.

TfE is rooted in the strong experiences shared by Communities and Movements – there are currently about 300 of them spread across the continent – which are as different from each other as are their cultures, languages and regions, but which freely collaborate to build a "culture of reciprocity", establishing relationships of fellowship among themselves, while fully respecting their diversity.



TfE is a creative minority, a social and cultural entity that cares for humanity, that works for a reconciled, democratic and fraternal Europe. It is a "producer of the common good".

While many activities are largely local, the Communities and Movements maintain a broad vision as they are part of a globalised world and because a number of them are present in many countries.

TfE is a small-scale model of a real, united and living Europe.

We are now preparing the fourth international event: **“Together for Europe 2016”**.

What is the reason for it?

- We have received a gift, in the experience of reconciliation, which is the key to fraternity among individuals and peoples, as well as to unity among churches, by valuing and enhancing their distinctive features as gifts.
- A culture of fraternity is growing through our commitment to a **YES in seven directions**². Our cities can benefit from this culture.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ, our light, strength and hope, engages us. We want to share it with the people of our time.
- We want to communicate the experiences arising out of our being together, because Europe needs more of this type of unity. Five hundred years of division among Christians is enough. The wider world also needs a Europe that is united in this way, because reconciliation, peace and justice stem from such unity.

We made a **Covenant** of reciprocal respect and love between Christian Communities and Movements. In this **Pact**, we see a lifestyle which can help give Europe a new future.

Our experience of unity

With the communion and collaboration of more than 300 Communities and Movements from different churches, we can testify that unity among Christians of different Churches is now possible, by living according to the New Commandment of Jesus³. Mutual love is a sign by which Jesus' disciples are recognised.

We want to offer Christians of the continent our experience of unity along with the fruits of our commitment to the **Seven Yeses**².

We want to show that we are living amongst us as people who are reconciled. Moreover, with this testimony, we offer a contribution to reconciliation between our Churches, our peoples and nations. We are convinced that through reconciliation a new era begins, the era of goodwill, fellowship and unity in diversity.



Why Munich?

Munich is an important venue for **TfE**, because among other things it was in the Lutheran Evangelical Church of St. Matthäus in Munich that on December 8th 2001 the **Covenant of mutual love** between about 600 leaders of Lutheran and Catholic Communities and Movements was made for the first time. Furthermore, on the afternoon the same day they were joined by about 5,000 members of Communities and Movements gathered in the Catholic Cathedral in Munich. The **Covenant** or **Pact** - as some like to call it - continues to be the basis of everything that bears the name **“Together for Europe”**.

We thank our friends in various Communities and Movements in Munich, especially the YMCA Munich, who have expressed their willingness to hold **TfE 2016** in their city.

² See **TfE** 2007 messages – The Seven Yeses, pg. 9

³ Jn 13,34

TfE project 2016

Together for Europe 2016 will take place, so to speak, on three levels: Congress, Outdoor Rally, Cities.

1. The **Congress** will offer the 2,500 participants who are expected to attend the opportunity to learn about the fruits of "Together" and recognize that these fruits, alongside the various ways they can grow, should be offered to society. This means offering answers to the challenges our society is facing. The first opportunity for this will be at the upcoming event.

2. With the **Outdoor Rally**, scheduled the day after the congress, we want to take the experience of the congress outside. It should be an event that brings joy, hope, beauty, wisdom, imagination ... it must express the Europe we are committed to.

3. **TfE in the cities**: what should come into evidence is the relationships and the collaboration that is happening locally. The greater the number of cities and towns that take part in **TfE**, the more visible will be the network spread throughout the continent. In this way the unifying capacity of Together will be clear. We hope, therefore, that in the time leading up to the event in Munich, the relationships and collaboration taking place in many cities and towns will be further developed.

Congress



The Congress will take place on **Thursday June 30 and Friday 1 July 2016** (arrivals the evening of 29 July) in the **Circus-Krone-Bau**, Marsstraße 43, 80335 Munich, Germany. It is situated in the city centre, one stop on the metro from the central train station.

Programme

The congress will be held in:

- **Plenaries** - in the mornings and evenings at the Circus-Krone-Bau.
- **Forums** (various Communities and Movements will address a topic together) - Thursday, June 30 (afternoon) in different places.
- **Roundtables** (a proposed theme will be addressed together with "professionals", who are not necessarily members of a Community or Movement) - Friday, July 1st (afternoon) in different places.

The programme for the plenary sessions will include:

- biblical exegesis on the challenges of Gospel life accompanied by experiences;
- the ways in which the **Pact of mutual love** puts an end to the 500 year long division between the Churches of the Reformation and the Catholic Church;
- new social, political and ecclesiastical attitudes, resulting from the **Pact**;
- the study of **TfE's** history in order to understand more clearly the task that derives from it towards society, the Churches and Europe.

The programme of the plenaries will include various opportunities for of dialogue. On Thursday there will be an evening of prayer, while Friday evening will be dedicated to recreation.

How can we contribute to the Congress?

Each point of the programme – meant to be an expression of fellowship between Communities and Movements – will be prepared and carried out by members of at least two Communities and Movements.

Who is invited?

Members of Communities and Movements are invited as well as church leaders and key figures in political, cultural and social contexts, as well as the people they in turn invite.

Circus-Krone-Bau has only 2,500 seats: we would like all 300 Communities and Movements that adhere to **TfE 2016** to be represented as well as all the countries in Europe.

Outdoor Rally



The Outdoor Rally will take place in Munich on **July 2, 2016**.

It wishes to:

- show the public and the media how it is possible to reach fraternity among peoples, as well as unity among Christians. Some of the ways this unity can be achieved include reconciliation between individuals, between churches and between nations; the pact of mutual love in the spirit of the Gospel; and the commitment to the **Seven Yeses**;
- moreover, it should offer our vision of unity, which does not mean uniformity or a levelling diversities; but on the contrary it means highlighting variety, maintaining it and increasing the cultural, religious and regional characteristics of the European peoples. In this way each people can become a gift to others. Unity in diversity is a way of life suited to meet the challenges of today, to give a future to the continent. It will make Europe a continent from which peace, justice and brotherhood will spread across the world.



In order to give visibility to **TfE's** message in society and the media, participation in the Outdoor Rally should be remarkably large, and involve key people from the Churches, politics, sports, and culture, ... who share our spirit.

The day will have two phases: a march and an outdoor rally in a central significant square.

The Outdoor Rally will include:

- A presentation of **TfE** and the purpose of the event;
- greetings by political, cultural and church personalities;
- experiences of **TfE** activities in cities;
- commitments by the Communities and Movements expressed in the **TfE 2016 Manifesto**.
- The focal point of the programme will be an act of reconciliation between people from different nations and Churches.



TfE in the cities

The presence of **TfE** throughout the continent and in as many cities as possible is important for its credibility and the message it bears. A Congress and an Outdoor Rally alone are not enough to give visibility to **TfE**'s presence on the continent and its unifying capacity. Nonetheless, this can be achieved by the many cities where **TfE** is active.



152 cities in 22 different countries took part in **TfE 2012**: Albania, Belgium, Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, and Hungary.

Fellowship between Communities and Movements is active in many cities. We can already talk of living realities if some members of Communities and Movements in a city meet two or three times a year to pray for their city and for the intentions of its inhabitants, as well as to reflect on the topics, speeches and messages from Stuttgart 2004, 2007 and Brussels 2012.

Moreover, in the context of **TfE 2016**, it would also be desirable to take a step "outwards". Such a step could consist in having a small group visit the mayor during the days of the Congress and the Outdoor Rally to hand over the Manifesto of **TfE 2016**, while informing local media about **TfE 2016**.

The more fellowship among Communities and Movements grows in a city, the more the collaboration becomes practical, leading towards "a programme for the city." (See below)

A programme for the Cities

The following considerations emerged at the meeting of the Friends of **TfE** at YMCA Munich in November 10, 2012.

Fellowship amongst Communities and Movements has begun or grown in many cities. On the basis of these experiences, the following points might contribute to identifying a way forward for Together in our cities.

1. "Assess the city" - Focus on the situation

Friends from different Communities and Movements, who live the Pact of Reciprocal Love together, could "assess their city". This means to:

- Together identify places and activities in our city where the various Communities and Movements are involved according to the "Seven Yeses".
- See in which of these places or activities some level of cooperation might be possible between Communities and Movements, each according to its charism.
- Together identify other initiatives or projects related to the **Seven Yeses**, whose programmes projects and initiatives can be supported by Communities and Movements.
- Together identify the greatest needs of the city and assess how there could be a joint effort to make our contribution.



2. *Deepen the community*

- Meet regularly to deepen fellowship with one another, to share experiences and insights, to help and encourage each other.
- Pray together, with the faith of having already obtained what we ask in Jesus' name
- Visit one another to get to know other communities better and to foster communion.
- Go back to the text "Foundations of Communion" (November 11, 2009) and talk about it together.



3. *Actions*

- Form local steering groups for **TfE**.
- If possible, plan together an annual day on at least one of the Seven Yeses and/or a topic related to unity.

4. *Contacts with leaders*

Contact the political and Church leaders of the city, to inform them about the work of **TfE** and shared activities.

Communities and Movements taking part in TfE 2016

More than 300 Communities and Movements are participating in **TfE 2016**.

Links can be found on www.together4europe.org.

TfE 2016 funding sources

The **Congress** will in large part be financed by participation fees and by the collection of offerings from participants.

The cost of the **Outdoor Rally** will be covered by contributions from Communities and Movements themselves, as well as by contributions from sponsors and institutions.



The Seven Yeses

« [...] United by this Pact of mutual love,

- Let us say **Yes to life** and let us work to defend its inviolable dignity at every stage, from conception to its natural end.
- Let us say **Yes to the family** united by an indissoluble bond of love between a man and a woman, the foundation of a united society that looks to the future.
- Let us say **Yes to creation**, by defending nature and the environment, gifts of God to be safeguarded with commitment that respects future generations.
- Let us say **Yes to a just economy**, at the service of every person and all humankind.
- Let us say **Yes to solidarity** with the poor and the marginalized, near or far - they are our brothers and sisters. Let us ask our governments and the European Union to work in a determined way for the poor and for the development of disadvantaged nations, especially those in Africa.
- Let us say **Yes to peace**, and commit ourselves to bringing it about so that, through dialogue, a way to understanding and reconciliation may be found in situations of conflict. Our world has no future without peace.
- Let us say **Yes to our responsibility** towards the whole of society and to work so that through everyone's contribution, cities might become places of solidarity and welcome for people of different nationalities and cultures.

We want to take on these commitments together, each Community and Movement in accordance with its own charism and capacity.

We want to work together with all men and women, with institutions and with all social and political groups and institutions.

Together we place ourselves once again at the service of peace and unity that are at the foundation of today's Europe.

Together we want to communicate to Europe and to the world the Gospel of life and peace that animates our Movements and our Communities.»

Stuttgart, May 12 2007

Complete text: www.together4europe.org

Yes to LIFE



We commit ourselves to defend the inviolable dignity of human life at every stage, from conception to its natural end.
Our experiences tell us that many older people, or those who suffer or are disadvantaged mentally or physically, make a contribution of their own which should be recognised so as to foster acceptance, attention to others and respect, attitudes which are of utmost value for everyone.
Thankful for the developments in palliative care, we commit ourselves to accompany the dying to the very end.
We want to uphold the importance of each human life, the value of being rather than having.
We prize communion between generations as an important feature of a healthy society.

Yes to FAMILY



We say Yes to the family united by an indissoluble bond of love between a man and a woman, the foundation of a united society that looks to the future.
We see the family as the fundamental seed for the growth of communion in society and in the building of peace.
We see the family as the kernel of society, a seed bearing the values of generosity, a spirit of service and reciprocity, able to build community.
We see the family as a unique way of weaving threads of continuity between generations, handing on culture, religion, traditions, language and experience.

We see the family as the basic economic unit, where people learn about solidarity, where we prepare ourselves to become responsible citizens.

Yes to CREATION



Seeing the worsening relationship between society and the environment in many places, we affirm that a new relationship between humankind and our natural habitat will come from rediscovering the meaning of our personal bond with creation.

It is a challenge, an unavoidable cultural challenge addressed to each one of us. We need to follow this path in order to make our planet a home for all human beings, a place where they can find peace, justice and fraternity.

As citizens, we are called to increase our own awareness of the problem, so as to guide our daily lifestyle actions and choices towards a sustainable way of life. Finally, we believe that we are challenged to do this as women and men who believe in God-Love, the One who entrusted the working and stewardship of the earth to us.

Yes to a JUST ECONOMY



With fraternity as our goal and focussing on the common good, we consider the sharing of goods and resources to be essential.

We therefore say Yes to a just economy put at the service of every person and of all humankind.

Aware that Christian charisms contributed to the birth of the first market economy, we are committed to ensuring that Christian C+M and their charisms make their essential contribution to: returning the financial sector to its role at the service of the real economy; promoting a culture not based on consumerism; rethinking the nature of business and profit.

There are numerous testimonies to this in everyday life that give rise to new forms of ethical finance, enlightened consumption for the sake of solidarity, cooperatives and social enterprises.

In this regard there are several initiatives, which are still quite small but which challenge the capitalist system. They affirm that the true nature of business is to create communion and that profit has a social vocation, which means it must be shared.

Yes to SOLIDARITY



The poor have never been 'fashionable', but now that the economic crisis has hardened hearts, we are witnessing a criminalization of the poor. In addition to the yoke of poverty, they often suffer the humiliation of being blamed, because they are not at work, do not have housing, do not have residence permits, because they beg...

In Europe, the lives of older people are often difficult: they suffer abandonment and loneliness, because the family as a social bond no longer exists. Families with many children are in particular difficulty and those who are unemployed face enormous problems.

The poor are not a category of people. They are people like us. Jesus identified himself with them: whatever you have done to a prisoner, a foreigner, a sick, thirsty or hungry person, you did it to me. So the poor are our friends.

Where there is reciprocity – those who give and those whose receive - life in our cities becomes richer, more fascinating, more human.

Yes to PEACE



War is the root of all poverty and peace is the root of all development.

We need to purify memories so as to reach a real and lasting reconciliation.

Peace is needed by people who are different and who live side by side. Peace means an end to all conflicts. But peace is also politically constructive: for Europe it means unity among European nations in exercising their common responsibility to the world. For poor nations peace means freedom from absolute poverty.

Peace cannot be improvised, as it requires patience in education. We need to meet and work together.

Dialogue means accepting diversity, which is not always easy and can at times be painful. There can be no dominance, even in a globalized world. We are many and different, but we need to live together.

Yes to our RESPONSIBILITY



By saying YES to our responsibility towards society we commit ourselves to working in the social and political spheres.

In our daily life we will seek to encourage, through Christian love, a capacity for altruism, being ready to make sacrifices for the sake of our neighbours and the civic community.

Through everyone's participation, we want to contribute to transforming our cities into places of solidarity and acceptance of people of different nationalities and cultures, making it possible to match needs and resources.

This commitment will increase the Common Good.

By acting locally we will not lose sight of the universal goal. The fact that some of our C+M are in many countries beyond Europe will help us be open to others and enable us to share more widely.

Communion and cooperation

What is our idea of Europe?

We envisage a **united and diverse Europe, with strong social cohesion and diversity**. Our differences must not become reasons for fear or separation, but should be lived and experienced as gifts. We live for a Europe where differences are not eliminated, but valued and encouraged.

We envisage a **Europe animated by fraternity**, which we want to spread by offering the fruits of our love founded on the Gospel. Fraternity among us has grown and led to a sharing of goods and resources, equality and freedom for all and openness to people of other cultures and religious traditions. This lifestyle can be a source of inspiration for braver choices in all fields.

We envisage a Europe that itself becomes a **“message of peace”**, a bridge between peoples, which requires our daily commitment, starting with mutual forgiveness and based on the purification of memory.

We envisage a **participatory and democratic** Europe. The awareness that each of us is a unique individual, with an inbuilt vocation to social relationships, makes each one become a resource for new forms of responsible participation in democracy, with constructive relationships between citizens and institutions.

We envisage a Europe that is **aware of its responsibilities** and open to the whole world, with a particular focus on Africa.

We envisage a Europe that is not limited to the current European Union.

Message of TtE 2004

« [...] In the last century, two world wars, concentration camps, Gulags and, in particular, the Holocaust (the Shoah) witnessed to the darkness which dwelt in our continent, the pain of which reached the rest of the world. [...] »

However, in spite of all these evils, today thankfully we can see a Europe that is moving toward reconciliation. A free and democratic Europe.

Inspired by the transforming power of the Gospel, we feel called to work for a continent which is multifaceted and united. [...]

We offer this fellowship as a contribution to a Europe which will be able to respond to the challenges of our time.

The charisms, as gifts of God, compel us to follow the path of universal fraternity. [...] Fraternity is nothing other than Gospel love lived among all, always renewed, beginning here and now. Fraternity is: sharing goods and resources, equality and freedom for all men and women; deepening our common cultural patrimony; openness to people of other cultures and religious traditions; love and solidarity with the weak and the poor in our cities. [...] »



Stuttgart - May 8, 2004

Complete text: www.together4europe.org

Awards and Recognition

Ecumenical award 2008 - On November 15, 2008 in Stuttgart, the German association "Promoting Christian Unity Initiative", awarded **TfE** the 2008 Ecumenical Prize. The prize was motivated by the fact that the Communities and Movements which are members of **TfE**, starting from Gospel values, have an influence in various spheres of society, by re-awakening the Christian roots of the European continent.

Napolitano Medal - On May 12, 2012, the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, awarded a commemorative medal to **TfE** as an expression of his appreciation for all its activities.

European St Ulrich Prize - On May 3, 2014, in the city of Dillingen in Bavaria, Germany, the European St Ulrich Foundation awarded the 2014 European St Ulrich Prize to **TfE** in recognition of its commitment to a culture of communion in Europe, through steps towards reconciliation and friendship rooted in the Gospel.

How are we organized?

TfE is the expression of a free convergence of Communities and Movements which, while preserving their own independence, form a network to share goals, each one giving the contribution of their own charism. We are European Christians who want to be involved as we see the need for a "culture of reciprocity".

The Steering Committee

By mutual agreement a Steering Committee (SC) has been established. The members of the Committee are generally those responsible for a Community or Movement. At present they are:



CHRISTOPHE D'ALOISIO
Syndesmos - Fraternité orthodoxe en Europe



PFR. THOMAS RÖMER
CVJM/YMCA - Munich



MICHELLE MORAN
ICCRS



GÉRARD TESTARD
Efesía



GERHARD PROSS
CVJM/YMCA - Esslingen
Treffen von Verantwortlichen



MARIA VOCE
Focolare Movement



ANDREA RICCARDI
St Egidio Community



P. HEINRICH WALTER
Schönstatt

Committee members live in profound fellowship with one another, in keeping with the "pact of mutual love", in order to be a model for all the realities of fellowship between Communities and Movements. In this way they preserve and promote a "spirit" and a "culture of collaboration".

The Steering Committee follows and encourages any initiatives consistent with the spirit of fellowship in **TfE**. It also promotes and organizes outdoor rallies and specific international events suited to giving visibility to the spirit of fellowship and life in Europe.

Communities and Movements “Friends of TtE”

The second group is formed by the leaders of Communities and Movements “Friends of Together for Europe”.

They meet annually to deepen the fellowship between Communities and Movements. They seek to understand the signs of the times and so identify guidelines for their engagement.

They update each other on the developments in fellowship and make decisions on possible joint initiatives. They foster communion and collaboration at the national level and organize national meetings.



Among others, members of the “Friends of Together for Europe” are⁴:

- ACER-MJO
- Agape Europe
- Alpha International
- Associazione comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII
- Associazione Internazionale dei Caterinati
- Beatitudes
- Catholic Charismatic Renewal
- Chemin Neuf
- Christusbruderschaft Selbitz
- Claire Amitié
- Communauté de l'Emmanuel
- Comunità Don Camillo
- Comunità Cattolica Shalom
- Comunità di Sant'Egidio
- Comunità di Vita Cristiana
- Comunità Gesù Risorto
- Comunità Quinta Dimensione
- Cursillos de cristiandad
- CVJM Esslingen
- CVJM Gesamtverband in Deutschland
- CVJM München
- Ecumenical Community of Bjarka-Saby
- Efesia
- ENC - European Network of Communities, Umkehr zum Herrn
- Epiphanie et la Croix
- Equipes du Rosaire
- Equipes Notre Dame
- Fondacio – chrétiens pour le monde
- Fraternité orthodoxe en Europe
- Geistliche Gemeinde-Erneuerung in der evangelischen Kirche
- Gemeinschaft Immanuel Ravensburg
- Hosanna - Annunciation and Saint Cosmas and Damian Centre
- International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services
- Istituzione Teresiana
- Jesus-Bruderschaft Gnadenthal
- Jordan-Stiftung
- Landeskirchliche Gemeinschaft Jahu
- Le Verbe de Vie
- Lega scouts adulti
- Lumen Christi
- Madonna House
- Metanoia - Movimento católico de profissionais
- Movimento dei Focolari
- Movimento Famiglie Nuove
- Movimento Giovani per un mondo unito
- Movimento parrocchiale e diocesano
- Movimento per un Mondo Migliore
- Movimento politico per l'unità
- Movimento Ragazzi per l'unità
- Movimento Umanità Nuova
- Offensive Junger Christen
- Ökumenisches Lebenszentrum Ottmaring
- Pax Christi
- Peterstiftelsen
- Preghiere e Parola
- Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo
- Schönstatt-Bewegung
- Schweizerischer Diakonieverein
- Sint-Michielsbeweging
- St Vincent of Paul Society
- Syndesmos - The World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth
- Teen Challenge
- The St. Philaret's Orthodox Christian Institute
- The Sword of the Spirit
- Vereinigte Bibelgruppen
- Vineyard
- Youth for Christ
- Youth with a Mission
- Zakonci za Kristusa (Couples for Christ)

Founding stages



October 31, 1999 - Historic date of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the doctrine of Justification by the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church in Augsburg. Among the attendees were various Protestant Evangelical and Catholic leaders and founders of Communities and Movements who on the evening of the same day met in Ottmaring. They had a powerful experience of fellowship that led them to sense an "imperative need", a call, so to speak, to begin a journey of fellowship and communion together.

March 29, 2000 - An event of profound reconciliation took place in Rothenburg, Germany, between a large group of Lutherans and Catholics. They were touched by the fact that the division among Christians is the main reason why Christianity is not seen as credible by many of our peers. They recognized their prejudices with regard to members of other Churches and various Communities and Movements; they realised how their words about others had been hurtful, as well as different attitudes which had not fostered fellowship, the fellowship Jesus wanted among his followers.

Becoming aware of all this and practising reciprocal forgiveness brought down all the barriers to a deep communion between them and freed spirit, will and strength to follow a new path.

December 8, 2001 - In Munich, Germany, about 600 leaders of more than 50 Communities and Movements made a "Pact of mutual love", in accordance with John's Gospel 13, 34. This Pact - which was renewed on a number of occasions, and included a growing number of Communities and Movements - has become the foundation of this fellowship and everything related to the **TfE**. It was the Pact itself that led to the awareness that fellowship between Communities and Movements is not an end in itself, but must have a broader purpose, which for us means to work together to spread a culture of fraternity across Europe.



The previous international events

2004 - **TfE** introduced itself to the European public for the first time with a big event in Stuttgart, at the Hanns-Martin Schleyer-Halle, with a worldwide satellite broadcast, thus casting seeds of fraternity among peoples even beyond our continent.

2007 - a second big event took place in Stuttgart. The number of Communities and Movements involved had grown from 150 to 250 and they were united by the commitment not only to work together, but to collaborate with all men and women, with individuals, groups, institutions and social and political entities, for what were called the Seven Yeses. This collaboration comes from a free choice. From time to time each Community and Movement decides afresh how and where it can best collaborate, according to its capacity and specific "charism".

2012 - A third international event took place in 2012 in Brussels, aimed at conveying the message to those at the heart of European politics. 152 local events took place across the continent at the same time, each with its own programme and all linked via internet with Brussels for the last part of the main event.



Manifesto of TtE 2012



We are European citizens, representing a large number of movements and communities that desire to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are Christians: Catholics, Evangelical-Lutherans, Anglicans, from the Orthodox Church and Free Churches, coming from different European countries and regions.

Despite the great differences in our places of origins and histories, we have become friends and we are connected by a fraternal collaboration.

We have experienced that our diversity is not a reason for division. On the contrary, it represents a multiplicity of gifts

and capacities. Together we have seen that unity is possible, a unity that does not lessen our identities, but instead strengthens them. The founding fathers of Europe also envisaged this. They were Christians who had the courage to have a great dream, a vision of unity after the tragedy of totalitarianism and colonialism, the horror of wars, the fathomless suffering of the Shoah and the death camps.

Facing the crisis that strikes our continent today, as Christians and Europeans, we feel that the answer is not to close ourselves in on national claims, antagonism, conflict and local policies, nor even to protect ourselves behind new walls of political and economic selfishness that divide us from each other, both within our continent as well as between the North and South of the world.

Europe is in need of greater unity. If our countries and our peoples face the challenges of a globalized world alone, they will be destined to irrelevance. Europe has a destiny and is a necessity for every one of our nations. A future of peace, prosperity and justice can only be obtained together, in mutual exchange and collaboration. A united Europe, in reconciled diversity, can create the civilization of a harmonious co-existence much needed by the world.



Today we want to affirm that our fraternity is at the service of unity and peace in Europe. Together we commit ourselves to a Europe characterized by unity, solidarity and hospitality. Our living together as Europeans must be a sign of this freedom, justice and solidarity. Together we want to build a Europe that is generously open to the challenges of the developing world; a Europe that puts the quest for peace and peaceful co-existence at the centre of its concerns and commitments.

Brussels - May 12, 2012

MITEINANDER FÜR TOGETHER FOR
ENSEMBLE POUR L' INSIEME PER L'
ΜΑΖΙ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ВМЕСТЕ ДЛЯ

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« Building bridges in Europe through gestures of reconciliation and friendship that reach beyond borders. A new wave of hope has begun, inspired by the Gospel »

*From the motivations of the European
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