

Press release – 02.05.2012

“Together for Europe” - 12 May 2012

The commitment of 300 Christian Movements and Communities of different Churches in Brussels and in more than 130 cities of the continent

*Welcome and Integration, Peace, Economy, Environment, Family
are among the main themes to be tackled*

The mosaic of *Together for Europe* 2012 is almost finalized – the third international event – that will be held on upcoming May 12th in Brussels and at the same time **in more than 130 cities of Europe**. There will be people of all generations belonging to more than **300 Movements and Christian communities** gathered together. **Brussels will become the central knot of this network of people**, which will make visible the dynamism of fraternity that already runs through the continent.

Peace, economy and finance, intercultural dialogue and welcome, social responsibility and participatory citizenship, environment, family problems and attention towards the new generations will be some of the themes that will be tackled and presented through experiences and proposals.

The main event of May 12th will be the meeting at the Square Meeting Centre of Brussels, where leaders of the European political, institutional and cultural panorama will gather together with the representatives of movements and communities of the whole of Europe. The programme includes the video-message of Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, an address from Romano Prodi, and among others, talks from Maria Voce (Focolare Movement), Andrea Riccardi (St. Egidio), Thomas Römer (YMCA of Munich).

The aim of Together for Europe 2012 is, in fact, that of weaving the vital reality produced by the movements that runs transversally through the life of the continent, with actions in the public sector of those who determine the international agenda.

In the crisis that is passing through Europe and which unfolds along different lines of fracture, *Together for Europe* is a manifestation of communion, responsibility and passion for the common house of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, a Europe that does not withdraw into itself, but sees that it has a common destiny with the other continents. A Europe which says that together we can hope and put together energies and ideas, brought forth by the different charisms and gifts of God that are at the origin of the constellation of groups that promote it.

At the conclusion of the convention, during a satellite and internet link-up with the local events in the rest of Europe, a **final manifesto** will be announced, directed to the institutions and citizens of Europe.

"Together for Europe" is the expression of a journey that gathers numerous activities of Christian communities and movements geared towards promoting reconciliation, peace and brotherhood in the European continent. It is also the title of big specific European events that took place in 2004 and 2007 in Stuttgart. Christian Communities and Movements of different Churches, as diverse as the cultures, languages and regions of Europe, are aware of what could divide them, but they value more the spirit, ideas, values and commitments that they share. They adhere to a pact of reciprocal love according to the Gospel (Jn. 13:34) which has become the aim of all their actions. Together they make the specific gift that each one brings more efficient for the good of the women and men of our continent, both now and in the future. They are present throughout Europe, promoting a culture of communion, in freedom and respecting diversity. They cultivate openness and dialogue with those who have at heart the future of Europe and its responsibility in front of the world.



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