

CHRISTLICHE BEWEGUNGEN UND GEMEINSCHAFTEN MITEINANDER FÜR EUROPA
CHRISTIAN MOVEMENTS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FOR EUROPE
COMMUNAUTÉS ET MOUVEMENTS CHRÉTIENS ENSEMBLE POUR L'EUROPE
MOVIMENTI E COMUNITÀ CRISTIANI INSIEME PER L'EUROPA
WSPÓLNOTY I RUCHY CHRZESCJAŃSKIE RAZEM DLA EUROPY
ХРИСТИАНСКИЕ ОБЩИНЫ И ДВИЖЕНИЯ ВМЕСТЕ ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
MOVIMENTOS Y COMUNIDADES CRISTIANOS JUNTOS POR EUROPA
MOVIMENTOS E COMUNIDADES CRISTÁS JUNTOS PELA EUROPA
ΧΡΗΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΕΣ ΚΙΝΗΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΜΑΖΙ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΗ



PRESS RELEASE N° 3

2nd international ecumenical gathering

TOGETHER FOR EUROPE

STUTT GART (Germany) - Saturday May 12, 2007

Hanns-Martin Schleyer Halle

Linked by satellite to simultaneous meetings

Over 250 movements and communities of various Churches from all over Europe

TOGETHER “with the strength of the lived Gospel, to contribute to the future of the continent, and to fill it with hope”

PRESS CONFERENCE

May 10, 14.30 - Liederhalle (venue of the preparatory Congress on May 10 and 11)

May 12, 12.45 - Press Room, Hanns-Martin Schleyer Halle

- Promoters of the event: twelve leaders and founders of movements and communities from all over Europe, mainly lay people, and from various churches: Catholics, Evangelicals, Orthodox and Anglican (including Alpha international, the Community of Saint Egidio, Fondacio, Focolare, Schoenstatt, Syndesmos)
- In collaboration with the committee of the “friends of Stuttgart”, made up of more than 50 movements and communities from Albania, Belgium, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Austria, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Slovakia and Spain. The Italian members of the committee include: Charismatic Renewal, Pope John XXIII Association, Cursillos, and Sermig.
- Members of over 250 movements and communities of various Churches from all over Europe will take part. It is expected that 10,000 people will attend.
- On May 12, the main Movements and Communities in Italy, promoters of “Together for Europe” will, besides sending delegates to Stuttgart, also be involved in Rome in the “Family Day”.

- **The theme of the family**, which is felt by Christians of all Churches to be fundamental for the future of Europe, is among the topics being addressed in Stuttgart. The family will also be part of the concluding message of future commitment, to be presented to politicians.
- **At the gathering**, there will be testimonies and presentation of initiatives in many other spheres: the city, economics and work, poverty both old and new, and justice and peace with particular reference to Africa.
- **The event in Stuttgart** is the culmination of intense preparations which began three years ago, immediately after the first meeting of this kind, also in Stuttgart, in May 2004. It represents a new stage in a journey of communion among Christians of Movements and Communities from various Churches and cultures, which began eight years ago.
- **Among those who have already confirmed** their attendance, are some of the most important political figures in Europe: The Prime Minister of Italy, Romano Prodi (who attended the 2004 event when he was President of the European Commission); the deputy Prime Minister and minister for regional development of the Czech Republic, Jiri Cunek; the Vice President of the European Commission, Jacques Barrot. Leading religious figures include: Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for the Union of Christians; the Orthodox Archbishop of all Albania, Anastasios Yannulatos, one of the presidents of the World Council of Churches; Jean-Arnold De Clermont, President of KEK (Council of 126 European Churches), and other representatives of Churches and ecumenical organizations. Chiara Lubich's speech will be read by one of her first companions.
- **Messages of support** have been received from many religious and political figures, including: Pope Benedict XVI, through Cardinal Bertone; Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams; The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Samuel Kobia; José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission (on video); The President of the German Federal Republic, Horst Koehler, and the Chancellor, Angela Merkel; the President of the Republic of Ireland, Mary McAleese, and the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Aherne.

Press service

- **Accreditation** This is required for the participation of journalists: available at http://www.miteinander-wie-sonst.de/_it/presse.html to be sent to info@europ2007.org
- **Photographs for publication** (300 dpi), press releases, and the latest programme may be obtained from http://www.miteinander-wie-sonst.de/_it/presse.html
- **Satellite Transmission** The gathering at Hanns-Martin Schleyer Halle will be transmitted by satellite. Technical information is available at http://www.miteinander-wie-sonst.de/_LIVE-it/satellite.php

- **Live linkups** "Together for Europe" will be directly relayed to Northern Ireland, Spain, Russia and Ukraine, and another 55 cities. The map showing reception points can be seen at http://www.miteinander-wie-sonst.de/_it/trasmission_07.html
- **"Together for Europe" recordings** These will be shown in 35 Italian cities and a further 27 places in Europe. More information at http://www.miteinander-wie-sonst.de/_it/in-differita_07.html

Patrons of "Together for Europe 2007". The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso; The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Italy); The Region of Lazio; The President of the Council of Ministers of Baden-Wurttemberg, Gunther Oettinger.

The May 12 event is preceded and prepared by

the Congress, "TOGETHER ON THE WAY", for leaders and co-workers of Movements and Communities, in Stuttgart on May 10 and 11. Over 20 forums and 16 round table discussions will deal with a variety of themes including: evangelisation, ecumenism, marriage and the family, the defence of life, political commitment, immigration, economics, the environment, the mass media and peace and justice.

Promoters of the Event: Friedrich Aschoff, **Charismatic Renewal in Germany**; Christophe D'Aloisio, **Syndesmos** -international fraternity of 126 orthodox youth organisations; Nicky Gumbel, **Alpha International** - Evangelization courses, born in the Church of England; Chiara Lubich, **Focolare Movement**; Michael J. Marmann, **Schönstatt movement (catholic)**; Helmut Nicklas, **YMCA**; Ulrich Parzany, **Pro Christ**, evangelization initiative in the German Evangelical -Lutheran Church ; Gerhard Pross, **Coordinator of periodical meetings of leaders of Evangelical Movements and Communities**; Andrea Riccardi, **St Egidio Community**; Thomas Römer, **Munich YMCA**; Gérard Testard, **Fondacio international** - born in the Catholic Church in France; Sr. Anna-Maria aus der Wiesche, **Fraternity of Christ of Selbitz**, born in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany.

Press Office

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