

Press Release – 11.14.2011

Journeying towards Brussels

Organisers of "Together for Europe" prepare the third international meeting

There were 100 organizers gathered together in Sassone (RM) from the 10th to the 12th of November 2011; founders and persons in charge of different movements and Christian communities, representing the 250 groups in all the continent who adhere to the initiative „*Together for Europe*“. The purpose of this meeting was the preparation of the event to be held on the 12th of May 2012 that foresees a main program in Brussels and numerous other initiatives promoted contemporaneously in many cities of Europe. There are around 130 that have been announced as of today.

"Either Europe is united or it will disappear from world history". According to the words of Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Community of St. Egidio, the meeting on the 12th of May hopes to speak to the Europeans – from politicians to the common citizens – of the „*needs of Europe*“. And to do this with a language of humanized politics, through a message of culture and of spirit.

It is a common journey of more than 10 years that has made it possible for the movements and communities that adhere to this initiative to express this desire: „*Our friendship must become fruitful* – Riccardi continues -. *We had the European fathers. Today we must be European brothers, and through our movements we must spread this message*“. According to Gérard Testard, of the French movement “Fondacio chrétiens pour le monde”: “*We need one another and 'Together for Europe' is not a movement: it is a profound communion among believers, who come from very diverse experiences. It is a difficult task but this is what is asked of us for Europe*”.

There are many points on which the preparation of the event of 2012 is based; the rediscovery of the original intentions which had given life to project Europe; the capacity to give hope and a voice to the youth; a culture of living together among those who are different, a welcoming openness, service to the other continents.

The youth are also present with their initiative: “Face2Faith in Europe”, for example, which is a five-day seminar in Lovanio on the meaning of friendship that starts from social networks and, substantiated by the concept of friendship that the Gospel offers, up to the point of being participants in the political and cultural realms, in tune with the other generations.

Brussels 2012 is the third big event promoted by “Together for Europe”, after the three preceding stages: in 2004 and in 2007 in Stuttgart and in 2009 with the national events.

“**Together for Europe**” is a conglomeration of relationships among movements and Christian communities. A network which is already present in Europe due to the existence of the very same movements and communities that adhere to the initiative, is composed of people who are Anglicans, Orthodox, Catholics, Evangelicals and members of the Free churches. Their commitment is to revive the Christian soul of the (European) continent.

Official website: www.together4europe.org

TOGETHER FOR EUROPE - Press Office - press@together4europe.org

Benjamim Ferreira cell. +39 348 4754063 benjamim.ferreira@focolare.org