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Right-wing populism, European dialogue and White Paper 2016, Topics discussed during the Commission's autumn meeting

Prompted by the "refugee crisis" the German Commission for Justice and Peace dealt with the prerequisites for a joint European foreign and security policy and adopted an incentives paper during the autumn meeting held in Berlin on 7/8 October 2016. In this paper the Commission pleads for a broad European dialogue to overcome the political and cultural crisis in the EU.

Zbigniew Nosowski, editor in chief of the Polish Catholic magazine *Więź*, gave the members of the Commission an insight into the complex political and social structures in our neighbouring country Poland. Not only the response right-wing populist tendencies and interpretative patterns have found in large parts of the population received sharper contours by this. Nosowski also mentioned those social developments supporting openness, tolerance and a positive image of the future.

Moreover, the Commission dealt intensively with the White Paper on security policy 2016. In its comment, in which the White Paper is critically evaluated in detail, the Commission points out that a security policy concentrating mainly on handling threats as well as on European and German security interests does not go far enough. The Commission still misses a peace policy role model with a clear transformation perspective where security policy may offer a sustainable contribution to peace.

The incentives paper for a new European dialogue and the comment on the White Paper can be downloaded at www.justitia-et-pax.de.

International Symposium on Nuclear Disarmament

Following the invitation of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and in cooperation with the US Bishops' Conference an international colloquium on nuclear disarmament was held in London on 24/25 May 2016. The German Commission for Justice and Peace was represented by the president, by Mr Pöner, Professor Dr Justenhoven and Dr Lüer. It became obvious that the handling of the subject matter is still characterised by the final stage of the bloc confrontation. The global changes showing the proliferation problems in a new light – e.g. in the context of terrorism and criminal networks – must be included into the discourse. At present the Holy See is planning an international conference in Rome on nuclear disarmament. The idea to join the humanitarian initiative on the abolition of nuclear weapons which has been signed by 157 states in the meantime is regarded with much sympathy.

"Europe's vocation to promote peace in the world"

On 14 June 2016, the COMECE bishops published a report on "Europe's vocation to promote peace in the world" prepared together with JP Europe on the occasion of the planned global EU strategy on foreign and security policy. The text appears on the JP Website under the heading "Aktuell" in the German and the English language.



Nosowski with Bishop Ackermann

German-Polish exhibition on reconciliation

The mobile version of the two main exhibitions in Berlin and Wrocław was shown in Leipzig during the Katholikentag and in the Polish Institute of National Remembrance starting on 30 May. The members of the contact group of the German and Polish Bishops' Conferences who were holding a meeting at the same time were present during the opening of the exhibition in Warsaw as well as the Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The exhibition was very well received.

From 3 – 6 September the exhibition was presented at Huysburg on the occasion of the diocesan pilgrimage. Later it was shown in Magdeburg (7-25 September) and in Pforzheim (26 September – 9 October). The exhibition is available for hire by the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation.

European Workshop on dealing with the past burdened by violence in Auschwitz

From 11 - 16 August the 7th European Workshop on dealing with the past burdened by violence was organised by the MKF in Oswiecim. Fortunately this time it was possible to win representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church to participate in the Workshop. The encounters and talks were very encouraging.

European Workshop on dealing with the past of Bosnia-Herzegovina burdened by violence

The 3rd Workshop on Bosnia took place from 16 – 24 September and was characterized by considerable dynamics which was caused by a new programme item in Prijedor and by a small memorial ceremony held in Tomasica. During the Workshop a memorial plaque was placed near the mass grave in Tomasica. This action had been developed after experiences made in the past years and it was welcomed in December 2015 by all parties involved.



Memorial plaque near the mass grave in Tomasica

The reason for this activity was the complaint presented by the local Bosnian community that the Serbian authorities did not give their permission to place this kind of plaque. Placing the memorial plaque in the presence of the representative of Reis-ul-Lema, Efendi Smahic, was perceived as a strong signal by the press.

Workshop with German, Polish and French regular officers on dealing with trauma and violence in Oswiecim

From 25 -29 October the fifth international Workshop with regular officers on dealing with trauma and violence took place in Oswiecim.

Forum Menschenrechte

The members of the plenary session of the Forum Menschenrechte informed themselves about the dimensions of racist violence in Germany by contributions made by the Amadeo Antonio Foundation and by experience reports presented by the Initiative of Black People in Germany (ISL e.V.). It became obvious that the number and the intensity of attacks have increased considerably in the last years.

During this year's talk with Federal Foreign Minister Steinmeier on 21 June 2016, the Forum explored, among other things, the necessity for a better visibility of foreign policy's orientation towards the basic principles of human rights. The present refugee policy which further undermines the individual right of asylum was criticised. According to the Forum the current draft of the *Nationaler Aktionsplan Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte* (National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights) shows that human rights are not consistently implemented in practice. The Forum demanded to ask companies to keep their obligations in regard to human rights due diligence along the supply chain. Finally the process of developing "*Leitlinien Krisenengagement und Friedensförderung*" (*Guidelines on crisis engagement and peace promotion*) was addressed. In this context the Forum expressed its expectation that civil forms of crisis management should be given primacy over military



German-Polish exhibition during the Katholikentag in Leipzig 2016

forms. To this purpose the necessary instruments have to be improved.

Religious freedom in Vietnam

After the journey of the President of the German Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Marx, to Vietnam a talk was held with Vietnamese members of parliament on 21 September 2016 with the assistance of the German Embassy and in close consultation with the local church. Professor Dr Gernot Sydow from the University of Münster was invited to the talk. Members of the National Assembly Committee on Culture and Education talked with him about the experiences European states made with their legislation as far as religion is concerned.

A few issues of the draft of the law on belief and religion which shall be submitted to parliament in November 2016 were discussed.

German sustainability strategy

In 2002 a sustainability strategy for German politics was developed. Because of the Agenda 2030 people realised that this sustainability strategy has to include more than just the ecological sustainability. For this reason on 31 May 2016, the Federal Chancellor published a draft updating of the German sustainability strategy. It shall indicate the direction for politics regarding all objectives of the agenda and it shall reflect Germany's responsibility for ecological, economic and social sustainability not only for Germany but also for the world. The deadline for the transmission of comments expired on 31 July 2016. With the assistance of Professor Wallacher (chairman sector of development) and Dr Demele (chairman of the discussion group trade unions) Justice and Peace commented on the draft.

SDG Video competition

"Weltwunder? Geht doch!" ("World wonders? There you go!") This was the headline of a SDG video competition opened by bishop Ackermann at the Katholikentag. The members of the jury and the competition are presented at the Website www.weltwunder.tv. The Website can be accessed at katholisch.de, at Youtube and Facebook. The winners of the competition received their awards on 2 October 2016 at the festival of the Day of German Unity celebrated in Dresden. The project shall be continued under the leadership of the Association of German Catholic Youth (BDKJ).

Workshop labour inspection

The workshop on labour inspection in a globalized world took place in Frankfurt on 19 October 2016. 32 international experts of the International Labour Organisation, labour inspection, politics, trade unions, science and Catholic associations, discussed about the challenges for an effective labour inspection which can offer protection from exploitation and an undermining of labour rights. A glance across the border to Belgium with labour inspector Hilaire Willems and to France with Professor Dr Fabienne Muller was particularly useful. The thesis paper used as a basis for the discussions is being prepared as a comment of the discussion group trade unions and Justice and Peace and shall give an impetus to the G20 Presidency and to the Federal elections in 2017.

Working group orientation towards the poor /Agricultural dialogue

A dialogue on questions of agricultural policy took place at the Franz-Hitze-Haus in Münster on 8/9 November 2016 with representatives of Catholic associations. With the help of visits to agricultural holdings and by dealing with guiding principles of the associations the dialogue illustrated the different perspectives regarding the situation of agriculture.



Participants of the Workshops on the law on belief and religion



Bishop Ackermann opens the SDG video competition at the Katholikentag in Leipzig, left to him Anna Grebe, BDKJ, and Michael Herti, Katholische Fernseh-arbeit and right to him YouTuber DorFuchs (Blogger Johann Beurich)

Decent work in the Agenda 2030 - international



Cardinal Turkson and Guy Rider (centre) with the seminar participants in Rome

From 1 May – 5 May 2016, the global seminar “Sustainable Development and the Future of Work in the Context of the Jubilee of Mercy” took place in Rome. Main organisers were the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Caritas Internationalis. As regards contents the seminar was shaped by contributions by the Catholic-Inspired Organisations related to the ILO, by a large number of Jesuits and by worker priests from the United States.

The German Commission for Justice and Peace was able to support 15 participants and at the same time link the activities with the Joint Action Committee Decent Work in Uganda (JACODeWU) and with others. Guy Rider, Director-General of the ILO, joined the seminar on the last day and welcomed the final documents in which the present organisations oblige themselves to promote decent work and social dialogue by their cooperation and to make a positive contribution not only to the implementation of goal 8 of the Agenda 2030 but also to the ILO initiative “The Future of Work” on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. In the meantime preparations for further activities have started, e.g. in Uganda with local partners and in Brussels with the COMECE. At the International Council of the International Young Christian Workers, Mrs Hagemann held a welcoming speech in Aachen in September 2016.

Cooperation with the International Labour Conference (ILC)/ Study on 25 years of the UN Migrant Workers Convention “Keeping on the Move”

From 30 May to 3 June 2016, the Catholic-Inspired Organisations organised an extensive programme during the 105th session of the ILC. On 3 June 2016, Mrs Hagemann made a contribution to the general debate. The ‘Keeping on the Move’ – Study on the Genesis of the 1990 Convention on the Rights of All Migrant workers and their Families and its Implications today’, which was already presented in parts to civil society on the last GFMD in Istanbul in October 2015, has been published as issue No 130 of the publication series *Gerechtigkeit und Frieden (justice and peace)*.

During the ILC held this year the study was presented in the context of civil society activities. The documentation on the Workshop “Decent Work along Global Value Chains: A Call for Responsibility and an Opportunity for Solidarity” has been published and is available at the JP Website.

Cooperation with PRAYAS and Südwind e.V.

The studies “Hard work for soft fibres” and “Make in India” are the results of the cooperation with Südwind e.V., the Institute for Economics and Ecumenism, and PRAYAS, an Indian organisation for human rights and migrant workers in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The English version of the studies has been published as issue No 132 of the publication series *Gerechtigkeit und Frieden* so that they are available for international partners of the Clean Clothes Campaign, the standard organisations and auditors. On 2 August 2016, a meeting of the GOTS auditors in India was held where the recommendations given in the study were discussed. It should be noted that the recommendations given in the study are taken very seriously by the Indian auditors and GOTS representatives and now GOTS and PRAYAS are developing an implementation plan for the cooperation of GOTS with neutral third experts. Also in Germany the study was discussed with certification bodies (GOTS, Fair Wear and others) on 24 October 2016.



Professor Dr Nicola Piper, University of Sydney, Migration expert and author of ‘Keeping on the Move’ at the ILC Workshop 2016

Dialogue between the Churches and the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMEL)

The last part of the dialogue held on 7 July 2016 at the BMEL in Berlin had been prepared on the part of the Catholic Church by Justice and Peace in cooperation with Misereor and the International Rural Service (ILD). The Evangelical Church took part with the relief agency *Brot für die Welt* (bread for the world). The representatives of *Brot für die Welt* felt the dialogue parts developed so far to be unsatisfactory, because the discrepancies between the church agricultural actors became quite obvious. The Minister's Green Paper is being prepared now. The members of both churches who had met in the office of the protestant representative welcomed the idea to continue the dialogue with each other. It was agreed to comment on the Green Paper in due course. The initiative will be taken by the prelates.

New Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

In his congratulatory letter to Cardinal Turkson, who was named Prefect of the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development by Pope Francis, bishop Ackermann welcomed this step towards the reform of the Roman Curia. He expressed his hope that this concentration of the former *Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace*, the *Pontifical Council "Cor Unum"*, the *Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People* and the *Pontifical Council for Pastoral Health Care Workers* will strengthen the service of all parties involved and will support and promote the cooperation with the national Commissions for Justice and Peace.

JP Europe, International Workshop and General Assembly in Luxemburg and Schengen

Delegates of 21 European JP Commissions met in Luxemburg from Friday, 30 September, to Monday, 3 October 2016, to hold their General Assembly and the International Workshop "Europe's security: Responsibility of States, of the Union and of citizens". "Build bridges of justice rather than walls of fear" is the title of the final declaration. The concerted action planned for 2017 will deal with the issue of *Europe's role and responsibility*.

The experiences made in Germany with the Permanent Secretariat of JP Europe were evaluated positively by the Board. In addition, the concerted actions of the past years which identified and examined critical developments at an early stage were appreciated.

Concerted Action 2016 by Justice and Peace Europe on growing economic inequality and taxation

With the beginning of Lent the Conference of the European Justice and Peace Commissions started its annual concerted action 2016 on growing economic inequality and taxation. The Commissions will support the new effort by the European Commission to harmonise corporate tax bases, to close tax havens and advocate the due transposition of an EU directive on the automatic exchange of tax rulings into national law by 1 January 2017. In addition, national governments shall be involved in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) projects developed by the OECD.

GKKE executive committee

On 26 April 2016, the GKKE executive committee met the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr Gerd Müller, in Berlin at the house of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). Three subject matters were discussed: TTIP and possible consequences for the global South, combating the causes of flight in the context of the SDG and development. During its meeting held on 12 September 2016 the executive committee conferred with Dr Kuhn, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), on the implementation and the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The SDG will present a comprehensive reference framework for GKKE's work with focussing especially on Goal 16



Meeting of European Justice and Peace delegates in the "Spirit of Schengen"

(promote peaceful and inclusive societies). Moreover, it was decided to establish a new expert group "Contribution of the churches to a just peace in Africa". Dr Jörg Lüer was appointed to represent JP in this group. In addition, it was decided to continue the expert group pharmanalogue as a dialogue platform with two meetings to be held annually.

25 years GKKE pharma-dialogue, Workshop on 06/07 June 2016 in Berlin

"25 years GKKE pharma-dialogue – Learning experience of a controversial development partnership in the health sector". This was the title of an evaluation workshop organised by GKKE and vfa (Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies). The evaluation report presented by Dr Walter Bruchhausen was the basis and the starting point of the workshop. In the context of the different cooperations the success story of the Minilabs established to identify counterfeit and inferior medicines was underlined. In the meantime, 750 Minilabs are used world-wide.

In a panel discussion the perspectives of the pharmaceutical dialogue were presented to the public. The members of the panel and the other participants agreed that despite all limitations and difficulties the cooperation between the churches and the pharmaceutical industry is an important development or multi-actors partnership in the sense of SDG 17, No. 16. The ongoing cooperation on the training of pharmaceutical specialists in Tanzania has been regarded as a positive example.

World Health Summit and Stakeholder Meeting

Using the heading "Strengthening Health Systems by Education and Training. Capacity Building through Multi Stakeholder Partnerships" GKKE and vfa presented their cooperation with their partners from Tanzania at the World Health Summit in Berlin on 11 October 2016.

Afterwards an evaluation of the strong and the weak points of the access project was carried out during a stakeholder meeting with the Tanzanian partners in Berlin. Moreover, contributions to a better pharmaceutical training in Tanzania after 2016 were discussed. The partners from governmental development cooperation in Germany and Tanzania, who had taken part in the dialogue held by EDP in Dar es Salaam in February 2016, participated in the meeting as well as members of the GIZ and the KfW in Tanzania. GIZ and KfW want to take up the results of the access project and use them in current plans and they want to advance cooperation in the context of the East African Community which might be very convenient for the original aims of the access project.

GKKE statement on the Military Equipment Export Report 2015 of the Federal Government

In a statement on the Military Equipment Export Report 2015, published by the Federal Government on 6 July 2016, GKKE described the arms export policy as a continuing disaster. At the same time it demands a revision of the legal foundations.

Consultation process "The future of arms export control"

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) had invited GKKE to take part in a Commission on the future of arms export control, to appoint an external expert and to present a comment on the different issues, especially on the legal foundations. GKKE fulfilled this request. The comments issued by GKKE and the chairman of the expert group are available at the BMWi Website. The Commission changed into a consultation process which is accompanied by an interministerial working group. In a first expert hearing the formation of an opinion was dealt with.

GKKE publication on the German raw materials policy

The demands of the GKKE expert group on coherence are published in Issue 63 of the GKKE publication series with the heading "Deutsche Rohstoffpolitik und Politikkohärenz für Entwicklung" (German raw materials policy and po-



Panel from left to right:
Heiko Warnken, BMZ; Birgit Fischer (vfa); Dr Adelheid Müller-Lissner (Chair); Dr Bernhard Köhler, St. Luke Foundation/ Tanzania, Kordula Schulz-Asche MP, Committee on Health

litical coherence for development). In the cover letter to the publication addressed to the members of the Bundestag and of the Federal Government it is said that the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights which is currently prepared by the Federal Government "provides the unique opportunity to tackle structural deficits as regards human rights protection in the raw materials industry and in other areas of the economy".

Karl-Heinz Hein-Rothenbücher has passed away

On 19 July 2016, Karl-Heinz Hein-Rothenbücher, the former CEO of the Medical Mission Institute Würzburg, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. He was the driving force in the GKKE pharmaceutical dialogue and as the former chairman and spokesman of the church group he was largely responsible for its success. Without him the EPD in Tanzania and the access project would not have been initiated. As regards issues of Global Health he was the main contact at universal church level in Germany for many partners in the South and in the North.

Obituary on Prelate Grande



Prelate Dieter Grande, the co-founder of Justice and Peace in the GDR died in Dresden at the end of April 2016. In difficult circumstances he established JP work "in the tentacles of the octopus" of the national security authorities, was commissioner and later Secretary to the working group Justice and Peace of the Berlin Bishops' Conference from 1978 to 1991, the year of the union with the German Commission for Justice and Peace in West Germany. He promoted the Conciliar Process for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in the GDR and later in East Germany and he made important contributions to the European Ecumenical Assemblies in Basel (1989) and Graz (1997), especially in the field of reconciliation processes.

He shared important experiences made in the period after the German Reunification with the project group "Versöhnungsprozesse und Traumabearbeitung" (reconciliation processes and treatment of trauma) of the JP Commission (1999 to 2004). An obituary in which his merits are mentioned has been published at the JP Website.

Imprint

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Web: www.justitia-et-pax.de
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Karl-Heinz Hein-Rothenbücher (left) with Auxiliary Bishop Ulrich Boom at the EDP in Tanzania in February 2016

Prelate Dieter Grande at the 40th anniversary of Justice and Peace in Bad Honnef in December 2007

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German Commission for Justice and Peace – A joint institution of the German Bishops' Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics for promoting development, human rights and peace