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*THE EUROPEAN NETWORK CHURCH ON THE MOVE*  
*RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN ÉGLISES ET LIBERTÉS*  
*EUROPÄISCHES NETZWERK KIRCHE IM AUFBRUCH*  
*RED EUROPEA IGLESIA POR LA LIBERTAD*

Association dotée du statut participatif au Conseil de l'Europe  
Association enjoying participatory status to the Council of Europe

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Network Church on the Move**

**Kirche im Aufbruch –Church on the Move- Iglesia por la Libertad**

**Madrid 9-12 2013**

### **Europe Workshop**

#### **Report on the inter-convictional activities of the G3i**

Report written by François Becker, Chair of the G3i  
representative of the European Network Church on the Move to the Council of Europe

Since the last general assembly, the members of the G3i have met every two months, following a more frequent meetings in January to finalise study day.

Each meeting includes : a tour of the outlook of events that might interest the G3i, an in-depth reflection, an analysis of the relations with the ENORB network, a follow up to the study day of 24th January 2012 and preparation continuing the work of G3i.

In spite of its dynamism and growing popularity, the G3i risks running out of breath due to the lack of members participating in its activities and of losing its interconvictional character due to the lack of renewal of its participants in their different beliefs. An important day of recollection has been organised for next 21st May and the Chair of the French youth movement « Coexister » (Coexist) has been invited to present the movement.

The work of this year has essentially been dedicated to following up our study day, especially by the publication of the minutes in two languages, to our relationship with ENORB, to pursuing our reflection on interconvictionality and what that implies for european institutions and finally to a reflection on contacts with the European Union... On a practical plane, the development of the visibility of G3i by a display and an internet website. These activities are detailed as follows :

#### **1) Follow up on the Study Day at the Council of Europe**

1) The study day, organised on the 24th January 2012, strongly supported by the Council of Europe, allowed recommendations to be made. These recommendations were presented and transmitted by François Becker to the working group of the OING Conference in charge of relations with the European Union & Council of Europe.

2) These recommendations have led to a proposal for an intervention at the World Forum of Democracy scheduled for next November.

3) The minutes of this day have been written in English & French. Publibook, which published the previous volume of G3i, has offered publication.

Amongst the achievements of the study day, one can see

- a growing knowledge about G3i : it begins to be mentioned in the Council of Europe, as is the word « interconvictional » ; 4 members of G3i were invited to the Durrés Meeting organized by the Council of Europe last september : Michel Aguilar, James Barnett, François Becker, Gabriel Nissim. They were all invited to speak and their speeches are on the website of the Council of Europe
- an article was published in the Diasporique magazine
- Conferences about the G3i and interconvictionality took place in October 2012 at Sélestat and in May 2013 in Lille,:

## **2) Contacts with the European Union**

The work done by G3i at the Council of Europe has allowed it to enter into contact with the institutions of the European Union :

- contact with the BEPA (Bureau of European Policy Advisors) : Mme Von Schnurbein was invited to the G3i on 2nd April 2012. A report was made and this interview has opened new prospects discussed below.
- A reflection has been made on the best way to contact the European Parliament but no action has yet been taken. Meetings have taken place via ENORB (European Network on Religion & Belief)

## **3) Relations with ENORB**

The G3i is a member of the founder associations of ENORB and was represented on the board of ENORB, 2012 (see ENORB website : <http://www.enorb.eu/>). It has also contributed to the preparation of different events organized by ENORB.

ENORB is engaged on a project with the Justice department about discrimination facing religions and non-religious beliefs. The G3i is discussing this project with ENORB.

Additionally, the G3i must reflect on desacralising certain words like *sacred*, *spirituality* and others whose use have been appropriated by religions thus limiting their meaning.

## **4) Follow up on work and reflections for the future : preparations for a working weekend at the Goethe Foundation Centre at Klingenthal**

Based on the results of Study Day, the G3i has been able to identify several questions that the european institutions must resolve :

- shortcomings in the putting into practice of articles I.11 & II.17,
- lack of participative democracy due to lack of consultation with associations since the consultations are limited to leaders of the Churches and there is a lack of equality in the treatment accorded to other convictions and beliefs.
- The pluriconvictional character of Europe has not been taken into account and the institutions limit themselves to individual consultations with groups of selected convictions and beliefs.
- the importance of secularism for Europe

In this perspective, see the working weekend financed by the Goethe Foundation at **Klingenthal Castle (on 25th to 27th October 2013)**

The main subject concerns secularism and interconvictionality in the heart of the European democracy.

*We want to strongly articulate the democratic and secularist idea : Secularism, interconvictionality and collective belonging in the democratic framework of Europe.*

In fact, without any real control, the Commission exercises *de facto* an unqualified sovereignty and its decisions are imposed not only on the Parliament but also on the European Council (heads of State). So it is important for the opinion of the citizens to be taken into account or the European idea will be in danger of being rejected by the people concerned. It is vital politically that the 3i must be fully defined.

And this is the reason for the final title proposed for the next study days :

### **EUROPEAN FEMALE AND MALE CITIZENS**

- a) in their relationships with their fellow citizens : within each European nation
- b) in their relationships with the political powers : States and European political Institutions.

Soon there will be European elections. *We will have to say something.* With this question in view, our next study days will allow us to prepare the question.

### **5) The visibility of G3i and communications**

The G3i has delayed in putting into place its communications policy.

- its internet site is still not operational due to a lack of personnel. A name for the domain has been purchased: G3i.eu and James Barnett is working on organizing the website. A demonstration is ready.

- a display presenting the activities of G3i is still under preparation. A first project has already been written and discussed. This display will be published in the first months of 2013.

### **6) Motion**

The European Network Church on the Move, having taken note of the activities of G3i and its projects, gives its agreement to continue to support G3i