

**Contents**

- ♦ GKKE Africa forum before G8 Summit
- ♦ Youth Hearing on G8 Summit
- ♦ Decent work in a globalised world
- ♦ MEF annual meeting
- ♦ Ethical investment in microfinance
- ♦ Meeting with the Orthodoxy
- ♦ Maximilian-Kolbe-Stiftung
- ♦ Political dialogue on white paper on security policies
- ♦ Round table on gender issues

***"Reform partnership with Africa" – international GKKE forum in preparation of the G8 summit***

Bishop Wolfgang Huber, chairman of the EKD Council, and Archbishop Ludwig Schick, president of the Commission for International Church Affairs of the German Bishops' Conference, urged the G8 countries to fulfil their promises on aid for Africa and to give the theory of a deepened partnership a concrete shape. At the international GKKE forum on "Reform partnership with Africa" which was held in Berlin on 27 April 2007, they said that urgent action is required if the Millennium Development Goals, in particular reducing poverty by half in Africa, are to be achieved by 2015. Special efforts are needed as far as the quantity and quality of aid are concerned, they said.

Federal Minister Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul made clear that the G8 Summit will focus on a "practical" approach to aid for Africa. It will be important for the industrial countries to support the reform efforts of African countries based on their NePAD initiatives.

Bishop Paul Bemile from the diocese of Wa, Ghana, and Rev. Oliver Kisaka Simiyu of the Church Council of Kenya reported on the progress being made with the NePAD initiative which had been initiated by African countries in 2002, e.g. in Africa-wide cooperation, specifically the mutual monitoring of national policies by experts from other African countries. They impressively confirmed that the Christian Churches are powerful actors within the African societies, not only with regard to education and health, but also with regard to their commitment to overcoming injustice and violence and establishing democracy. But there is still a lot to be done as far as the promises of the industrial nations and the African countries' own objectives are concerned.

*For statements and press releases, please visit the "aktuell" section at [www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de).*

***Youth Hearing on G8 Summit***

Following the successful International Youth Hearing for Justice and Peace which had been held on the occasion of World Youth Day in August 2005, the Association of Young German Catholics (BDKJ), Misereor and JP Germany have organized another Youth Hearing on the G8 Summit which is scheduled for 19 May 2007. The hearing will take place at the UN Campus in Bonn.

Politicians and Church representatives have been invited to take part in four workshops on the following subjects: "the right to health", "the right to food / food security", "the right to education / education for all", and "the right to labour / social responsibility in the globalization process".

The day will end with a White Band Night in the city centre of Bonn, an event of the "Deine Stimme gegen Armut" initiative (Your voice against poverty).

*More information at [www.youthhearing.org](http://www.youthhearing.org).*

### ***"Decent work in a globalised world"***

JP Germany and the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB) published a guide on "Decent work in a globalised world" on 1 May 2007. "The risk of exploitation is inherent in the globalisation of markets until worldwide standards for labour protection are agreed, such as the core labour standards demanded by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)," said Bishop Dr. Reinhard Marx in a joint press release.

*For the press release and guide, please visit the "Presse" section at [www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de).*

### ***JP Germany in dialogue with trade unions***

In a meeting on 19 March 2007, the German Commission for Justice and Peace and specialised trade unions discussed the problems relating to the employment of foreign seasonal and skilled workers as well as initiatives and approaches of the Church to support workers in precarious employment in Germany. The ground was prepared for a cooperation between the delegate for Polish language ministry in Germany and the IG Bau, NGG and ver.di trade unions, which will initially focus on the exchange of information.

### ***Meeting of the diocesan committees on "mission, development, peace" (MEF) and delegates for international Church affairs***

The annual MEF meeting 2007 was held at Bistumshaus Speyer from 22 to 24 February. A main discussion topic was "Agricultural trade as a test case for fair world trade conditions". The diocesan activities with regard to fair trade were explored and reviewed in a conversation with Prof. Wallacher. It was emphasised that it is urgently necessary to combine conceptual and political lobbying at national level with far-reaching awareness-building initiatives in the dioceses. The participants also talked about the mandate of the diocesan departments for international Church affairs with regard to development politics and about the activities of JP Germany in the field of informal economy and precarious employment.

### ***General Secretaries of European JP Commissions meet in Verdun***

The annual meeting of General Secretaries took place in Verdun from 16 to 18 March 2007. They reviewed the recent concerted action on the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers and prepared the next concerted action on issues of poverty alleviation. The General Secretaries visited the former battlefields of Verdun and celebrated the holy eucharist at the chapel at the site.

### ***Workshop on "Ethical investment in microfinance"***

The workshop on ethical investment with a particular focus on microfinance was jointly organised by JP Germany and EDP e.V. The participants discussed the field of tension between economy, ethics and development. A ZdK working group is preparing a statement on ethical investment with a special emphasis on microfinance. Taking into account this working process, the workshop held on 18 April 2007 brought together representatives of the Catholic Church, financial institutions of the Church, diocesan financial experts, selected EDP participants and experts from rating agencies etc.

"The Church is called to clearly evaluate the economic, social and ecological consequences of financial investments and to make this an issue, also when its own funds are concerned," said Benno Wagner, the vice managing director of the Association of German Dioceses (VDD). The principle of ethical investment can help to refine the sense of responsibility in the world of finance.

*Programme and list of participants in the "aktuell" section at [www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de).*

### ***Meeting with MPs on agricultural trade***

JP Germany continued a series of discussions with the German farmers' union and politicians. The most recent meeting was held in Berlin on 7 March 2007 and was attended by representatives of the German parliamentary committees on Economic Cooperation and Development and on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. The chairpersons of the two committees and altogether seven MPs of all parties welcomed this initiative. The discussions focussed on the subjects of climate change, energy production in connection with new approaches to multifunctional agriculture, and qualified access to markets to ensure food security and food autonomy. It is considered to organize an exposure and dialogue programme on the subject of agricultural trade.

### ***Meeting with the Orthodoxy***

In preparation for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) in Sibiu, JP Germany talked with representatives of the Orthodoxy about their socio-ethical perspectives and explored opportunities to develop common perspectives with regard to Sibiu. In a study session at the Commission's spring meeting on 30 March 2007, Prof. Dr. Athanasios Vletsis of the institute of Orthodox Theology at LMU München explained that the development of the Orthodox Churches has always been closely connected with the particular state and national histories. "Exploring the historical contexts is key to understanding Orthodox theology and social teaching and to understanding the relationship of State and Church," said Prof. Stobbe and Dr. Oeldemann.

The preparations for Sibiu are under way. The outcome of EEA3 will be different from those of EEA1 in Basle and of EEA2 in Graz. The participants agreed that the assembly in Sibiu involves particular opportunities for the dialogue with Eastern Europe and the Orthodoxy.

### ***Maximilian-Kolbe-Stiftung***

After thorough consultations, the German Bishops' Conference decided to support the establishment of Maximilian-Kolbe-Stiftung. To this end, the unused funds from the Church's forced labourers compensation fund will be transferred to the newly established foundation. Maximilian-Kolbe-Stiftung is to promote the reconciliation programmes of the Church by developing and strengthening innovative projects. With this decision, the German bishops took up a recommendation, which has long been brought forward by the German Commission for Justice and Peace.

### ***Political dialogue on white paper on security policies***

The German Commission for Justice and Peace and the Bishopric of the Forces will host a political dialogue meeting at Katholische Akademie Berlin on 24 May 2007 which will deal with the "2006 white paper on the German security policy and the future of the German army", published by the German government in October 2006.

### ***Round table on gender issues***

The round table on gender issues will take place at Katholische Akademie Berlin on 15 May focusing on the subject of "Dealing with a violence-burdened past – What is the use of the gender perspective?". The meeting is designed to encourage a dialogue between various milieus, which

normally have no points of contact (e.g. memorial sites and gender discourse), to introduce new perspectives and to enrich the debate in each of these fields.

### ***GKKE arms export report 2006***

The GKKE arms export report, which was published at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin on 18 December 2006, met with considerable response in the media. The report 2006 criticized the strong increase in export licences, especially for weapons of war, as well as shipments to conflict areas and developing countries. Safety and security are at risk, not for the lack of arms, but because there are too many arms available at the wrong places.

GKKE had a meeting with members of the German parliament on 8 March 2007 in Berlin. The MPs welcomed the well-balanced ethical reflection contained in the GKKE arms export report. The attendants of the meeting emphasised the increasing importance of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and its aggressive strategy to increase competition in the European defence industry. There is no counterbalance which would ensure the monitoring of arms exports. The German politicians considered it important to maintain the technological core competencies in the country.

### ***Ulrich Fechter-Escamilla joins EDP e.V. management***

After Dr. Elke Löbel had left EDP e.V. to work at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ulrich Fechter-Escamilla joined EDP e.V. as Vice Managing Director on 15 January 2007. Ulrich Fechter-Escamilla has a diploma in agricultural engineering and a masters degree in economics with a special focus on "Decentralisation and local development". He has had various functions in development cooperation, managing and supporting various programmes since 1998 in Honduras, previously in Tanzania and Mexico.

### ***Daniel Legutke now at the JP human rights office***

On 2 April 2007, Daniel Legutke took over the human rights office, succeeding Dr. Bogner who had left JP Germany on 31 December 2006. Daniel Legutke is a historian and was born and raised in Leipzig. He was involved in the preparation of the Ecumenical Church Convention in 2003 and is member of the diocesan and pastoral council in the archdiocese of Berlin.

### ***Imprint***

*Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax  
Kaiserstr. 161, 53113 Bonn  
e-mail: [justitia-et-pax@dbk.de](mailto:justitia-et-pax@dbk.de)  
web: [www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de)  
editor: Gertrud Casel*

*Please visit our website at  
[www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de)  
For statements and press  
releases, please click on  
"aktuell" or "Presse".  
Publications are available in  
the "Publikationen" section or  
from the JP office.*

*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*