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*„Die ein gutes Leben beginnen wollen, sollen es so machen, wie einer, der einen Kreis zieht: Hat er den Mittelpunkt des Kreises richtig angesetzt und steht er fest, so wird die Kreislinie gut.“  
 Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)  
 "Those who want to start a good life should proceed like someone who draws a circle: If he has found the right centre point, the circle will be good". [translated according to Meister Eckhart (1260 – 1328)]*

**Elections to the board and work scheduling at the constituent meeting of the Commission in Berlin**

During its meeting in Berlin on 10/11 October 2014, the Justice and Peace Commission has prepared a work schedule and elected a new management board for the next working period (2014 to 2019).

The human rights section will take up discussions on human rights and traditional values placing a particular focus on the right to health.

In the context of the Post-2015 Agenda, the development section will group together the goals "decent work" and "food security" or "rural development". The key aspect here will be the organisation of national and international agricultural markets based on the principles of justice. The work of the peace section will focus on the perspectives for and obstacles to a common European foreign and security policy; the initiatives of dealing with a past burdened by violence/reconciliation will be advanced as an essential element of developing a sustainable peace order and prevention of violence in cooperation with partners all over the world.

Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann was unanimously re-elected President. Dr Stefan Vesper, Secretary General of the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK), was confirmed in his position as vice-president and the prelates Pirmin Spiegel, Misereor, and Dr Klaus Krämer, Missio, were confirmed in their position as elected members of the management board. New member of the management board and vice-president is Mrs Karin Kortmann, ZdK vice-president. She succeeds to Professor Dr Barbara Krause who has helped shape the work of the JP Commission and management board since the nineteen-seventies.

In future, the peace section will be chaired by Professor em. Dr Heinz-Günther Stobbe. He succeeds to Professor Dr Thomas Hoppe whose outstanding services to the orientation on peace ethics of Justice and Peace and to the church's peace ethics as a whole for example in preparing the bishops' statement on "A Just Peace" in 2001 was honoured by Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann.

The deliberations on the contents of the work of Justice and Peace centred on the challenges resulting from the Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium": How can a listening and learning Church as a Church for the poor contribute to the full and effective inclusion of the poor in society and economy? Professor Dr Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl from Berlin provided an introduction to this topic.

**Planning workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, on human rights and traditional values**

On 11 July 2014, a planning workshop was organized in Lusaka together with the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection (JCTR) and with the Exposure and Dialogue Programme (EDP) in order to reflect on the concrete contents of the project "Human Rights and Traditional Values". Among the participants were



Management board of the German Commission for Justice and Peace: Prelate Dr Klaus Krämer, Missio; Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann; Gertrud Casel; Karin Kortmann, ZdK; Stefan Vesper, ZdK; Ulrich Pöner, universal church department of the German Bishops' Conference; Pirmin Spiegel, Misereor (from left to right)



Judith Mullenaga, Daniel Legutke and Fr. Leonard Chiti SJ during the workshop

Zambian church and non-church human rights activists as well as the German ambassador Bernd Finke.

The representatives of the partner organisations reported on their work. All examples cited in their reports referred to dealing with traditions that violate human rights. They described the difficult and lengthy work of calling into question such practices with the help of other traditions that promote human rights, e.g. proverbs. The participants basically criticised that a funding policy of the donors which is more and more focused on easily measurable and tangible results does not lead to sufficient investments in such long-term projects of human rights education.

The international conference on Human Rights and Traditional Values will be accompanied by an EDP.

### **Trip to Zimbabwe**

From 5 to 8 July 2014, Mr. Legutke visited Zimbabwe in order to cultivate contacts with Catholic human rights activists. At present, an essential field of action is to establish a national reconciliation commission which the new constitution demands. Rev. Edward Ndete, the director of the Harare Catholic Liaison Office, is the national coordinator for preparing the participation of Catholic human rights activists, among them members of Justice and Peace commissions and Silveira House, and in consultation with ecumenical partners.

### **Decent work as a goal of the Post-2015 Agenda**

On 29 and 30 April 2014, the group of international Catholic organisations at the ILO together with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace organized a seminar on "employment and decent work - the best way to end poverty". Representatives of the international Catholic organisations presented good examples of their activities for promoting decent work and prepared a roadmap or strategy for their future work. It is planned to give decent work as a goal of the Post-2015 Agenda a national and international anchorage. In addition, the particular organisations will emphasize the importance of seeing labour market and development policies in context. At the suggestion of the world movement of Christian workers (WBCW), a first Round Table was convened in Spain with representatives of the national organisations involved and with the support of the Spanish JP commission. Its task is lobbying the Spanish government for the Post- 2015 Agenda. A similar meeting was held in Bonn, Germany, on 9 October 2014.

### **International Labour Conference in Geneva**

At the 103<sup>rd</sup> session of the international labour conference from 28 May to 12 June 2014, the group of Catholic organisations submitted an intervention for the debate in full conference on the basis of a joint statement. A political breakfast held on 5 June provided the opportunity for further activities.

Kolping international, Caritas Internationalis, the International Coordination of Young Christian Workers (CIJOC) and the International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG) on 4 June organised a workshop on the topic "formalisation of informal work, the importance of youth employment". The documentation of this lunchbriefing "From Informal Employment to formal Working Conditions - The Impact on Youth" is available on the website.

### **Charter for the Future of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Post-2015 in Germany**

In a workshop held in Bonn on 3 September 2014 during the thematic forum 5 on "Global Partnerships" in the context of the BMZ Charter for the future, Mrs Casel presented the work of the Catholic organisations in Geneva regarding decent work and the Post-2015 Agenda as global partnerships.

At the end of September, a first draft of the Charter for the future has been available and was critically reviewed by Justice and Peace. It particularly called for a stringent observance of human rights in all fields of action and more attention paid to the informal economy.



Panel under the chair of Dr Hildegard Hagemann (middle): with Maria Pietro ILO; Niels Bohr, Caritas Switzerland; Anna Ciaro Bruno CIJOC Italy; Paola Caviedes Martinez, WIEGO; Federico Parra, WIEGO

Mrs Casel at the thematic forum on "Global Partnerships"



### ***FIMARC world meeting on Decent Work and Food***

The world meeting of the International Organisation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements (FIMARC) which was organized in Bad Brückenau on 17 May 2014 and attended by delegates from the nearly 60 member countries focused on the topic of "decent and fair work conditions in rural areas". The greeting address was held by Archbishop Dr Ludwig Schick.

The Catholic Rural Peoples Movement (KLB) took the delegates of the world assembly to a visit to the "Katholikentag" and asked them for their support of Justice and Peace. Bishop Ackermann participated in a panel discussion on 'Seedtime and harvest shall not cease' and celebrated Mass with the delegates. On Friday afternoon, the FIMARC board paid a visit to the JP desk.

### ***Regional conferences on the ILO country strategy in Uganda***

The third of four regional conferences in preparation of the ILO's Country Programme Strategies on decent work in the informal economy was held in Uganda from 19 to 21 August 2014. In all three regions (Eastern, Western and Central Uganda) Round Tables were established comprising representatives of the member organisations of the Joint Committee Decent Work in Uganda (JACODeWU). In November, the newly-formed regional rounds want to adopt the final report of the four conferences and incorporate it into the political work of the JACODeWU. JACODeWU wants to discuss the demands from the regions concerning decent work in the informal economy with the parliament and ministries. Mrs Hagemann used the meetings to report on the activities undertaken at the ILO and to encourage reflections on the future work.

### ***Statement on TTIP***

At the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement between the USA and the EU, which was held in Brussels from 14 to 18 July 2014, Bishop Ackermann commented on "TTIP seen from the perspective of Justice and Peace". He was particularly critical of the lack of transparency in the negotiations as well as of the investment protection provisions and the investor-to state dispute settlement mechanism. The Catholic Liaison Office plans to set up an Ad hoc-Round Table of Catholic associations and institutions which are dealing with TTIP or have already expressed their views on it.

### ***Documentation on "Sweet fruits – good for everyone?"***

The German and English versions of the documentation of the international expert meeting on "Sweet fruits – good for everyone?" which was held in Berlin on 16 January 2014 have been published.

### ***Ukraine, Bishop Ackermann at the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church***

On 7/8 September 2014, JP President Bishop Ackermann participated in the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on behalf of Cardinal Reinhard Marx, President of the German Bishops' Conference. In his greeting address he again clearly condemned the annexation of the Crimea and assured the Ukrainian bishops of the continued support of the Catholic Church in Germany.

### ***Summer School of the "Institute for Reconciliation Studies"***

On 23/24 August 2014, Dr Lüer attended the Summer School of the Institute for Reconciliation Studies in Jena. Dr Lüer was asked to make a keynote-speech based on the experiences of JP and the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation and to organize a practical exercise of several hours for the participants. The reflections on the experiences gathered from the reconciliation work met with great interest.

### ***First World War Centenary***

On 3 August 2014, Bishop Ackermann took part in a memorial service for peace and reconciliation which was held in Liège on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. In his homily held in French he reminded of the invasion contrary to international law and the



The importance of standards for decent work. From left to right: Vincent Ojiambo, UMMOGAWU (trade union), Dominic Habiyalemye FUE (employer), Hildegard Hagemann, JP

JACODeWU at work – preparing the regional conference in Masaka/Western Uganda



brutal actions of German soldiers in Belgium. He added that even some German bishops most unfortunately misjudged the war as a chance for moral renewal.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> European Workshop in Auschwitz***

The 5<sup>th</sup> European workshop of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence was held in Auschwitz/Oswiecim from 11 to 16 August 2014. This year, the workshop was particularly characterized by the questions arising from the crisis in Ukraine. Against the background of the on-going tensions with Russia, the constructive exchange on the differing perspectives proved to be a major challenge for all participants. The formative presence of history became clearly perceptible. Despite the tensions, the participants regarded the exchange as positive. The lectures given by Prof Dr Myroslav Marynovych, vice-rector of the Greek-Catholic university of Lviv, and by Dr Lukasz Kaminski, President of the Institute for National Remembrance, were of particular importance.

### ***Bosnia-Herzegovina: Workshop with the Interreligious Council***

After several years of often tense preparations, the workshop in Bosnia-Herzegovina planned in cooperation with the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Renovabis and the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation could be realized from 17 to 23 September 2014. During the workshop, the participants coming from the three constitutive peoples of Bosnia and from other parts of Europe, visited villages and communities affected by different acts of violence during World War II and the wars in Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

The intense discussions in the run-up to the workshop paid off in the workshop itself. The different partners had already experienced the conflicts under discussion during the preparation period, and this provided a sound basis for a constructive dealing with inevitable conflicts during the workshop. The workshop was designed as a contribution to a culture of solidarity and listening. Against this background, it is all the more pleasing that it was met with great and positive interest in the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### ***Publication "Responsibility to protect. Intervention policy since 1990 – a peace ethical survey."***

As part of the project "Experiences gained during military interventions after 1989 in a peace ethical perspective" analyses and recommendations were prepared and presented by the working group Just Peace of the German Commission for Justice and Peace. In the publication military interventions carried out in recent times are examined taking into account the question in how far they were suitable to realize humanitarian goals. In the context of this project the working group has contributed its perspectives to the ongoing discussion on the responsibility to protect. Professor Dr Thomas Hoppe (editor) has published the results in June 2014 at Dr Köster publishing house.

### ***German Katholikentag Regensburg***

With many contributions and a varied programme Justice and Peace was represented at the German Katholikentag in Regensburg. Together with Missio, Justice and Peace organized a panel discussion on the possible contribution of the interreligious dialogue to the implementation of the right to religious freedom. Professor Dr Heiner Bielefeldt, Peter Jacob (Justice and Peace Pakistan) as well as Archbishop Dr Ludwig Schick and Prelate Dr Klaus Krämer took part in the event.

A crowning final event was the panel with the former German President Köhler, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Müller, and others on financing the future development agenda.

### ***Inclusive labour market and long-term unemployment, follow-up process to the EDP***

After the EDP's dialogue workshop organized by Aktion Arbeit on 16 May 2014 in Trier, Bishop Ackermann took the opportunity to remind Federal



*At the site of a mass grave for Bosniaks near Prijedor: Prof Dr Marco Bernadic, Emir Kovacevic, Dr Jörg Lüer, Imam Hussein*

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Nahles during Katholikentag in Regensburg of the necessity of a fundamental reform of labour market policy instruments (Sozialgesetzbuch II – Social Security Code II).

On the occasion of the follow-up meeting to the EDP on 2 July 2014 in Berlin, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Lösekrug-Möller discussed with the participants, as for example with the special rapporteur of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and EDP participant Kai Whittaker, about possible political consequences resulting from the experiences gained. With its six-point paper describing basic reforms in the sense of an inclusive labour market Aktion Arbeit met with great interest and approval among politicians, participants from different dioceses, the German Caritas Association and bodies responsible for employment projects. Moreover the demand for a follow-up EDP on the same subject matter was discussed. Federal Minister Nahles held out the prospect of taking into account the suggestions presented within the context of her Ministry's work on finding a concept to combat long-term unemployment.

### ***Arms export policy, GKKE talk with the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Gabriel***

On Friday, 27 June 2014, Mr Gabriel, the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, had invited the GKKE expert group "arms exports" to Berlin for a conversation on the implementation of a restrictive arms export policy. After evaluating this talk, the presidents in a letter dated 15 July 2014 to the Federal Minister suggested establishing a discussion group on arms exports at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. For the time being it has been agreed upon that the conversations shall be continued at working level meetings.

GKKE explained its position in a letter to the CDU members of the German Bundestag who, at the beginning of July, in a joint statement had criticised the arms export policy of Mr Gabriel for being too restrictive and for the lack of coordination, while also referring to the Key Issues Paper of the government parties. In a conversation held in Berlin on 24 September, the positions remained controversial.

### ***Thursday discussion on civilian crisis prevention on 3 July 2014***

"More international responsibility – Germany as trailblazer for civilian crisis prevention and conflict management?" The 28<sup>th</sup> Thursday conversation of the GKKE in Berlin on 3 July 2014 focused on reflections and prospects ten years after launching the Federal Government's action plan "Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peace Consolidation". Dr Franziska Brantner, head of the subcommittee "Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Management and Integrated Action" reported on the progress of the EU's instrument for peace and stability.

Peace consolidation must be seen as a cycle that comprises prevention and follow-up care and in most cases takes decades to take effect, she explained.

### ***Food standards, Hearing organized by GKKE specialist group Coherence***

On 2 June 2014, a hearing on standards in the food industry was organized. Experts from food trade and food production, from consumer protection and politics as well as certifiers were asked about potential negative or positive effects on food security for small farmers in the countries belonging to the global South.

### ***Staff issues***

After a farewell ceremony at the Secretariat of the German Bishops' Conference during which she was praised for her many years of work for the German Commission for Justice and Peace, Ms Irene Bellinghausen went into retirement on 19 May 2014.

Mr Jörg Schiffer started work at the Bonn office on 2 June 2014, the volume of employment being 75 %. He is responsible for the fields of human rights, internet and publications.



*Désiré Nzisabira, ZFD Uganda; Conrad Schetter, BICC; Bernhard Moltmann, Moderator; Franziska Brantner and Ralf Horlemann, AA (from left to right)*

### **Mr Hans-Peter Merz and Dr h.c. Karl Osner have passed away**

The death of Mr Hans-Peter Merz and Dr Karl Osner means the loss of the two outstanding figures, who had drawn up the formation deed of the Justice and Peace Commission.

Mr Merz, who died on 29 April 2014, in the 1970s chaired the "development" section. He was involved in the GKKE's Ecumenical Dialogue Programme. From 1999 to 2004, he presided the JP working group "political control of globalization".

Mr Osner died on 15 September 2014. Born in 1927 in Freiburg, Karl Osner laid an important foundation for church development cooperation especially in the 1960s and 1970s in building up the German Commission for Justice and Peace, as staff member in the first years of Misereor, and as founding director of AGEH. The Exposure and Dialogue Programmes provided decision-makers in politics, society and church the possibility to discover the potential and power of the poor. Dr Osner was a driving force in the start-up phase of the German Commission for Justice and Peace. Since 1964 he has built up the predecessor organisation, the Catholic Working Group Development and Peace (KAEP) and acted as its general secretary. Until 2004 he helped shape the German Commission for Justice and Peace as member of the board and he played an important role in the ecumenical dialogue programmes of GKKE.

### **JP Europe in Athens on human dignity and economic crisis**

From 3 to 7 October 2014, 22 national commissions of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions held their general meeting including an International Workshop on the subject matter of "Human Dignity and Economic Crisis" in Athens and Corinth. The workshop presented the opportunity to observe the impact of the crisis in Greece from the perspective of the victims and of those who offer valuable outreach initiatives. A visit to the Amigdaleza detention centre where 2000 people seeking asylum are living, once again raised the issue of the European migration and asylum policy:



Scheffers (NL) and Casel talking to people looking for asylum in Amigdaleza

Solidarity and shared responsibility were demanded. The practice of keeping these people, including victims of violence and trauma, in detention in conditions of imprisonment was called a grave injustice. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Bishop William Kenney, the outgoing President of Justice and Peace Europe, celebrated Mass at Areos Pagos Hill at the foot of the Acropolis where the Apostle St. Paul gave his famous sermon to the Athenians. This Mass was the first public Mass in modern times for Catholics.

After Mass participants unfurled a banner which read: "Change life now: all and everywhere (Acts 17, 30)", one of the key phrases of St. Paul's sermon. Bishop Kenney's successor and new President of the Conference is Archbishop Jean Claude Hollerich from Luxemburg.



Symbolic action of the Conference of European JP Commissions at Areos Pagos Hill, Athens

### **Revision of JP website**

The website of Justice and Peace has been revised in terms of contents and graphics.

A new topics page has been created offering statements on 35 topics starting with the letter A like "Abrüstungspolitik" and ending with the letter W like "Wirtschaftliche, soziale, kulturelle Rechte".

The page "Kooperationen" informs about important national and international cooperation partners and provides links to them. In addition, the website contains complete archives on copies of the publication series "Gerechtigkeit und Frieden" as well as of the GKKE publication series and of press releases published since 1999.

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