

Brussels, 4 December 2014  
JO/GH/MG/PL/gt/ma/ak

**THE 17th EPP GROUP ANNUAL INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

**PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN CONFLICT REGIONS: A SILENT WAR**

10 - 11 DECEMBER 2014

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

A. Spinelli Building, A-3E2 Meeting Room

**PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, 10 December**

14.30

Opening

**Manfred WEBER MEP**, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

15.00

Keynote presentation

“WORLDWIDE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT 2014” of Aid to the Church in Need presented by

**Peter SEFTON-WILLIAMS**, Chairman, Editorial Committee, Worldwide Religious Freedom Report, UK

15.20

Session One: ***THE ORIGINS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION***

Chair: **Jan OLBRYCHT MEP**, EPP Group in the European Parliament

Speakers:

- **Metropolitan EMMANUEL of FRANCE**, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Vice-President of the Conference of the European Churches, France
- **Mgr. Steven MAMZA**, Bishop of Yola, Nigeria
- **Mgr. Tadeusz PIERONEK**, Bishop Emeritus and Professor, Poland
- **Paul BHATTI**, Former Federal Minister of National Harmony, Chairman, of All Pakistan Minorities Alliance and Shahbaz Bhatti Memorial Trust, Pakistan

16.45

Session Two: ***THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE THREAT OF THE CALIPHATE (IS) FOR THE REGION***

Chair: **Mariya GABRIEL MEP**, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

Speakers:

- **Cristian Dan PREDA MEP**, EPP Group Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs
- **Suzanne KODSI**, Head of Operations, EU Delegation in Libya, DG Development and Cooperation EUROPEAID, European Commission
- **Sister HANAN YOUSSEF**, Bekaah Valley's Monastery, Member of the Good Shepherd Congregation in Lebanon-Syria, Lebanon
- **Fikret IGREK**, Head of Foreign Affairs for the Federation of Ezidis Associations, Germany
- **Rima TÛZÛN**, Head of Foreign Affairs, European Syriac Union

18.00 End of Sessions

**Thursday, 11 December**

09.30 Session Three: ***EUROPE'S RESPONSE. PROSPECTS AND SOLUTIONS***

Chair: **György HÖLVÉNYI MEP**, EPP Group in the European Parliament

Speakers:

- **Rabbi Albert GUIGUI**, Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Permanent Representative of the Conference of European Rabbis to the European Institutions
- **John O'ROURKE**, Head of Division "Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Iraq", European External Action Service, EU
- **Rüdiger NOLL**, Executive Secretary for Europe and Ecumenical Affairs, Protestant Academies of Germany
- **Dina Raouf KHALIL**, Deputy Director for Fundraising and External Relations, Association of Upper Egypt for Education & Development (AUEED), Egypt
- **Henri BOULAD**, Former President of Caritas Internationalis for the Middle-East and North-Africa, Egypt
- **Rev. Patrick DALY**, Secretary General, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE)

12.00 **Closing remarks**

12.30 End of conference

**Conference languages:** German, Italian, French, English, Spanish, Polish, Greek, Hungarian

**Venue:** A. Spinelli Building, Room A-3E2, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels