



CoGREE Appeal

**to take part in the European elections in May 2019 and
to support educational activities for a peaceful
and sustainable Europe**

The ninth direct elections to the European Parliament will be held in May 2019.

- Never before was the unity of Europe so much in jeopardy.
- Never before were the elections so important.
- Never before have, social, cultural and centrifugal influences been so apparent.

Brexit and a political climate of increasing nationalism endanger the European peace project.

For participation in the election campaign to be truly democratic, open debate among national and European candidates are essential to enable voters to determine who are the candidates with the best ideas, policies and concepts for the future of Europe.

Lucid and courageous presentation of European commonality must be basic aspects of the contributions of the candidates themselves as well as of their supporters in the election campaigns.

Faced with political forces that aim to weaken or destroy the European Union, the avoidance of ambivalence and ambiguity is crucial.

**Our appeal as experts and promoters of religion and education in Europe is
to invite and to incite you to participate in the elections.**

**Use your right to vote and be careful to vote on the basis of good
and current information.**

For us essential principles in the definition of criteria and of arguments that support them demand that:

- We shall promote the achievements and benefits of a uniting Europe
- We shall resist all anti-European voices and forces
- We shall work to promote the European dream of our continent united in humanity, justice and peace as well as for the well-being of all Europeans
- We confirm the values of the European Union as an evident and living platform for our life together in Europe. Those values include as priorities respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law together with respect for human rights that include the rights of persons belonging to minorities. (Art. 2, Lisbon treaty). They stem also from the traditions of the Abrahamic religions.
- We take responsibility for Europe as a peace project and strive after reconciliation, friendship and partnership between the nations.
- We shall strengthen all ambitions to foster religious freedom and support dialogue among denominations, confessions and religions for supporting European integration.

May we never see nationalism again!

Let us therefore promote the unity of Europe open to the world and united in peace and solidarity.

Münster, February 2019

Members of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe (CoGREE)

- ✓ European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education (EFTRE)
- ✓ European Forum for Religious Education (EuFRES)
- ✓ Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS)
- ✓ International Association for Christian Education (IV)
- ✓ PILGRIM, International Education Network

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