

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 420 – No. 25/2016

Fifth Anniversary of “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World” celebrated in Rome

Johnson and Schirmmacher represent World Evangelical Alliance at consultation of the three cooperating institutions

(Bonn, 27.06.2016) At the invitation of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID), on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the document “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct,” officials from the Roman Curia and the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Italy, representatives of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), as well as scholars from African Traditional Religions, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism and Tenrikyo met in Rome on Tuesday, 21 June, 2016. This document, published on 28 June, 2011, was a joint venture by the PCID, the WCC and the WEA.

The three bodies were represented by their highest representatives for interreligious dialogue, H. Em. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran (PCID), Dr. Clare Amos (WCC) and Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher (WEA).



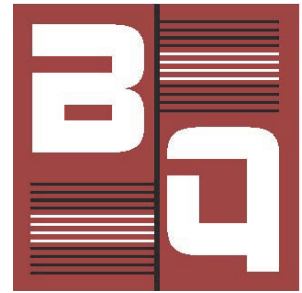
Johnson and Schirmmacher in discussion with Cardinal Tauran

The keynote address by H. Em. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the PCID, was followed by a video message from Rev. Dr. Shanta Premavardhana, previously a staff member of the WCC. Reports on the implementation of the document were presented by Bishop Miguel Àngel Ayuso Guixot, for the PCID; Dr. Clare Amos and Ms. Kyriaki Avtzi, for the WCC; and Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Johnson, for the WEA.

In his statement Johnson claimed, “Codes for conduct, or codes of ethics, generally arise in response to a need. This was clearly true of the Ten Commandments. The need to which this 2011 code of ethics for religious persuasion—for propagating and promoting the faith—responded is the extent to which religious faith has been entangled with human conflicts since the dawn of history . . . Religion has long been

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Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
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Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
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International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
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associated with the mistreatment of people who do not have the same religion or the same religious experience, whether this mistreatment is in the form of violence,



Some of the representatives of non-Christian religions with Johnson, Cardinal Tauran and Schirmmacher

Jesus Christ is the most important news we have received; rather, what we have said is that there are recognizably good and evil ways of treating people when we talk about and promote our faith.”

Johnson concluded, “In our age marked by extreme levels of religious persecution, religious violence, and religious terrorism, it is time to articulate the universal standards by which people of all religions can clearly distinguish the honest practitioners of their faith . . . Within Christendom we have done our homework and have written a code of ethics for Christian proclamation. All the people represented here today should continue on toward another history-making code of ethics related to the protection, proclamation, promotion, and propagation of all religious, philosophical, or ideological messages.”

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher declared on behalf of WEA, that WEA would cooperate in any further step together with PCID and WCC, e.g., of further developing the document or starting further rounds of discussion in interreligious dialogue.

We offer the whole speech of Dr. Johnson for free use by the media.

Downloads and Links:

- [Photo 1](#): Johnson and Schirmmacher in discussion with Cardinal Tauran
- [Photo 2](#): Some of the representatives of non-Christian religions with Johnson, Cardinal Tauran and Schirmmacher
- Speech by Thomas K. Johnson ([pdf](#), [docx](#))
- Press release of PCID: <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2016/06/22/160622e.html> (or [pdf](#))

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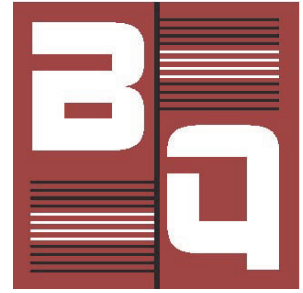
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- Radio Vatican:
http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/06/22/pcid_celebrates_anniversary_of_common_witness_document/1239229
- BQ No. 172 – 18/2011 about the launch:
<http://www.bucer.de/ressource/details/bonner-querschnitte-182011-ausgabe-172-eng.html>
- Youtube videos of the launch in 2011:
 - The full launch ceremony <https://youtu.be/H6WcNBAzI3Y>
 - Interview with Jean-Louis Pierre Cardinal Tauran:
<http://youtu.be/HSJFuFk4FR0>
 - Interview with Olav Fykse Tveit: <http://youtu.be/1UBLuC7oIRc>
 - Interview with Geoff Tunicliffe: <http://youtu.be/Y-6kncR8rml>
 - Interview with Thomas Schirmacher: <http://youtu.be/Y2O6qc6VcrM>
 - Interview with Hans Ucko: <http://youtu.be/2QUu9fUoMqk>
 - Interview with John Langlois: <http://youtu.be/UFDwh6FpK8s>
 - Interview with Rosalee Velosso Elwell: <http://youtu.be/gENeB8qIhLw>
 - Interview with Thomas K. Johnson: <http://youtu.be/HO0cDJVWGZ0>

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