



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Presentation of COMECE's Peace Report:

### “Europe's Vocation to Promote Peace in the World”

**The world is facing new vulnerabilities that threaten peace and security. Political instability, spread of violent extremism, increasing economic inequality and social injustice have significantly worsened the security situation in Europe and worldwide. In this regard, COMECE launched its report on “Europe's Vocation to Promote Peace in the World”, as a contribution of the COMECE Bishops in view of the forthcoming EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy.**

COMECE's Peace Report was presented on June 14th during a debate with the participation of Bishop Jean Kockerols, COMECE Vice-President, and Brigadier General Heinz Krieb, Director of Concepts and Capability Directorate of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) as speakers, in the presence of representatives of civil society, policy advisors and general public.

During the debate, Bishop Kockerols presented the Peace Report as the result of the Catholic Church's commitment to peacebuilding, especially in a decisive moment in which the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy will be presented. “The report is based on the Church's broad understanding of peace”, he said to explain that peace is a dynamic and permanent process. Bishop Kockerols also highlighted the important role of the European Union in the peacebuilding process: “The founding values of the EU can provide that unifying element which could help to overcome the divisions between Member States and institutional actors and thus create greater policy coherence and consistency with a view to serving the European and global common good”.

Furthermore, Brigadier General Heinz Krieb stressed that peacebuilding is a complex process that goes beyond a military strategy, which is only one of the different instruments that need to be taken into account in a security policy. For him, it is important to develop an integral policy that also considers the socio-economic development: “The military cannot resolve conflicts within failed or failing states. It is one instrument to form a comprehensive process but not more and this is hopefully clearly expressed in the upcoming Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy”, he said. He also highlighted the relevance of COMECE's Peace Report as he believes in the need for a more active role of the European Union in global security.

In the Questions & Answers session following the presentation of the report, the participants stressed in their interventions the key role of the Church in the peace process, as it is capable of building bridges between societies. The audience showed their support for the document and expressed their hopes for the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy to be endorsed by the EU Heads of State and Government and implemented.

COMECE's Peace Report is meant to assist policy makers, as they prepare the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy that will be presented at the upcoming European Council. In this context, COMECE also wishes that the Peace Report may foster the debate with civil society and become a point of reference for the wider public.

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