

The Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE) and The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)

would like to invite you to the conference on

INTEGRAL HUMAN ECOLOGY - *Intergenerational solidarity*

Hosted by MEP Lukas Mandl (EPP, Austria)

European Parliament in Brussels (5 November 2024)

“Births are not a problem, but a resource: they are not opposed to life, but for life, whereas certain ideological and utilitarian models now being imposed with a velvet glove on families and peoples constitute real forms of colonization.” (Pope Francis, [Address to COP28](#)).

Reflecting on the words by Pope Francis and following FAFCE 2024 Spring Board Meeting's Resolution entitled [Integral ecology needs at its core the recognition of the family](#) which by recalling *Dignitas Infinita* and *Laudato Si'*, underlines that the *“human dignity of every human person prevails over and beyond any circumstance and context”*, FAFCE and COMECE would like to invite you to participate in the conference on the ***Integral Human Ecology and intergenerational solidarity*** organised together with the COMECE **on the 5th of November 2024 at 15:00 at the European Parliament in Brussels.**

Thanks to the shared values and synergy of purpose between FAFCE and COMECE, this conference will aim to underline that the human person lies at the centre of all ethical considerations, including ecological ones and will show the importance of family in the ecological transition. We believe that in order to keep *“our common home”* liveable for future generations, we need a holistic approach to the complexity of ecological problems, uniting the cultural, political, social and economic dimensions of this reality. To reach the goals of the Green Deal it must be ensured that the transition will be a just transition, truly *“leaving no one behind.”*

There is no denying that the future can only exist with **future generations**, and that at the same time, the responsibility to solve the climate crisis must not be charged upon the most vulnerable and blames must not be put upon families with many children. In order to **combat the consequences of climate changes** and environmental degradation, it is a duty to promote a culture of family and local networks, fighting loneliness, poverty, reducing addictive consumption and allowing the family to express its role as the core of civil society.

This event will reflect on how protecting family life would naturally lead to a comprehensive protection of ecology, and why family is a key actor to secure livelihoods, protect biodiversity and to combat environmental degradation, by promoting a collective sense of responsibility and climate-neutral consumption, especially through the **primary role of parents in the education** of their children, as parents are the solution to the transmission of knowledge and care for our Creation in our future generations.

The conference will take place in the framework of the FAFCE Autumn Board Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, between the 5th and 7th of November 2024. FAFCE Board gathers twice a year for a 3-days meeting and is a key moment of dialogue between Catholic Family Associations in Europe, during which the main guidelines of their action at the European level are decided.