"Supporting the European Idea in Challenging Times — Catholic Social Teaching and European Integration today "

Brussels, 11-12 November 2026

Second European Conference
of the Foundation Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice

Event organised by the Germany chapter of the FCAPP in cooperation with the Netherlands Chapter with the support of the Foundation's General Secretariat and in collaboration with COMECE. In cooperation with the Representation of the German State of Northrhine-Westphalia to the European Union.

conference language: English

9.30 – 11.00	*Separate side event:* *Presentation and discussion – "How does Europe Respond? Digital revolution and transformation of work" (for more detail, please, see further below)* *Place: COMECE Office - Square de Meeus 19/1, 1000 Brussels*

Wednesday, 11 November 2026
Representation of the State of Nordrhine-Westphalia, 47, rue Montoyerstraat 1000 Brussels
Room "Macke – Ernst"

11.30 – 12.30	**Arrival and Registration of Participants & Welcome brunch**
12.30	**Opening of the conference** **Prof. Paolo Garonna,** President Foundation Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice **Dr. Stephanie zu Löwenstein,** Chair of the German Section FCAPP
12.45	**Welcome and opening statement** [per video] **Nathanael Liminski,** Minister for Federal and European Affairs, International relations and Media of the State of Northrhine-Westphalia
13.00	**Greeting by COMECE Secretary General Fr. Manuel Enrique Barrios Prieto**
13.10	**Opening address** (per video) **"Promise of Peace and Prosperity – The Achievements of the European Union" [working title]** **H.E. Roberta Metsola, MEP, President of the European Parliament**
13.30 – 15.00	**Panel discussion: Europe's security and defence** **Dr. Benjamin Hartmann,** Member of Cabinet, Commissioner Kubilius **Prof. Dr. Peter Schallenberg,** Chair for Moral Theology, University of Paderborn **Hans-Werner Wiermann,** Lieutenant General, formerly NATO Director General of the International Military Staff **Dirk Wouters,** former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the European Union and the United States, Counsellor of HRH Princess Astrid, Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven **Moderator: Friederike Ladenburger,** Adviser, COMECE Commission on Ethics
15.00 – 15.45	**Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.00 **16.00 – 16.30**	**Keynote speech** **"Catholic Social Teaching and European Integration today"** **H.E. Archbishop Bernadito Auza,** Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union **Followed by a fireside chat**
16.30	**Transfer on foot to the European Chapel - Church of the Resurrection**
17.00	**Holy Mass** **Celebrant: H.E. Archbishop Bernadito Auza, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union** **Venue:** Church of the Resurrection, European Chapel Rue Van Maerlantstraat, 22–24 1000 Brussels

19.00 – 21.30 **19.15** **followed by**	**Dinner** **Dinner speaker: Klaus Welle**, former Secretary General of the European Parliament, Chair Martens Centre Academic Council **„Key challenges for the European Union. What can Catholic Social Teaching contribute?" [Working title]** **Q&A** **Venue:** **Restaurant «Aux Armes de Bruxelles »** Beenhouwersstraat/Rue des Bouchers, 13 1000 Brussels Tel. +32 (0)2 511 55 50

Side Event on Wednesday, 11 November 2026, 9.30 to 11.00

Presentation and discussion
"How does Europe Respond? Digital revolution and transformation of work"

At the COMECE Office at Square de Meeus 19/1, 1000 Brussels

The conference will be preceded by a side event on a recent book published by the Foundation Paul VI. Invitations will go out separately. ¿Cómo responde Europa? Revolución digital y transformación del trabajo is a new book, the third in a series on the digital revolution and the transformation of work. It is based on a multidisciplinary seminar at the Fundación Pablo VI, a leading Catholic Social Teaching think tank in Madrid. Is Europe producing the necessary institutional response to the digital revolution and its socio-economic consequences? To answer this question, a group of technicians, economists, sociologists, geopolitical analysts, theologians, as well as business and workers' union leaders propose their views on Europe's present intertwined challenges (Editorial Tirant Humanidades, Valencia, 2026, 432 pages)

Thursday, 12 November 2026
Representation of the State of Nordrhine-Westphalia, rue Montoyerstraat, 47 1000 Brussels
Room "Böll-Lasker"

8.30 – 9.00	**Arrival of Participants – coffee**
9.00 – 9.15 **9.15-9.45**	**Keynote - „Europe's Dream of Freedom"** **Professor Dr. Elmar Nass,** formerly Chair of Christian Social Sciences and Social Dialogue at Cologne University of Catholic Theology (KHKT) **Followed by a moderated Q&A**
9.45 – 11.15	**Panel discussion on Migration Policy** **Corinna Ullrich,** Director for Strategy, Foresight and Horizontal Affairs, DG HOME, European Commission **Lena Düpont,** MEP, European People's Party **H.E. Everard de Jong,** Auxiliary Bishop Diocese of Roermond **Irene Porsch,** Refugee Officer, Caritas, Archdiocese of Cologne **Moderator: Thomas Antoine**, Former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium
11.15 – 11.45	**Coffee break**
12.00 – 12.15 **12.15 – 12.45**	**Concluding Keynote address** **H.E. Herman van Rompuy**, former Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European Council **"Promise of Peace and Prosperity – Urgent next steps for the European Union"** **Fireside chat moderated by Domingo Sugranyes Bickel, former President of the Foundation Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice**
13.00	**Concluding remarks** **Prof. Paolo Garonna,** President Foundation Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice **Dr. Stephanie zu Löwenstein,** Chair of the German Section FCAPP
13.15	**Transfer to lunch venue**
13.30	**Lunch** **Venue: Restaurant « Le Porto Fino »** **Rue Luxemburgstraat, 60** **1000 Brussels**
	Individual departure