



Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation (CAPP) - German Section National
Conference & 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Foundation

"The good measure in entrepreneurial action"
On the implementation of Christian Social Ethics in Leadership and Finance

October 13th – 14th, 2023 in Freiburg i.Br.
at the Catholic Academy of the Archdiocese Freiburg

Freiburg Theses: Eight steps on the path to good measure

1. Strengthen freedom and responsibility

We are committed to strengthening the responsibility of individuals and companies. Instead of restricting this with prohibitive regulations, excessive bureaucracy and state interference, we need freedom to unfold and develop talents.

2. Ensure inclusion in democracy

Minorities and well-founded minority opinions must be included more in political debates, even during simple or qualified majorities deciding in a democracy. This counteracts radicalization on the "edges" of our society, strengthens social cohesion and counteracts populism.

3. Base corporate governance and business ethics on Catholic Social Teaching

We are committed to business ethics and a corporate culture, both based on Catholic Social Teaching. Decisions, rules and attitudes are based on the principle of personality. People serving and economic efficiency are to be harmonized so that they reflect an orientation towards the common good.

4. Prioritize leadership

Leaders are ethical role models who look beyond pure profit maximization and promote a culture that also prioritizes humane sustainability and social responsibility.

5. Invest with impact

Ethical investments aim to bring about positive social and environmental changes, not just financial gains. The effects of such investments must be measurable to ensure the integrity of impact investing and prevent "greenwashing".

6. Integrate ESG (environmental, social and governance) criteria in sustainable corporate strategies

We call on companies to integrate ESG criteria into their business strategies to ensure a holistic focus on sustainability and the common good. They should adopt practices that promote people-centered social justice and a culture of strong ethical corporate governance. In doing so, social, creation-preserving and economic concerns must be reconciled. The pursuit of profit must be oriented towards long-term goals.

7. Educate and train in Christian Social Ethics

We call for a sustainable education system that trains managers and employees in ethical and social issues. In this context, we are committed to training in Christian Social and Corporate Ethics. This ensures that personal and ethical considerations are incorporated into decision-making and corporate culture.

8. Activate the role of the church in the economy

We want to support the church at taking an active role in the dialog with economy. This requires a renewed economic competence in the church. That enables a provision of effective impetus for economically and ethically responsible leadership, promotes social justice and supports companies which work according to Christian ethical principles.

SCAPP-DS/12.11.2023

Dr. Ulrich Schürenkrämer – Sylvia Trimborn-Ley – Rainer Dormagen - Dr. Stephanie Prinzessin zu Löwenstein – Prof. Dr. Christoph Wagener – P. Prof. Dr. Dr. Elmar Nass – Dr. Thomas Hesse - Matthias Hirschbolz – Dr. Ansgar Horsthemke - Kai Keller - Prof. Dr. Alexander Kracklauer – Volker Lauven – Gerhard A. Meinel - Prof. Dr. Patrick Peters – Msgr. Prof. Dr. Peter Schallenberg – Marie-Theresia Gräfin von Spee - Dr. Alexander Stummvoll - Father Johannes H. Zabel OP