

CA 2008 Poverty reduction

Concerted Action 2008 on Poverty Reduction

I.

The goal of the action will be to raise public awareness to the fact that the current world economy is not going to meet the first MDG to halve extreme poverty until 2015. By a CA challenging the current world market economy we like to give common witness that the question of justice is still open and vivid. There is fundamental need for return in our societies. Charity alone is not a sufficient answer to the challenge of poverty. It raises rather the question whether charity is supposed to keep the poor calm and helpless.

Having in mind that the situation is complex the CA will not pretend to provide easy answers. What we like to do is to strengthen a certain way of questioning the unavoidability of the actual situation. Moreover we like to contribute to the international debate on world wide market order (financial markets etc.)

Due to the Catholic Social Teaching the freedom of the markets which is important for the development of the people has always to be based on a fundamental order. Rules and limits are to be defined in order to protect the weak and the key goal of economy to provide the means for integral welfare of all.

The goal of the CA is to contribute to the global and especially European debate on these issues.

II.

Therefore the CA will consist of two parts.

a) Concerted declaration to be published in the national contexts

The GA is asked to decide on a key declaration (will be provided for the GA). This declaration is supposed to be the base for a key document which could either be published in a prominent way or used as a key note speech by the presidents of the national Justice and Peace Commissions in lent 2008.

It will be up to the particular national commissions to translate the text into their own language and to take care of a prominent way of publishing this position. Of course every commission will be free to adopt particular issues which are important in their national case as well as to adopt the draft declaration to the customs of their commission. The concrete declarations launched in the national contexts are supposed to be sent to the Presidency in order to facilitate documentation and mutual information.

These declarations in the national contexts shall be accompanied by a common declaration signed by all presidents of the Justice and Peace Commissions in Europe on the European level.

b) Exhibition Fighting Poverty

The goal of the exhibition would be an international exhibition of artwork inspired by the poverty in the world made, as most as possible, by famous artists, with the aim to sensibilise public opinion, elites and lobby groups responsible in the millennium goals achievement (thinkers, economists, entrepreneurs). The Exhibition shall focus on the issue of fighting poverty in the horizon of the Millennium goals. Due to the fact that most of world poverty exists in the South it will have a special focus on the situation in the South not neglecting other areas of poverty.

Collecting these art works presenting them in an exhibition in the entrance hall of the European Parliament in Brussels in 2008 and in a profound catalogue the European Conference will give a witness of its common efforts to strengthen the debate on Fighting Poverty.

On the first evening the JP Commissions and guests are invited to reflect in a silent place on the issue of fighting poverty. The opening of the exhibition will be on the second day. The concrete date in May/ June 2008 is still open.

After the opening of the exhibition in May/June 2008 in the entrance hall of the European Parliament in Brussels every Commission which likes to use the exhibition in their country is invited to show it there.