

MEMORANDUM on the future of UNIAPAC EUROPE

Preface

During the most recent months significant progress has been achieved. The creation of the UNIAPAC foundation finally gives financial resources to the UNIAPAC movement and enables it to promote the UNIAPAC ideas further. In addition, the UNIAPAC foundation will hopefully build and, consequently, will have the intellectual capacity and the entrepreneurial spirit to support the UNIAPAC movement in a so far unknown manner and give support to national associations in their endeavours.

This was possible only thanks to the enthusiastic and persistent efforts of Pierre Lecocq whom I would like to commend for this achievement.

Now it is our interest and duty to bring forward this initiative and continue with the UNIAPAC movement towards making it THE Christian executives' voice. Given the level of activity in Latin – America it appears to me this is a particular challenge for the European arm of UNIAPAC.

Goals

Based on the activities of our national associations where the individual members have a forum for personal exchange, source of spiritual inspiration and a platform to interact with national bodies of the church and the world of politics, at the European level our goals should be to create added value to this. In my view it should be our goal to establish UNIAPAC Europe as a visible counterpart and voice towards, but not limited to,

- the European Commission
- the European Parliament
- the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCCE)
- the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE)
- Council of Europe
- European Business Associations
- etc.

UNIAPAC Europe should act vis à vis these institutions as

- discussion counterpart
- a source of information
- a reservoir of competent panel and conference speakers
- etc.

A precondition to be this visible counterpart and voice vis à vis these European bodies is an exchange among ourselves about what our message(s) should be – inspired by our Christian values and the Social Teachings of the Church as well as fuelled by our entrepreneurial experience.

- Key element of the support to the European President and the activities of Uniapac Europe would be qualified staff (academic education, basic knowledge of the various European bodies, fluent in English apart from his native language).
- BKU offer:
 - + BKU is willing to support the European presidency of BKU Vice President Burkhard Leffers and host the secretariat of Uniapac Europe in its secretariat.
 - + BKU would also be willing to second its secretary general, Martin Wilde, with 25% of his time to support Uniapac Europe and render secretarial services.
 - + BKU is willing to employ one additional fulltime qualified staff to support the activities of Uniapac Europe but also work for BKU part time in order to fill the gap the secondment of M. Wilde from BKU to Uniapac will create for BKU.
 - + BKU will but in place a complete office working place for this new person and ensure good working conditions.
 - + BKU estimates the costs for this to be ca. € 65.000 per year.
 - + To cover the travelling costs for the European president and the support staff (not always together) to the national associations, the European bodies and the activities of Uniapac Europe a monthly budget of ca. € 1.500 per month (ca. € 18.000 per year) would be required.

Summary

In this memorandum, I tried to summarize the goals, measures and requirements for developing UNIAPAC in Europe. It does not pretend to be complete and requires certainly more thoughts. But for mostly one has to start and things will develop further with time passing by and first experiences having been made.

Given the history of UNIAPAC the goal described herein is extremely ambitious and a quantum leap for UNIAPAC. BKU is willing to support this but would need some financial support from the Uniapac Foundation, and I want to be very transparent about the financial aspects. But more importantly, it requires the committed support from all national associations, fortunately not in financial aspects, but in an intellectual and personal way.

I urge the board to intensely discuss this paper and reflect on the consequences for national associations. I am not only grateful, but even inviting suggestions and ideas, since one can not do or think everything alone. When the board is convinced that this is a plausible way to enhance the visibility and the level of acceptance of our UNIAPAC, then the board may adopt this paper and I will do my utmost to live up to our expectations

Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe, November 28th, 2010

Burkhard Leffers