

## **The President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission meet faith leaders to discuss human dignity**

*This meeting with leading representatives of the three monotheistic religions was held on 15 May 2007 in the Berlaymont building on the initiative of European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. Together with German Chancellor and European Council President Angela Merkel and European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering, President Barroso co-hosted the discussions, which were attended by 20 leading representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths in Europe. He had hosted similar meetings in 2005 and 2006, but this is the first time such a gathering had taken place under the auspices of the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council Presidency. The topic chosen for this year's discussion was "Building a Europe based on human dignity".*

Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: *"Neither geographical proximity nor a shared history suffice to cement a lasting union between States and peoples. Key to the process of integration between the Member States of the European Union and between their citizens is the universal values underlying our common heritage".*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: *"We in Europe have a particular responsibility to foster tolerance and help others to be tolerant. It has taken us hundreds of years to learn this lesson. This is why it is one of our core convictions that intolerance cannot be tolerated."*

European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering said: *"Tolerance, one of the European Union's core values, is the basis for a dialogue between cultures that has as its goals cooperation, partnership and mutual respect between cultures and religions. Mutual respect based on human dignity is a shared European value. The different religious traditions in Europe can all make a positive contribution to the public debate and the shaping of a European Union of values. This is why we need to have an ongoing dialogue between the European Union's institutions and the churches and religious communities."*

The discussions focused on the following questions: What part can religions and religious communities play in a Europe based on human dignity? How can we promote our common values beyond Europe's frontiers? Is it by means of common values that we can strengthen the dialogue between cultures and religions? Is tolerance a helpful concept?

The three Presidents found common ground in European values. Such values as democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, justice, solidarity, mutual respect and human dignity are what bind Europeans together. For this reason, they have all been enshrined in the Berlin Declaration. The religions represented and the European institutions agreed that, through these values, they were all working towards the same goal, the common good.

The participants found the discussions to be a mutually enriching experience and avowed their firm intention to continue them.

Vice-President Franco Frattini together with Commissioners Ján Figel', Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Vladimir Spidla and Leonard Orban, also took part in the exchange of views.

**ANGLICAN CHURCH**

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable

Dr. Richard Chartres

Bishop of London

<http://www.london.anglican.org>

Richard John Carew Chartres became the 132nd Bishop of London in November 1995 and was enthroned at St Paul's on 26 January 1996.

He was educated at Hertford Grammar School and studied history at Trinity College Cambridge. Before ordination he taught Ancient History at the International School in Seville. He was ordained in 1973 and served as a curate in St Andrew's Bedford. In 1975 he was appointed Chaplain to Robert Runcie, then Bishop of St Albans, and from 1980-84 he served as the Archbishop's Chaplain at Lambeth and Canterbury. He moved to St Stephen's Rochester Row in the Diocese of London in 1984. During eight years in the parish he also served as Director of Ordinands for the Central Area and as Gresham Professor of Divinity. He was consecrated Bishop of Stepney in 1992. After his move to the see of London, he was appointed Dean of HM Chapels Royal in 1996 and a Privy Counsellor. This accounts for the curious fact that the Bishop of London is the only bishop who bears the title 'Right Honourable' in addition to the usual 'Right Reverend'. He is an ex officio member of the House of Lords.

He is an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple, Chairman of the Ecumenical "London Church Leaders", a director of Coexist Foundation - a charity promoting interfaith understanding - and is associated with numerous other London organisations.

He is also Chairman of the Church Buildings Division of the Church of England and deputises for the Archbishop of Canterbury as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Church Commissioners. He is also responsible on behalf of the Archbishop for relations with the Orthodox Churches.

He founded St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and is currently the Chairman of the Trustees. His publications include "The History of Gresham College 1597-1997" (with David Vermont) and "Tree of Knowledge, Tree of Life" [2005] and many articles and essays especially on religion and the environment.

He is married to Caroline, a freelance writer, and they have four children – Alexander, Sophie, Louis and Clio.

## CHURCHES OF THE REFORMATION UNITED

Hochwürdigsten Herrn Bischof

Prof. Wolfgang Huber

Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

<http://www.ekd.de>

Wolfgang Huber was born in Straßburg on August 12, 1942.

His father Ernst Rudolf Huber was a specialist in jurisprudence, and his mother Dr. Tula Huber-Simons was a lawyer. His grandfather Dr. Walter Simons served as secretary of state in the years 1920/ 1921 in the Weimar Republic. Later he was president of the Supreme Court of Justice. Wolfgang Huber grew up in the Black Forest and in Freiburg. He was the youngest of five brothers. He has been married to Kara Huber-Kaldrack since 1966. They have three children (Ansgar, Jesco and Valeska).

Huber studied theology in Heidelberg, Göttingen and Tübingen completing his studies with a doctor of theology in 1966. From 1966 to 1968 he held positions as intern and interim pastor (in Württemberg). From 1968 to 1980 Wolfgang Huber worked in the research department of the Evangelical Study Commission in Heidelberg. He also was deputy director. During this time (1972) he qualified as university lecturer for systematic theology in Heidelberg. From 1980 – 1984 he was professor of social ethics at the University of Marburg, and from 1984 to 1994 he was professor of systematic theology with the emphasis on ethics at the University of Heidelberg. From 1973 to 1993 he was a member of the Advisory Commission of the EKD for Social Responsibility, and from 1979 up to 1993 he was a member of the Board of the German Protestant Church Assembly (Kirchentag), and from 1983 to 1985 he was president of the German Protestant Church Assembly. In 1989 Wolfgang Huber spent some time as Lilly Visiting Professor at the Emory University in Atlanta/USA.

Since May 1, 1994 Wolfgang Huber has been Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg, and since 1995 he has been adjunct professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin and at the University of Heidelberg. Since 1997 he has been a member of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, and from 1998 up to now he has been a member of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Council of Churches. He also was a member (from 2001 up to 2003) of the National Council on Ethics. Since November 2003 Wolfgang Huber has been the chief of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Wolfgang Huber's special interest is the life-work of the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. There is a circle of editors who publish Dietrich Bonhoeffer's works. Wolfgang Huber is their spokesman. He also is the editor of several magazines and book series.

## LUTHERAN

### **The Most Reverend Andres Põder**

#### **Archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church**

[www.eelk.ee](http://www.eelk.ee)

Andres Põder was born on November 22nd, 1949 in Haapsalu, West-Estonia. He studied at the Institute of Theology of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC).

- 1976–2005 he served several congregations of the EELC.
- 1990–2005 he was also Dean of the Pärnu Deanery and member of the Consistory of the EELC (assessor).

During his activity as Assessor of the Consistory, Andres Põder was responsible for different fields of church life: children and youth work, diaconia and mission, culture and education.

On November 24th, 2004 the XXVI General Synod of the EELC elected Andres Põder as Archbishop of the EELC. The consecration service took place on February 2nd, 2005.

- 1999–2005 Andres Põder was member and Vice-Chairman of the Pärnu City Council as well as Chairman of the Council's Education Commission.
- 1996–2004 he was also active as lecturer at the Institute of Theology of the EELC.

Andres Põder was founder member of the Estonian Christian Democratic League and delegate of the Congress of Estonia.

He is member of the Order of Saint Constantine the Great.

## **Herrn Bischof D. Dr. Christoph Klein**

### **Evangelische Kirche A. B. in Rumänien**

Born on November 20, 1937 in Sibiu/Hermannstadt as the son of Dr. Gustav Adolf Klein, General Director of the bank: *Hermannstädter allgemeinen Sparkassa*, and of Maria Martha, ne Bruckner.

1954 Graduate of the "Gheorghe Lazăr" - High-School (German section) in Sibiu/Hermannstadt

1954-1959 Study of Lutheran theology in Cluj/Klausenburg and Sibiu/Hermannstadt

1959-1962 Study for the Master Degree

1960-1964 Lutheran pastor in Cața/Katzendorf and Drăușeni/Draas

1960 Marriage to Marlene Wermescher, died in 1985

1961, 1962, 1969 birth of the children Christian, Marlene, Johannes

1964-1968 Pastor in Sibiu/Hermannstadt

1968-1972 Lecturer at the Protestant Theological Institute in Sibiu/Hermannstadt

1969 Doctor Degree in Theology at the Protestant Theological Institute Cluj/Klausenburg

1972 Guest Professor at Mansfield-College Oxford, Member of the Senior Common Room; Training Course for English in Cambridge; Pastoral Council Training in London

1972-1976 Senior pastor (dean) of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession (A.C.= Lutheran) in Sibiu/Hermannstadt

1976-1990 Professor für Systematic Theology at the Protestant Theological Institute

1978-1986 Dean of the German-speaking section of this Institute

1979-1985 Member in the Commission for Scholarship and Exchange Programs of the Lutheran World Federation

1982-1990 Deputy bishop of the Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania

1985-1990 Member in the Commission on Faith and Order and in the Commission for World Mission and Evangelisation of the Ecumenical Council of Churches

1987-1988 Guest Professor for Systematic Theology of the Evangelical Faculty of the University in Vienna

May, 1990 Doctor *honoris causa* of Evangelical Theology from the University in Vienna

Since June 24, 1990 Bishop of the Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania

1993 Marriage to Gerda Klöckner

Since 1994 Vice-President of AIDRom, the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania

1997-2004 Councillor of the Commission on Theology and Study within the Lutheran World Federation (Geneva)

1998-2006 Member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches

2000-2003 Member of the Special Commission of the World Council of Churches regarding Orthodox participation

Since 2004 Member of the Council and Vice-President of the Lutheran World Federation

## CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

**Monsieur le Pasteur Jean-Arnold de Clermont**

**Président de la Conférence des Églises européennes**

<http://www.cec-kek.org/>

Président du Conseil de la Fédération protestante de France depuis le 1er juillet 1999, réélu le 22 mars 2003. Né le 22 octobre 1941 à Paris. Marié, 4 enfants.

Après un baccalauréat en Sciences expérimentales et une préparation aux Écoles nationales d'agriculture, Jean-Arnold de Clermont choisit la théologie et entame un 1er cycle d'études à la Faculté de théologie protestante de Paris en 1962. 2 ans plus tard, il s'expatrie comme VSN (volontaire du service national) à Bangui, (République Centrafricaine) où il est chargé d'enseignement religieux dans les lycées. Il revient à Paris pour son 2ème cycle d'études de théologie et rédige sa thèse de fin d'études en Ancien Testament sur « La tribu de Zabulon ».

En 1967, il devient pasteur de l'Église réformée de France (ERF) et retourne à Bangui au service de l'Église protestante du Christ-Roi. Il y reste 4 ans au cours desquels il crée le Centre protestant pour la Jeunesse de Bangui. Parallèlement, le Conseil œcuménique des Églises (COE) le charge de mission auprès des soudanais réfugiés en RCA. Attaché à son expérience africaine, il devient, à son retour en France, Secrétaire à l'Animation au Service protestant de Mission-DEFAP, poste qu'il occupe à Paris de 72 à 78. De 1978 à 1985, il est en charge de la paroisse de l'Église réformée de France à Rouen. Conscient de l'importance de la rencontre entre Églises, il est membre de l'équipe de formation permanente du diocèse de Rouen de 1978 à 1994. Il participe aussi, depuis 1992, au dialogue avec les Églises anglicanes des Iles Britanniques instauré par le Comité permanent luthéro-réformé (CPLR) qui regroupe 4 Églises luthériennes et réformées de la France de l'intérieur et d'Alsace-Moselle. En 1985, il est élu Président du Conseil régional Nord-Normandie de l'Église réformée de France (ERF). L'une des 8 régions de l'Église réformée de France. En 1994, il revient à Paris et prend en charge la paroisse du Saint-Esprit, rue Roquépine - Paris 8ème.

Parmi ses engagements multiples se trouve la Fondation John Bost qui, depuis 150 ans, prend en charge un millier de personnes souffrant de lourds handicaps physiques et mentaux. Il en était le vice-président jusqu'à la prise de ses nouvelles fonctions en 1999. Son goût pour la vulgarisation de la pensée protestante le fait s'investir dans la maison d'édition de l'Église réformée de France «Les Bergers et les Mages » dont il fut le président durant une quinzaine d'années. Le 20/3/99, il est élu président du Conseil de la Fédération protestante de France dont il était membre depuis 1984. Son compagnonnage avec la Fédération protestante de France remonte à 1978, date à laquelle il devient membre du Département Information-Communication de la FPF. Neuvième président de la Fédération protestante de France, il a pris ses fonctions le 1/7/99. Il a été réélu pour un second mandat de 4 ans, en mars 2003.

Il a été l'artisan d'un patient dialogue mené par la Fédération protestante de France avec des Églises évangéliques et pentecôtistes, qui a abouti le 12 mars 2006 à l'entrée de 5 Eglises dans la FPF. Il est co-président en exercice du Conseil d'Églises chrétiennes en France (CECEF), aux côtés du Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard, Président de la Conférence des Évêques de France et de Mgr Emmanuel, Président de l'Assemblée des Évêques orthodoxes de France. En 2004, le CECEF a adressé une lettre à Jacques Chirac dans laquelle il exprime sa vision commune de la laïcité. Le 25/4/2006, le CECEF a écrit au Premier ministre, Dominique de Villepin, pour lui faire part de ses inquiétudes quant au futur projet de loi sur l'immigration et l'intégration. Il préside jusqu'en 2009 la Conférence des Églises européennes (KEK) qui rassemble 125 Églises anglicanes, orthodoxes et protestantes, de tous les pays européens.



## ISLAMIC COMMUNITIES

### *Sunnites*

**Herrn Anas Schakfeh**

**Präsident der Islamischen Glaubensgemeinschaft  
in Österreich**

<http://www.derislam.at/>

Born on 06.03.1943 in Hama/Syria

1963 School-leaving Certificate in Damascus

1963- 65 Islamic theological Seminar in Hama

Sept. 1965 Entry into Austria

Study of Medicine and Arabic Language and Literature at the Univ. of Vienna

1977 Interpreter - Exam / Sworn Interpreter authorized by court for German/Arabic Language

1978- 85 Chief of Language course at the Afro- Asiatic Institute in Vienna

1980 Austrian Citizen

1984- 98 High School Teacher for Islamic Religion (BRg Vienna I, Schottenbastei)

1987 - current Chairman of the Islam. Religious Community for Vienna, lower Austria and Burgenland

1997- 99 Acting President of the official Islamic Community in Austria

Since Sept. 1998 Inspector for Islamic religious education

Since 15.01.2000 President of the official Islamic Community in Austria

### **Publications:**

Co-author of the following Books:

- Sing mir das Lied meiner Erde / "Sing to me the song of my earth"  
Bitten um den Geist / "to beg for the spirit"

Echter Verlag, Würzburg, 1978 / Echter Publisher, Würzburg, 1978

- Islam in meinem Leben I + II / "Islam in my life I+II"
- Religionslehrbuch für die Volksschule / Religious Schoolbook for the elementary school

Asya Verlag, Köln 1993 / Asya Publisher, Cologne 1993

- Körper ohne Leben / "Body without life"
- Begegnung und Umgang mit Toten / "Meeting and dealing with dead"

Böhlau Verlag, Wien 1998 / Böhlau Publisher, Vienna 1998

- Umpteen Publications in Arabic- Language newspapers and German- Language Magazines,

Since 1980 Speaker with own lecture in the broadcast "Voice of Islam" ORF "Austrian Broadcasting; Radio and TV"

**Dr. Mohammed Abdul Bari**

**Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain**

[www.mcb.org.uk](http://www.mcb.org.uk)

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Bari is an educationalist with a PhD and PGCE from King's College London and a Management degree from the Open University. He has worked as an Air Force Officer, researcher in physics, science teacher and is a SEN specialist in London. He is former President of the Islamic Forum Europe and is Chair of the East London Mosque Trust. He is a board member of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Ltd and patron of the National Youth Agency and Ramphal Centre.

He has authored several books on parenting, and issues of youth and identity. These include: 'Building Muslim Families', 'A Guide to Parenting', and 'Race, Religion & Muslim identity in Britain'. He was elected as Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain at its Ninth Annual General Meeting on 4th June 2006.

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is an umbrella organisation dedicated to the common good, to the betterment of the community and country. The MCB is a vibrant coalition of grassroot organisations and institutions and individual talent and skills that is making a positive and constructive contribution to meeting the needs and the aspirations of the Muslim community in a period of recurring crises and anxious optimism.

The MCB gives practical shape and expression to the ties of faith and community that naturally bring Muslims of all social and cultural backgrounds together. It also brings people from various schools of thought and political outlooks together. It is an inclusive body that deals with issues in a practical, informed and rational manner.

**Aims & Objectives of the MCB :**

To promote cooperation, consensus and unity on Muslim affairs in the UK

To encourage and strengthen all existing efforts being made for the benefit of the Muslim community

To work for a more enlightened appreciation of Islam and Muslims in the wider society

To establish a position for the Muslim community with British society that is fair and based on due rights

To work for the eradication of disadvantages and forms of discrimination faced by Muslims

To foster better community relations and work for the good of society as a whole

## **Herrn Imam Bekir Alboğa**

### **Türkisch Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V.**

geb. 1963 in Doğanhisar-Konya/Türkei, absolvierte dort die Islamische Oberschule, wo er als Imam und Prediger ausgebildet wurde. Imam Bekir Alboğa lebt seit 1980 in Deutschland, studierte Islamwissenschaften/Arabistik, Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaften, Osmanistik und Altaistik an der Universität Göttingen. 1992-1994 übte er eine Lehrtätigkeit an der Universität Heidelberg als Lektor für Türkei-Türkisch aus und arbeitet derzeit am Abschluss seiner Promotion in den Islam- u. Politikwissenschaften an derselben Universität über das islamwissenschaftliche Thema. "Al-Mawardis Leben, Werk und Ideenwelt". Als Islamwissenschaftler ist er seit April 2004 angestellt bei "Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion (DITIB)", der größten Dachorganisation der Muslime in Deutschland in Köln. Er fungiert als Leiter des Sektors "interreligiösen Dialog und interkulturellen Forschung" dieser Organisation. Von 1995 bis April 2004 war er stellvertretender Imam der größten Moscheegemeinde in Mannheim und hauptamtliche islamwissenschaftliche Leiter des Instituts für deutsch- türkische Integrationsstudien und interreligiöse Arbeit e.V. in Mannheim, seit 2004 nur noch ehrenamtlich. Ferner war er seit 2000 bis 2004 muslimischer Vorsitzender der Christlich- Islamischen Gesellschaft Mannheim e.V. Seit 2000 ist er ebenfalls Vorsitzender des Migrationbeirats und Mitglied des Integrationsausschusses der Stadt Mannheim. Seit 2006 ist er Mitglied des Integrationsgipfels und der Deutschen Islamkonferenz der Bundesregierung.

Imam Alboğa ist ein willkommener Gast bei öffentlichen Veranstaltungen und gefragter Interviewpartner für Massenmedien. Er wirkt oft als Sprecher des Koordinationsrats der Muslime in Deutschland, des höchstens Gremiums muslimischer Spitzenverbände Deutschlands.

## **Shiites**

**His Eminence Hugatulislam Abdolhossein Moezi**

**Director of the Islamic Centre in England**

[www.ic-el.com](http://www.ic-el.com)

Born on 9 April 1945.

Married with 4 children.

### **Education and Qualifications**

1959-1961 Islamic Studies at the Theological Centre of Tehran

1961-1964 Islamic Studies at the Theological Centre of Qom

1964-1968 Islamic Studies at the Theological Centre of Najaf (Iraq)

### **Career History**

Oct. 2004-present Director/Minister of Religion of the Islamic Centre of England

Sept. 2000-Sept. 2004 Director/Minister of Religion of the *Islamisches Zentrum Imam Ali*, Vienna

1991-1995 Head of Religious Faculty of the *Imam Sadegh University*, Tehran

Also wrote numerous articles on Philosophical, Religious and Social Issues.

Director and Chief Editor of Religious 'Masjid' Periodical for 13 years.

### **Hobbies**

Reading Religious and Classical Literature, Contemporary Issues, Travelling.

## **JEWISH LEADERS**

### **His Excellency Sir Jonathan Sacks**

#### **Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth**

<http://www.chiefrabbi.org/>

Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1, 1991, the sixth incumbent since 1845.

Prior to becoming Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Sacks had been Principal of Jews' College, London, the world's oldest rabbinical seminary, as well as rabbi of the Golders Green and Marble Arch synagogues in London. He gained rabbinic ordination from Jews' College as well as from London's Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

His secular academic career has also been a distinguished one. Educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained first class honours in Philosophy, he pursued postgraduate studies at New College, Oxford, and King's College, London. Professor Sacks has been Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Essex, Sherman Lecturer at Manchester University, Riddell Lecturer at Newcastle University, Cook Lecturer at the Universities of Oxford, Edinburgh and St. Andrews and Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is currently Visiting Professor of Theology at Kings' College London. He holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Bar Ilan, Cambridge, Glasgow, Haifa, Middlesex, Yeshiva University New York, University of Liverpool, St. Andrews University and Leeds Metropolitan University, and is an honorary fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and King's College London. In September 2001, the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred on him a doctorate of Divinity in recognition of his first ten years in the Chief Rabbinate.

At his installation as Chief Rabbi in 1991, Dr Sacks set out his vision of a reinvigorated Anglo-Jewry and launched it with a Decade of Jewish Renewal, followed by a series of innovative communal projects. These included Jewish Continuity (a national foundation funding programmes in Jewish education and outreach), the Association of Jewish Business Ethics, the Chief Rabbinate Awards for Excellence, the Chief Rabbinate Bursaries, and Community Development, a national programme to enhance Jewish community life. In 1995, he received the Jerusalem Prize for his contribution to diaspora Jewish life. In September 2001 the Chief Rabbi began his second decade of office with a call to Jewish Responsibility and a renewed commitment to the ethical dimension of Judaism.

In 1995, he received the Jerusalem Prize for his contribution to diaspora Jewish life. In September 2001 the Chief Rabbi began his second decade of office with a call to Jewish Responsibility and a renewed commitment to the ethical dimension of Judaism. He was awarded a Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2005. A notably gifted communicator, the Chief Rabbi is a frequent contributor to radio, television and the national press.

Born in 1948 in London, he has been married to Elaine since 1970. They have three children, Joshua, Dina and Gila and two grandchildren.

**Son Excellence le Grand Rabbin René Gutman**

**Grand Rabbin de Strasbourg et du Bas-Rhin**

<http://judaisme.sdv.fr/cibr/index.htm>

Représentant Permanent de la Conférence des Rabbins européens auprès du Conseil de l'Europe.

Docteur en sciences religieuses.

Auteur de "Juifs, Chrétiens et Musulmans en dialogue", édité à Strasbourg, 2000.

**Rabbiner Julian-Chaim Soussan**

**Jüdische Gemeinde in Düsseldorf**

Julian-Chaim Soussan wurde am 13.04.1968 bei Freiburg geboren. Der Vater ist Rabbiner in Freiburg i. Breisgau Landesrabbiner Baden A.D. und Landesrabbiner Sachsen-Anhalt A.D.

Abitur am Deutsch-Französischen Gymnasium in Freiburg

Studium der Judaistik an der Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg

Während des Studiums Beginn einer 10 Jahre dauernden Tätigkeit als Religionslehrer in Stuttgart

Rabbinerausbildung an einer Jeschiva (Talmud-Thora-Hochschule) in Jerusalem mit Ordinierung im Mai 2003

Seit Juni 2003 Rabbiner der Jüdischen Gemeinde Düsseldorf.

verheiratet, 2 Söhne

Rabbiner Soussan ist Mitglied der Orthodoxen Rabbinerkonferenz Deutschland (ORD).

Außerdem ist er ständiges Mitglied des Gesprächskreises „Juden und Christen“ des Zentralkomitees der deutschen Katholiken auf Bundesebene, sowie des Gesprächskreises des Ausschusses „Christen und Juden“ der evangelischen Landeskirche in NRW.

**Son Excellence le Grand Rabbin David M. Lieberman**

**Communauté Israélite Shomre Hadas d'Anvers**

[www.shomre-hadas.be](http://www.shomre-hadas.be)

Né à Cologne, Allemagne en 1925.

Ses parents ont émigré à Anvers, Belgique en 1926.

Ecole primaire: Jesode Hatorah à Anvers, Belgique.

Accepté à la Jeshiva "Etz Chayim" à Heide près d'Anvers en 1936.

Etudes jusqu'au commencement de la guerre en Belgique en 1940.

Réfugié en France de 1940 à 1946.

A enseigné des matières talmudiques dans un institut clandestin des élèves juifs.

Emigré en Amérique en 1946.

Etudié à la Jeshiva "Beth Midrash Govoha" à Lakewood, New Jersey et à la Jeshiva "Tomché Temimim" à New York.

Ordonné comme Rabbin avec distinction de "Joreh Jadin" en 1950.

Première position rabbinique à la Congrégation "Bnei Reuven" à Chicago, Illinois en 1950.

Directeur général de l'école "Beth Jacob" du département religieux et du département profane de 1954 à 1968.

"Dean of the Beth Jehude Schools" à Detroit, Michigan, une institution qui comprenait plusieurs institutions d'éducation, du jardin d'enfants à la Jeshiva supérieur de 1968 à 1980

En même temps Rabbin de la communauté "Bnei Jehuda" à Detroit, Michigan

Grand Rabbin de la Communauté "Shomre-Hadas" à Anvers, Belgique depuis 1980

## ORTHODOX CHURCHES

**His All Holiness Bartholomew**

**Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch**

<http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org>

Représenté par **Son Éminence Le Métropolitte de France Mgr. EMMANUEL**

Son Éminence le Métropolitte de France Mgr Emmanuel (ADAMAKIS) né en 1958 à Agios Nicolaos, Crète. Il entreprend ses études de Philosophie à l'Institut

Catholique de Paris et de Théologie à l'Institut de Théologie Orthodoxe Saint-Serge de Paris (1979-1984). Il fréquente l'École Pratique des Hautes-Études et l'Institut Supérieur d'Études Œcuméniques de l'I.C.P. (1984), puis la section Histoire des Religions de la Sorbonne où il obtient son Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (D.E.A.) en 1985. Ordonné prêtre dans la même année, il entreprend des études post-universitaires à Boston (U.S.A) où, en 1987, il obtient le titre de Master of Theology à la Holy Cross School of Theology (Brookline).

Lors de son retour en Europe il assume les fonctions de Vicaire Général de la Métropole de Belgique, Pays Bas et Luxembourg sous la juridiction du Patriarcat Œcuménique. Nommé Directeur du Bureau de l'Église Orthodoxe auprès de l'Union Européenne (novembre 1995) il est élu, par le Saint-Synode du Patriarcat Œcuménique, successivement, Évêque de Région (5 septembre 1996) et Métropolitte de France (20 janvier 2003).

Ordinaire de ce Diocèse du Patriarcat Œcuménique, Mgr Emmanuel continue à assurer la direction du Bureau de l'Église Orthodoxe auprès de l'Union Européenne et représente le Patriarcat Œcuménique dans le dialogue théologique entre l'Orthodoxie et les Eglises Orientales anciennes ainsi que dans le Comité Œcuménique Européen Église et Société.



## His Holiness Alexy II

### Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

Department for External Church Relations

<http://mospat.ru>

Représenté par **Mgr. HILARION, Evêque de Vienne et d'Autriche**

<http://fr.hilarion.orthodoxia.org/>

Né en 1966 à Moscou, Hilarion Alfeyev fit d'abord ses études de violon, de piano et de composition à l'école Gnessin et au conservatoire de Moscou. Après avoir accompli son service militaire en 1984-1986, il entra au monastère du Saint-Esprit de Vilnius (Lituanie) en 1987, où il reçut la tonsure monastique le 19 juin, fut ordonné diacre le 21 juin et prêtre le 19 août de la même année. En 1989 il termina le séminaire de Moscou et en 1991 l'Académie de théologie de Moscou. De 1991 à 1993 il enseigna l'homilétique, la théologie dogmatique, le Grec néo-testamentaire et byzantin dans les écoles théologiques de Moscou. En 1995 il soutint sa thèse de doctorat sur Syméon le Nouveau Théologien sous la direction de l'évêque Kallistos Ware à l'Université d'Oxford. De 1995 à 2001 il travailla comme secrétaire pour les affaires inter-chrétiennes dans le Département des relations extérieures du Patriarcat de Moscou.

Le 27 décembre 2001 il fut élu évêque par le Saint-Synode de l'Eglise orthodoxe russe et le 14 janvier 2002 le patriarche de Moscou et de toute la Russie Alexis et dix autres évêques lui conférèrent l'ordination épiscopale. Jusqu'à sa nomination le 17 juillet 2002 en tête de la Représentation de l'Eglise orthodoxe russe près les Institutions européennes, il fut évêque de Kertch et auxiliaire du diocèse de Sourouzh en Angleterre. Le 7 mai 2003 il a été nommé évêque de Vienne et d'Autriche, provisoirement chargé du diocèse de Hongrie.

L'évêque Hilarion est l'auteur de 300 publications en russe et en langues occidentales, dont 30 livres. Il a également le grade de docteur en théologie de l'Institut Saint-Serge de théologie orthodoxe de Paris.

**His Beatitude Christodoulos**

**Archbishop of Athens and All Greece**

[www.regue.org](http://www.regue.org)

Represented by ***His Grace Athanasios , Bishop of Archaia and Director of the Representative Office of the Church of Greece to the European Union***

He was born in Athens, Greece, in 1950.

He graduated from the Department of Byzantine and Neohellenic Studies of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Athens (1972) and from the Faculty of Theology of the same University (1976).

He got a Licenza from the Oriental Institute of Rome (1978). He followed a course in German language with a scholarship of the Ostkirchliche Institut in Regensburg. He spent a year in Paris for studies in the Institut Catholique and the Sorbonne University. He got a scholarship from the Catholic Church for three years (1977-1980). He got a D.Phil degree from the University of Oxford in 1984. He was the Keeper of Manuscripts of the National Library of Greece from 1983-1994.

Between 1994-1997 he was professor of the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, which is the educational section of the World Council of Churches. In 1997 he was appointed one of the first professors of the Institute of Higher Studies of Chambésy in Geneva, where he taught till 2000.

He was ordained as a priest in 1991 and as a bishop in 2000.

In 1998 he represented the Church of Greece at the 8th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe. He was also a delegate of the Church of Greece at the 9th General Assembly of the WCC in Porto Alegre, Brasil. He participated in the official Anglican- Orthodox Dialogue on behalf of the Orthodox Church of Albania and he was one of the members of the first official delegation of the Church of Greece to the Holy See in the Vatican, in March 2002.

He is a member of the Central Committee of the Council of European Churches and a member of the Mixed International Theological Committee on Dialogue between Orthodox and Roman-Catholics.

He has published several studies on the history of Christian faith. He speaks English, French and Italian.

## **His Beatitude Chrysostomos II**

### **Archbishop of Nova Justiniana and All Cyprus**

<http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org>

His Beatitude the Archbishop of Nova Justiniana and All Cyprus Chrysostomos II, was born on 10 April 1941 at Tala – Paphos.

When he completed his primary education, he was accepted as a novice in the Holy Monastery of Saint Neophytos. He was then sent to the Paphos Gymnasium from where he got his school – leaving certificate in 1963. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November of the same year he was ordained Deacon and served as Curator of the Monastery for five years. In 1968 he was enrolled in the Faculty of Theology of the University of Athens, from which he graduated in 1972. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October of the same year he was unanimously elected Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Saint Neophytos. He was ordained priest, elevated to Archimandrite (Dean) and finally installed as Abbot by the late Archbishop Makarios III.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1978, he was elected by acclamation as Metropolitan of Paphos and the following day he was ordained and enthroned as Bishop of Paphos.

As Metropolitan of Paphos he worked hard and with great zeal and love for the dissemination of the message of the Gospel in his district along with the spiritual advancement of his flock, as well as for the economic recovery of his Metropolis. For the better and more efficient promotion of the ecclesiastical affairs in his Metropolitan district, the Holy Synod, acting upon his recommendation, selected as Chorepiscopos (Bishop) of the Holy Metropolis of Paphos his Grace Georgios, who was ordained as Chorepiscopos of Arsinoe.

As acting President of the Holy Synod, he was the leader in the firm stance taken by the Church of Cyprus against the seriously flawed Anan Plan, which was submitted in a referendum before the people of Cyprus in April 2004.

He represented the Church of Cyprus on many occasions in several inter-Orthodox as well as inter-Christian dialogues, at inter-ecclesiastical conferences, enthronements of Primate of other Churches etc.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006, he was elected Archbishop of Cyprus and was enthroned on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

The Archbishop celebrates his name day on 13 November.

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Eminentissimo e Reverendissimo Signor Walter Cardinal Kasper**

**Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio per la Promozione dell'Unità dei Cristiani**

Né le 5 mars 1933 à Heidenheim a.d. Brenz (Allemagne), il est ordonné prêtre le 6 avril 1957 pour le diocèse de Rottenburg.

Diplômé d'un doctorat de théologie, il fait ses études de théologie et de philosophie aux universités de Tübingen et de Munich. Assistant de Hans Küng au séminaire de l'université de Tübingen, il est successivement professeur et doyen de la faculté de théologie de l'université de Münster puis de Tübingen. Nommé consultant au Conseil pontifical

pour la promotion de l'Unité des chrétiens, il donne des cours dans des universités étrangères et participe à l'élaboration du catéchisme pour adultes de l'Eglise allemande. Il est secrétaire du Synode extraordinaire des évêques à Rome en 1985. Il prépare le synode du diocèse de Rottenburg-Stuttgart dont il devient l'évêque le 17 juin 1989. Membre de l'académie des sciences de Heidelberg et de l'académie européenne des sciences et des arts, Mgr Kasper sera membre de la commission pour la doctrine de la foi.

En 1998, il est nommé consultant du Conseil pontifical pour la Doctrine de la foi et membre du Conseil pontifical pour la culture. Le 16 mars 1999, il est nommé secrétaire du Conseil pontifical pour la promotion de l'Unité des chrétiens.

## **Seiner Hochwürdigsten Eminenz Karl Kardinal Lehmann**

### **Bischof von Mainz**

### **Präsident der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz**

<http://www.bistummainz.de>

Der Bischof wird in Mainz vom Domkapitel gewählt, vom Papst ernannt und in der Bischofsweihe zum Leiter der Ortskirche (Bistum) bestellt. Innerhalb des allgemeinen kirchlichen Rechts hat der Bischof die Leitungsvollmacht in seinem Bistum als "Hirte" (Seelsorger), Lehrer, Gesetzgeber und Richter. Karl Lehmann wurde am 16. Mai 1936 in Sigmaringen als Sohn des Volksschullehrers Karl Lehmann und seiner Frau Margarete geboren. Nach seiner Schulzeit in Sigmaringen studierte er zwischen 1956 und 1964 Philosophie und Theologie in Freiburg und Rom. Am 10. Oktober 1963 wurde er in Rom von Julius Kardinal Döpfner zum Priester geweiht. 1962 und 1967 erwarb sich Karl Lehmann die Dokortitel in Philosophie und Theologie mit Arbeiten über den Philosophen Martin Heidegger und über das Thema "Auferweckt am dritten Tage nach der Schrift". Als Assistent von Karl Rahner zwischen 1964 und 1967 arbeitete er an den Universitäten von München und Münster, erlebte aber auch das Zweite Vatikanische Konzil in Rom aus nächster Nähe mit. Mit 32 Jahren (1968) schon wurde er auf den Lehrstuhl für katholische Dogmatik und Theologische Propädeutik in Mainz berufen; drei Jahre später übernahm er in Freiburg/Breisgau die Professur für Dogmatik und Ökumenische Theologie. 1983 wurde Prof. Dr. Dr. Karl Lehmann zum Bischof von Mainz gewählt und ernannt. Am 2. Oktober 1983 empfing er die Bischofsweihe im Mainzer Dom. Er ist der 87. Nachfolger des heiligen Bonifatius auf dem Mainzer Bischofsstuhl. 1987 wurde er zum Vorsitzenden der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz gewählt, 1993, 1999 und 2005 in diesem Amt für jeweils weitere sechs Jahre durch Wahl bestätigt. Von 1993 bis 2001 war er außerdem 1. Vizepräsident des Rates der Europäischen Bischofskonferenz.

Neben seinen Hauptämtern früher als Theologieprofessor und jetzt als Bischof hat sich Karl Lehmann in vielen anderen Institutionen und Gremien engagiert und tut das weiterhin: 1971 - 1975 bei der Gemeinsamen Synode der Bistümer in Deutschland, 1969 - 1983 im Zentralkomitee der Deutschen Katholiken, seit 1969 bis heute im Ökumenischen Arbeitskreis evangelischer und katholischer Theologen, 1974 - 1984 in der Internationalen Theologenkommission beim Heiligen Stuhl in Rom, seit 1969 in der Glaubenskommission der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz und von 1986 bis 1998 in der römischen Glaubenskongregation. Seit 1998 ist er Mitglied in der Kongregation für die Bischöfe, seit 2002 Mitglied des Päpstlichen Rates zur Förderung der Einheit der Christen. Kardinal Lehmann ist Mitglied in der Kongregation für die Ostkirchen und in weiteren vatikanischen Institutionen tätig. Lehmann ist zudem Mitglied der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz, der Europäischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Salzburg sowie seit 2005 Ehrenmitglied der Akademie der gemeinnützigen Wissenschaften zu Erfurt. 1991 erhielt er den Ehrendokortitel der Universität Innsbruck und der Katholischen Universität in Washington D.C., 1994 auch der Katholischen Universität Maynooth/Irland, 1997 der Katholisch-Theologischen Akademie Warschau, 2000 an der Theologischen Fakultät der Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, 2002 an der Universität Oppeln und 2004 an der Universität in Iasi in Rumänien. 2000 wurde Bischof Lehmann das Große Bundesverdienstkreuz mit Stern und Schulterband verliehen, 2001 die Ehrenbürgerschaft der Landeshauptstadt Mainz und 2001 der Ehrenring der Görres Gesellschaft. 2004 wurde ihm als erster die "Karl-Rahner-Plakette" der Deutschen Jesuiten und der Karl-Rahner-Stiftung in München verliehen. Kardinal Lehmann wurde 2005 mit dem "Orden wider den tierischen Ernst" des Aachener Karnevalsvereins ausgezeichnet. Im gleichen Jahr erhielt er den Eugen-Biser-Preis und 2006 den Abraham-Geiger-Preis sowie die

Ehrenbürgerwürde der Universität Mainz und wurde zum Kommandeur der französischen Ehrenlegion (Légion d'Honneur) ernannt. Am 28. Januar 2001 hat Papst Johannes Paul II. Bischof Lehmann zum Kardinal ernannt. In dieser Funktion nahm er am Konklave im April 2005 teil, aus dem Papst Benedikt XVI hervorging.

**His Excellency Monsignor Adrianus van Luyn**  
**Bishop of Rotterdam**  
**President of the Commission of the Bishops' Conference**  
**of the European Community (COMECE)**

<http://www.comece.org>

<http://www.bisdomrotterdam.nl>

Evêque de Rotterdam, Pays-Bas [Diocèse de Rotterdam](#).

Mgr Adrianus van Luyn est né le 10 août 1935 à Groningen, aux Pays-Bas. Il fut ordonné prêtre le 9 février 1964.

Il fut ensuite nommé évêque de Rotterdam le 27 novembre 1993. Il est membre du Conseil Pontifical pour la culture et est aussi conseiller pour la Commission pontificale pour le Patrimoine Culturel de l'Eglise.

Mgr van Luyn est membre de la COMECE depuis mars 1995 et fut élu Vice-Président en mars 2000 et Président de la COMECE en mars 2006.