



Belgrade, 12.03.2011.

PRESS RELEASE

International scientific conference *Everlasting Value and Permanent Actuality of the Edict of Milan - On the Way to the Great Jubilee In 2013* was held in Niš from 24th to 26th of February 2011. The conference gathered prominent historians and theorists, representatives of civil society and representatives of churches and religious communities, dedicated to research of time, personality and position of Constantine the Great, with the aim of bringing closer to the wider public the importance of “Edict of Milan” in the past as well as in the presence.

This meeting represents a big step forward towards celebration of the great jubilee – seventeen centuries since the Edict of Milan in 313.



At the conference took part: His Grace Bishop of Bachka *Mr. Dr Irinej*, H.E. *Stanislav Hočevar*, Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan, H.E. *Dr Ladislav Nemet*, Bishop of Zrenjanin, Mons. *Dr Andrija Kopilović*, Prof. *Milutin Timotijevic*, Prof. *Dr Darko Tanaskovic*, Prof. *Dr Radivoj Radic*, Prof. *Dr Radovan Bigovic*, Mufti of Serbia *Mehamed Jusufspahic*, *Mr. Aleksandar Necak*, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia, Archpriest *Vitalij Tarasjev* Superintendent of the Metochion of the Moscow Patriarchy in Belgrade, presidents of the Austrian Foundation Pro Oriente and Swiss Peace and Crises Management Foundation *Dr Johann Marte* and *Mr. Boris Vukobrat*, H.E. *Mr. Orlando Antonini* Ambassador of the Holy See, Ambassadors of Austria *Clemens Koja* and Macedonia *Ljubce Georgievski*, Representatives of Austrian Academy of Science and Péter Pázmány University from Hungary, Belgrade office of the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Belgrade Open School and other guests from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and the City of Nish.



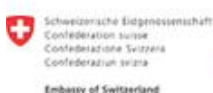
The Conference was organised by the *Committee of the Serbian Orthodox Church in charge for preparation of the celebration of 1700 years of the Edict of Milan* and Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in Southeast Europe – CIVIS in cooperation with Austrian Pro Oriente Foundation, and Swiss Peace and Crises Management Foundation. The meeting was held with the blessing of His Holiness Serbian Patriarch, Mr. Irinej.

The Conference was supported by:

- Embassy of Switzerland in Belgrade,
- Belgrade Representative office of the Company ALPINE, Austria,
- Belgrade Representative office of the Company SWIETELSKY, Linc, Austria,
- Belgrade Representative office of the Company PORR, Austria,
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation,
- TV Production of the Orthodox Diocese of Bachka, Novi Sad,
- The City of Nish,
- Board for the Construction of the Complex Emperor Constantine, Nish , and
- Hotel TAMI RESIDENCE (Nish).

Participants of the conference have adopted the Conclusions believing that they will be useful for future activities which our society and state should undertake in order to have great Jubilee in 2013 fully manifested in accordance with its historical and cultural importance.

Conclusions and Photos from the conference are attached.





CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE, NISH 2011

International conference *Everlasting Value and Permanent Actuality of the Edict of Milan - On the Way to the Great Jubilee In 2013* was held in Nish from 24th to 26th February 2011. The conference, as the first manifestation of this sort, was organised in Nish, the birthplace of the Constantine the Great and on the way to the anniversary of 1700 years since Edict of Milan.

At the conference, different aspects of epochal and permanent historical and civilisation significance were envisaged. Aspects of the act by which for the first time the principle of whole religious freedom and equality of all religious beliefs and creative dialogue of Christianity with the Greek-Roman culture was affirmed.

Fallowing letter and spirit of the Edict of Milan, participants of the Conference have devoted special attention to observation and on the emphasising the everlasting value of this document in the light of the challenge that contemporary world is facing. Uniquely has been decided that correct understanding of the ideas enclosed in the Edict of Milan could significantly contribute in resolving some of most complex issues of contemporary man, such as:

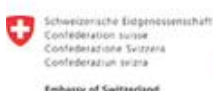
- Absence of unrestricted right to religious freedom
- Jeopardizing or insufficient protection of human rights
- Lack of social justice
- Permanent devastation of peace in the world.

Having in mind the importance and scope of raised questions, participants of the conference appeal that in future integral dialogue, all subjects of social life responsibly act: state institutions, Church and religious communities, as well as organizations of civil society. For the members of Christian Churches special inspiration in the efforts of recognizing original unity of the Church represents circumstance that with the Edict of Milan a path to the organization of the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea was opened.

In that spirit, participants of the conference, which in the fallowing great jubilee of Christianity see an unique opportunity for improvement of inter-Christian and inter-religious dialogue as well as the dialogue with the contemporary world, appeal for doing everything in order to have this great possibility vivacious in best possible way and in common interest.

Participants of the Conference

Nish, 25.02.2011





On behalf of organizers:

Mr. Boris Vukobrat, Bishop of Backa Mr. Irinej, Ms. Mirjana Prljevic and Dr Johann Marte

