

Programme “Passion for Europe” La Pairelle, Namur, 20-22 September 2024

European Democracy in the light of the War in Ukraine: something worth fighting for?

The European Common good, in the sense of its founding fathers, and their successors like Jacques Delors, should be the final goal of all Europe policies, by ensuring peace and prosperity and offering a free and sustainable environment to each community and person.

Today, with war on its borders, a weakened economy compared to the US and China, and with increased nationalism, how can Europe still be a model of democracy and prosperity? Is growing national and private individualism a threat for cross-border communities and common projects? How can politicians, academics and citizens of goodwill fight for European democracy, and can churches play a specific role?

FRIDAY, 20th September 2024

From 4:00 pm: Welcome-coffee, booklets, room check-in

5:30 pm: Introductory session : *“How to rebuild peace in Europe”*

Keynote speech by Prof. Antoine Arjakovsky, historian, co-director of the Politics and Religions research department at the French Collège des Bernardins, and director emeritus of the Lviv Institute of Ecumenical Studies

6:45 pm – 7:30 pm: Dinner (*hand washing dishes by participants*)

7:30 pm: **Group Session**, exchange in multi-national groups

8:15pm: **Social networking** at the library’s bar (with a taste of various Belgium beers)

SATURDAY, 21st September 2024

7:30 am: Lauds in the Crypt (optional)

7:30 am – 8:45 am: Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:30 am: Panel: *“The Politics of European democracy in times of war”*

With the participation of:

Marie de Saint-Cheron, European and Multilateral Affairs Director at Safran (moderator)

Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General of the Legal Service of the European Commission

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Association of European Border Regions, former President of the European Committee of Regions, former President of the Parliament of the Belgian German Community

Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, Deputy Head of Unit for Euratom Research at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Directorate Clean Planet, and President of the Belgian branch of the European Federalist Party

10:45: Group Session, exchange in multi-national groups

12:20 pm – 1:30 pm: Lunch (+ hand washing dishes by participants)

14.30-16.00: Panel: “European Democracy. The spiritual and long-term perspective”

With the participation of:

Victoria Martin de la Torre, from the European Parliament Research Service (moderator)

Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General of CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité)

Edmund Grace SJ, Advisor on Citizen Participation, wheel.ie

Sébastien Maillard, Special Adviser, Jacques Delors « Notre Europe » Institute

Member of the European Parliament, name to be confirmed

4:00 pm: Break

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm: Group Session, exchange in multi-national groups

6:45 pm – 7:30 pm: Dinner (*hand washing dishes by participants*)

8:00 pm: Evening piano concert in the Crypt

Some musical tastes of the European cultural heritage by **Maxence Pilchen**, pianist

Maxence Pilchen's vast repertoire, which includes both solo and orchestra work, along with his interpretations of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninov, Stravinsky, Albert Roussel or Prokofiev, have earned him critical acclaim in the musical world. He has also participated in the creation and execution of many contemporary works. Thanks to this wide ranging repertoire, he has won many other international distinctions in cities such as Porto, Barcelona, Rome and Epinal.

SUNDAY, 22nd September 2024

8:00 am – 8:45 am: Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:30 am: Wrap-up session in plenary: exchange on main conclusions and redaction of a draft contribution from La Pairelle 2024

10:30 am: Break

11:00 am: Mass

12:20 pm – 1:30 pm: Lunch (+ hand washing dishes by participants)

2:00 pm: Departure