

KAIROS EUROPA e.V.

1. Vorsitzender

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Volos Academy for Theological Studies

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cc. Prof. Petros Vasileiadis, Prof. Pantelis Kalaitzidis, Prof. Stylianos Tsompanidis, Ratsvorsitzender der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) Landesbischof Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm

Dear brothers and sisters,

thank you very much for your letter challenging the churches in Europe to finally react and support your struggle to change European policies away from the ruling of neoliberal cannibalism to a socially and democratically legitimate political economy.

As Kairos Europa we already participated in writing the letter responding to the “Other Thessaloniki Letter” addressed to the participants of the Kirchentag in Stuttgart in June (attached). We reconfirm our full solidarity with you and your suffering people.

Beyond this immediate response we would like to remind you that Kairos Europa has warned the European policy makers and churches that this kind of Monetary Union would lead to exactly the consequences you have to suffer now. In 1996 we launched a call for a campaign under the motto “FOR A JUST MONETARY UNION – INCLUDING A COMMON POLICY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION; REGAINING CONTROL OF TRANSNATIONAL CAPITAL” (attached)

It shows that we predicted the crises, the foremost victims of which are the Greek citizens. So it was possible to understand what this kind of European Monetary Union would do to the people of Europe. We also organized a Hearing in the European Parliament winning about 100 MEPs to support the call and join the campaign. But although Marc Lenders of the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society participated in the Hearing, the churches in Europe did not support our initiative. Up to now they claim that Europe follows a policy of “Social Market Economy” thus smoke-screening the reality which shows that Greece is the experiment to test how far capital and the governments serving it can go in dismantling the welfare state (see attached analysis of Fabian Scheidler).

We do hope that the churches in Europe take your call seriously, wake up and reconsider their analysis of the situation in the EU and the EMU, thus contributing to the necessary change towards social cohesion and control of the financial markets. Pope Francis' Apostolic letter *Evangelii Gaudium* and his Encyclical *Laudato si* and the documents of the 10th WCC Assembly in Busan could be the basis for a policy change of the European churches which so far they shy away from.

Now we pray that until Sunday a compromise may be found which honors the social life and dignity of the Greek people and at the same time keeps the door open for middle range change in the European policies.

In solidarity

Ulrich Duchrow and Martin Gück for Kairos Europa



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