

Strasbourg - President Prof. Dr. Poettering received Lazarus EU-Delegation - Official Meeting dealt with social projects in Macedonia



President of the
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG



The President of the European Parliament, **Prof. Dr. Gert Poettering**, a German member in the EU-Parliament, invited representatives of the Grand Priory of Europe (GP-EU) for a meeting to learn about the ongoing international humanitarian and charitable work of the Order of St. Lazarus and its internationally accredited NGO, the Lazarus-Hilfswerk (LHW). In addition, the plans and projects of its Macedonian partner NGO „Lazarus-Macedonia“ were discussed.



Lazarus EU-Delegates with the EU-President:

Chaplain General Msgr. Dr. Lothar Schlegel, EGCLJ, and Chev. Prof. Dr. Lazar Lazarov, KCLJ, President of Lazarus Macedonia (GP-EU) President of the EU-Parliament Prof. Dr. Gert Pättering and EU-Grandprior Chev. Klaus-Peter Pokolm, GCLJ with Chev. Wilfried Roth, KLJ, GP-EU Marshal in the Office of the President

The European Lazarus-Delegation received the honour of being invited for a working lunch in the office of the EU-President in Strasbourg. Prof. Dr. Poettering was very interested in all details of the humanitarian projects of Lazarus Europe in the last 4 decades, which several times were executed very successfully - especially in the former Eastern Countries - and had its highlight in the early 1980's in Poland and later in Russia. Prof. Dr. Poettering, in the name of the Parliament as well as the European Commission, recognized the determined humanitarian charitable work, which was started during the time of the Iron Curtain and Communist domination.

It was mentioned that the humanitarian aid provided for Russia with Lazarus-Coordination-Offices in St. Petersburg, Novgorod and Moscow by order of the EC, was not merely food aid for the Russian population in need, but also formed a part of the peace process with the European countries, which was agreed upon between the EC and the former Russian government.

In a short statement, EU-Grand Prior Chev. Klaus-Peter Pokolm, GCLJ, who had been President of the LHW for about 30 years, explained the 900-year historical background of the Christian Order of St. Lazarus, which was founded about 1098 in Jerusalem, and its modern orientation as the only worldwide ecumenical Order of Knighthood.

At the center of the discussion were plans and projects of the Macedonian Lazarus members. Shortly after Macedonia became independent, the Lazarus-Hilfswerk GP-EU started its humanitarian projects for Macedonia and was several times invited by the first President of Macedonia, Kiro Gligorov, first to discuss and later to deliver humanitarian aid to help the population. From the beginning of the relationship with Macedonia, it was always intended that an independent NGO, under the patronage of the Order of St. Lazarus, would be developed in Macedonia.



The Chaplain General of the GP-EU Msgr. Dr. Lothar Schlegel, in his position as Liaison Officer to Macedonia, gave a presentation covering the charitable projects in Macedonia. Chev. Prof. Dr. Lazar Lazarov, Commander of the GP-EU subjurisdiction in Macedonia, was asked to present all plans in detail and to explain the idea for developing the voluntary work of the national NGO „Lazarus-Macedonia“ in cooperation with the Macedonian Government and the European

Commission, which is supported by Lazarus-Europe as an experienced partner of the EC.



Overview

after the EU-meeting and projection into the Macedonian Lazarus future

Msgr. Dr. Schlegel and Chev. Wilfried Roth enjoyed a view of the city of Strasbourg from the roof of the Parliament and discussed with employess from Brussels the projects for Macedonia

The formal visit at the office of the EU-President in Strasbourg concluded with a very interesting individually guided tour through the assembly hall of the EU-parliament and several offices of the EU-administration. The Lazarus-delegation left Strasbourg impressed by, and very motivated by President Prof. Dr. Poettering to pursue the charitable projects in close cooperation with the LHW, the GP-EU, and with support of experienced members in the Order.



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