

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 439 – No. 44/2016

Patriarch Bartholomew informs the World Evangelical Alliance about the results of the Orthodox Council in Crete

(Bonn, 17.09.2016) The Honorary Head of the Orthodox Churches, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, informed the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) about the results of the Orthodox Council in Crete. The occasion was a visit made by the Chairman of the Theological Commission and Moderator for Intrafaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance at the official seat of the Patriarch.

A special honor was the participation at a dinner with the current members of the Holy Synod, i.e., archbishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from almost all continents.

At the same time, the Ecumenical Patriarchate agreed to conduct high-level theological discussions with the World Evangelical Alliance. The participants from both sides are to be determined by autumn.

Schirmmacher and his team also visited the General Secretary of the Armenian Patriarchate, Father Drtad Uzunyan, the Metropolitan and Archbishop of the Syrian Orthodox Church of



Thomas Schirmmacher and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew © BQ / Warnecke

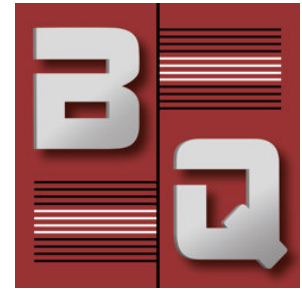
Istanbul and Ankara, Filüksinos Yusuf Çetin, and Istanbul's Mufti, Prof. Dr. Rahmi Yaran.

The 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide belong to 14 independent ("autocephalous") churches, which are independent and equal. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople bears his name because he alone has the honorary privilege for the whole world (ecumenism) and only he can convene a council. However, he is not a pope and has no authority over others. In fact, the work he conducts from his location in Istanbul is severely restricted by the Turkish authorities.

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islam institute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

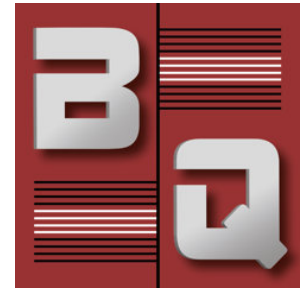
WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

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An estimated two million Orthodox Christians of various churches live in Germany. With the Orthodox Bishops' Conference in Germany, which was founded in 2010 and to which ten bishops from seven churches belong, the unity or at least commonality of the Orthodox churches is more advanced than on an international level. The chairman is the Bonn-based Metropolitan Augoustinos, the Greek Orthodox Exarch for Europe.



Thomas Schirmmacher and his team with Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy Synod (five metropolitans) © BQ / Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- We refer in this context to our report on the Orthodox Council in Crete: [BQ 417, No. 22/2016](#)
- **Photo 1:** Thomas Schirmmacher and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew © BQ / Warnecke
- **Photo 2:** Visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch, from the left: The Orthodox Archbishop of France, Thomas Schirmmacher, His Royal Highness Prince Gharios, Behnan Konutgan, the Ecumenical Patriarch © BQ / Warnecke
- **Photo 3 and photo 4:** Thomas Schirmmacher and his team with Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy Synod (five metropolitans) © BQ / Warnecke
- **Photo 5:** from the left: His Royal Highness Prince Gharios, Filüksinos Yusuf Çetin, Metropolitan (Archbishop) of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Thomas Schirmmacher © BQ / Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** Visit to the General Secretary of the Armenian Patriarchate Father Drtad Uzunyan © BQ / Warnecke
- **Photo 7:** Thomas Schirmmacher in conversation with the Mufti of Istanbul Prof. Dr. Rahmi Yaran © BQ / Warnecke

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