

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Christine Schirmmacher in discussion with ambassadors from Muslim countries in Brussels

(Bonn, 27.09.2013) On invitation of the “Forum Brussels International” and the Brussel’s office of the political foundation Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Christine Schirmmacher, Ph.D., well known German professor of Islamic Studies and director of the International Institute of Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), spoke on the topic “Islam in Europe – Politicization or Integration?” for ambassadors of several Muslim majority countries accredited to the European Union, among them the ambassadors of Turkey, Egypt, Malaysia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to a group of politicians, Middle East experts, leaders of human rights organizations and journalists.



Christine Schirmmacher during her presentation in Brussels

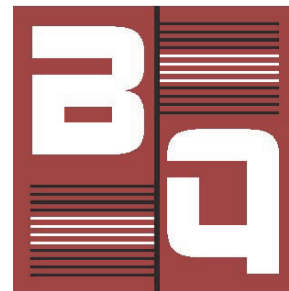
“In which direction is Islam presently developing in Europe?” Schirmmacher asked. Is it developing into the direction of de-politization and enlightenment or is it more and more identifying with political Islam which does not only promote Islam as a religion but in the long run aims at establishing Islam also as a societal and political order?

After a migration history of over 50 years with people coming from Turkey, formerly as guest workers, but also from Arab countries, Iran, and from

different Asian and African countries, positive encounters and good friendships between Europeans and migrants are still, due to cultural reasons, regrettably still in many cases an exception, not a rule. But the real question in the European context which Europe has to deal with more intensively in the future is, according to Schirmmacher, not so much the question of religious freedom as religious freedom is already a reality in most respects. The question of real importance is how Europe will deal with political Islam which does not allow religious freedom for converts, minorities, or for those who think differently. At the same time, it does not unambiguously take sides on behalf of European democracies.

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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.de

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

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.org

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling
www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/lfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
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Martin Bucer Seminary
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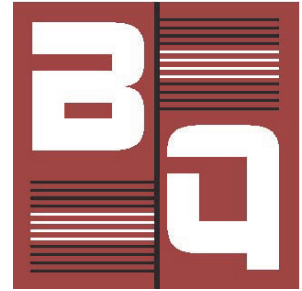
Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

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

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On the evening of the same day Prof. Schirmacher offered a second presentation in the auditorium of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung in Brussels on the topic "Islam in Europe" which was followed by a round table discussion. Guests on the podium were the EU official Prof. Dr. Michael Köhler, the Indonesian ambassador to the EU, Arif Havas Oegrosono, as well as Malika Hamidi, a representative of European Islam.

The group discussed the question how integration of Muslim immigrants can be dealt with more successfully. All agreed on the necessity of subscribing to a common set of European values (human rights, women's rights, and religious freedom) and being resolved to take a stand against extremists.

Links:

- Report of the Indonesian embassy in Brussels: <http://www.embassyofindonesia.eu/ambassador/?q=content/theological-approach-inevitable-discussion-about-islam-and-europe>
- Report of the Hanns Seidel Stiftung: <http://www.hss.de/internationale-arbeit/themen/themen-2013/islam-und-europa-politisierung-oder-integration.html> (German)
- Report in NEWEUROPE: <http://www.neurope.eu/article/views-islam-europe>

Downloads:

- Report in the Stiftungspost of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung ([pdf](#)) (German)
- Programme ([pdf](#))
- [Photo1](#) und [Photo2](#): Christine Schirmacher during her presentation in Brussels

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