

27th International Congress Renovabis

12 - 14 September 2023

in Munich and as livestream

„Freedom as I understand it ...“

Europe in the Realm between

a New Awakening, Disillusionment and Threat

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Renovabis. On this occasion, the International Congress will take a look at the social and ecclesial developments in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe over the past three decades, starting with the idea of freedom and the hopes and expectations associated with it at the beginning of the 1990s. It will cover a range from the initial spirit of optimism to increasing disillusionment and scepticism about Western models to the threat to freedom in Europe posed by authoritarian tendencies and the war against Ukraine. The congress will take stock of what has been achieved so far. It will also look at the challenges and tasks facing society, politics and the churches today and in the coming years, also in view of the changed geopolitical situation in Europe. In addition to lectures and panel discussions, a separate dialogue forum is planned for this purpose, which will give all participants of the congress the opportunity to actively contribute their topics, ideas and questions.

At the start of the Congress, on 12 September 2023, the solidarity initiative Renovabis will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a special festive event. Joachim Gauck, former German Federal President, will give the keynote speech. Afterwards, the Bavarian state government invites to a state reception. The evening offers the opportunity to meet and exchange informally.

International Congress Renovabis

The International Congress Renovabis, which has been held annually since 1997, serves to inform and discuss important developments in church and society in Central and Eastern Europe, but also takes up topics of pan-European importance. With the participation of numerous guests from all parts of Europe, the congress has developed into an important forum for dialogue between East and West.

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Programme

Tuesday, 12 September 2023

from 15:30 **Reception of the guests and congress participants**

Katholische Akademie in Bayern – Kardinal Wendel Haus
Mandlstraße 23, 80802 Munich

17:00 **Vespers – evening prayer**

with Archbishop Reinhard Cardinal Marx
Parish church St. Sylvester, Biedersteiner Straße 1, 80802 Munich

18:00 **Celebration of the 30th anniversary of Renovabis**

Katholische Akademie in Bayern – Kardinal Wendel Haus
Mandlstraße 23, 80802 Munich

Welcome and introduction

Father Prof. Dr. Thomas Schwartz

Welcome address

Minister of State Dr. Florian Herrmann MdL

Talks on 30 years of the solidarity initiative Renovabis

among others with Wolfgang Klose (Vice-President of the Central Committee of German Catholics) and other guests

Celebratory speech

Learning from Mistakes – Germany and its Relations with the Eastern Countries of Europe

former German Federal President Joachim Gauck

Between New Awakening and Disillusionment: The Quest for Freedom and Democracy in Europe

Round of talks with

- Prof. Dr. Klara-Antonia Csiszar
- Former Federal Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer
- Archbishop Reinhard Cardinal Marx
- Dr. Irina Shcherbakova

Moderation of the evening

Irene Esmann

Music

bazár dilo – Songs and rhythms of the Balkans

State reception by the Bavarian State Government

Music, buffet and encounter

21:30 End of the festive event

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Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Venue: Munich School of Philosophy
Kaulbachstraße 31A, 80539 Munich

9:00 **Spiritual impulse and introduction**

Father Prof. Dr. Thomas Schwartz

9:30 **Freedom, Democracy, Human Rights and Prosperity –
where do we stand today and what Tasks will we face in the Future?**

Social Developments in Central and Eastern Europe after the End of Communism

Keynote speeches from a political scientific perspective

- Prof. Dr. Andreas Heinemann-Grüder
- Prof. Dr. Marek A. Cichocki

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **„Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom“ (2 Cr 3,17) –
Church Developments in Central and Eastern Europe**

Keynote speeches from social science, sociology of religion and
theological perspectives

- Sister Prof. Dr. Helen Alford OP
- Prof. Dr. Klara-Antonia Csiszar

Moderation

Gudrun Sailer

12:00 **Introduction to the Dialogue Forum**

Dr. Albert-Peter Rethmann

13:00 **Lunch**

Buffet in the foyer of the auditorium

15:00 **Dialogue Forum** (For more information see page 5)

15:00 Dialogue round 1

15:50 Coffee break

16:10 Dialogue round 2 (until 17:00)

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- 17:30 **Eucharistic celebration**
Parish and University Church St. Ludwig
Ludwigstraße 22, 80539 Munich
- 19:00 **Dinner followed by a social gathering**
Max Emanuel Brewery – tavern and beer garden
Adalbertstraße 33, 80799 Munich

Thursday, 14 September 2023

Venue: Munich School of Philosophy

- 9.00 **Spiritual impulse and short review of the previous day**
Father Prof. Dr. Thomas Schwartz

Moderation

Dr. Maria-Luise Schneider

- 9:15 **Threatened freedom in Europe?**
Challenges for Society, Politics and Churches

Panel discussion with

- Knut Abraham MdB
- Dr. Yauheniya Danilovich
- Bishop Dr. Petar Palić
- Sofija Todorović

followed by a final discussion

with representatives from the dialogue groups of the Dialogue Forum of
13 September

- 12:00 **Conclusion and closing words**
Father Prof. Dr. Thomas Schwartz

- 12:15 **Lunch**
Buffet in the foyer of the auditorium

Possible changes/updates of the congress programme and, if necessary, further information will be published on the Renovabis website. See www.renovabis.de/congress

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Dialogue Forum

All participants in the Congress are invited to bring topics, questions and suggestions on the future challenges and tasks for the Church, politics and society in Europe to the Dialogue Forum on 13 September. Several dialogue groups will be formed according to topics/concerns, in which projects can be presented, discussion questions can be openly discussed and ideas can be further developed together with other participants of the Congress. Two dialogue rounds are planned, so that there is the possibility to participate in two different dialogue groups. For organisational reasons, we would be grateful if you could enter your topics or questions for the Dialogue Forum in the space provided in the registration form. However, it is also possible to bring a dialogue topic to the congress itself. We also welcome impulses that arise on site.

The person who has proposed a topic takes an active and, if necessary, leading role in the dialogue group. The dialogue groups do not have to develop and present concrete results. However, important findings, topics and questions from the dialogue groups can be introduced at the final discussion on 14 September. Through these contributions, everyone will then be able to find out what the individual dialogue groups have been working on.

More detailed explanations on the procedure of the Dialogue Forum and assistance for the work of the dialogue groups will be given in the introduction during the congress.

Speakers, panelists, experts and moderators

among others

Knut Abraham MdB

Member of the German Bundestag, former diplomat and long-time advisor on foreign policy issues in the Federal Chancellery, spokesperson for the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, member of the Executive Committee of the Pan-European Union Germany, Berlin and Dubro

Sister Prof. Dr. Helen Alford OP

President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in the Vatican, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontificia Università San Tommaso d'Aquino (Angelicum), Rome/Italy

Prof. Dr. Marek A. Cichocki

Programme Director of the Natolin European Centre (CEN) and Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly journal „Nowa Europa. Przegląd Natoliński" (The New Europe. A Natolin Assessment), Professor at the private university „Collegium Civitas“, Warsaw/Poland

Prof. Dr. Klara-Antonia Csiszar

Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Institute of Pastoral Theology of the Catholic Private University Linz, Linz/Austria, Member of the Doctoral College Culture-Religion-Society at the Babes-Bolyai University Cluj Napoca/Romania

Dr. Yauheniya Danilovich

Academic councillor at the Department of Practical Theology and Religious Education, Protestant Theological Faculty of the Westphalian Wilhelms University, Münster, Lecturer at the Training Institute for Orthodox Theology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Münster

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Irene Esmann

Journalist, author and presenter at Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich

Joachim Gauck

Protestant theologian and politician, 1991 to 2000 Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR, 2012 to 2017 President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

Prof. Dr. Andreas Heinemann-Grüder

Political scientist at the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC), Bonn

Dr. Florian Herrmann MdL

Bavarian State Minister for Federal Affairs and Media and Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery, Munich

Wolfgang Klose

Vice President of the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK), Berlin

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer

Former Federal Minister, Co-Chair of the International Leadership Council of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), Püttlingen near Saarbrücken

Archbishop Reinhard Cardinal Marx

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Munich

Bishop Dr. Petar Palić

Bishop of the Diocese of Mostar-Duvno, Mostar/Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Albert-Peter Rethmann

Theologian, ethicist, systemic coach and organisational consultant, Federal Chairman of Ackermann-Gemeinde, München/Bendorf near Koblenz

Gudrun Sailer

Author, journalist and editor at Vatican News – Vatican Radio, Rome/Italy

Dr. Maria-Luise Schneider

Deputy Director and Consultant for Politics and Society at the Katholische Akademie in Berlin, Berlin

Dr. Irina Shcherbakova

Russian human rights activist and co-founder of Memorial, an organisation awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022, Moscow/Russia

Sofija Todorović

Programme Director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), Belgrade/Serbia

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Organisational information

Conference languages: German, English and Italian

Registration

To register for **presence participation** in the 27th International Congress Renovabis in Munich, please fill in the online form on the Renovabis website:

<https://www.renovabis.de/en/mitmachen/international-congress-renovabis/anmeldung-zum-internationalen-kongress-2023>

The registration deadline is **25 August 2023**. A confirmation will be timely sent to you by e-mail. Please note: Your registration is only valid after receipt of this confirmation. Due to the space available, the number of presence participants is limited. Registrations will be considered according to the date of receipt.

No registration is required to use the **livestream**.

Follow the congress free of charge via livestream

Those who are unable to attend this year's Renovabis Congress in Munich will have the opportunity to follow the plenary sessions of the Congress, including the festive event on 12 September 2023, in all three conference languages via livestream. A corresponding internet link will be available on the Renovabis website in good time before the start of the event: www.renovabis.de/congress. There won't be any livestream broadcast of the dialogue forum with its various dialogue groups on Wednesday afternoon.

Participation fees for presence participants

Those attending the congress **in Munich in presence** pay a **flat rate of 80,- EUR** for participation (including meals). Guests from Central and Eastern Europe pay **half** the fee, i.e. **40,- EUR**. Certain groups of persons (students, etc.) can apply for a 50 percent reduction. A complete exemption from the participation fee is possible with a justified written application.

With the confirmation of registration you will receive the request to transfer the fee together with the necessary details.

Please note: In case of **cancellation of your registration** after 1 September, only 50 percent of any fees will be refunded. If you cancel after 8 September, no refund will be possible.

On-site registration for congress and festive event

In view of the necessary on-site registration, we ask all participants in the congress and all guests at the festive event to arrive early. On 12 September 2023, the reception will be open from 15:30 at the Katholische Akademie in Bayern (Kardinal Wendel Haus, Mandlstraße 23, 80802 Munich).

Venues on 12 September 2023

Vespers:

City Parish Church of St. Sylvester
Biedersteiner Str. 1
80802 Munich

www.altschwabing-katholisch.de/sankt-sylvester/pfarrkirche-sankt-sylvester

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Festive event:

Katholische Akademie in Bayern

Kardinal Wendel Haus

Mandlstraße 23

80802 München

www.kath-akademie-bayern.de/english/about-us.html

The best way to get to both venues is by public transport to the stop „Münchner Freiheit“ (underground lines U3 and U6, tram 23, several bus lines).

www.altschwabing-katholisch.de/sankt-sylvester/lageplan-anfahrt

www.kath-akademie-bayern.de/anreise.html

Venue on 13 and 14 September 2023

Munich School of Philosophy

Kaulbachstraße 31A

80539 Munich

www.hfph.de/en

The best way to get there is by public transport to the stop „Universität“ (underground lines U3 and U6, several bus lines).

https://hfph.de/hochschule/kontakt/anfahrtsbeschreibung_internet.pdf/

We recommend that guests arriving by car from out of town find out about the P+R facilities in the area of Munich's underground and suburban railway systems.

Accommodation and meals

Please indicate in the registration form which **meals** you would like to attend.

If you would like to stay overnight in Munich, we kindly ask you to find your own **accommodation**. The following hotels have a contingent of rooms available for you to call off:

Hotel Carlton Astoria

Fürstenstraße 12, 80333 Munich

www.carlton-astoria.de/seiten/en/hotel.htm

service@carlton-astoria.de

fon +49 (0)89 38 39 63-0, fax +49 (0)89 38 39 63-63

bookable until 21 August 2023

Motel One Munich-Haidhausen

Rosenheimer Straße 110, 81669 Munich

www.motel-one.com/en/hotels/munich/hotel-munich-haidhausen

muenchen-haidhausen@motel-one.com

fon +49 (0)89 90 42 18 60, fax +49 (0)89 90 42 18 610

bookable until 15 July 2023

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Motel One Munich-Olympia Gate
Petra-Kelly-Straße 4, 80797 Munich
www.motel-one.com/en/hotels/munich/hotel-munich-olympia-gate
muenchen-olympiagate@motel-one.com
fon +49 (0)89 12 18 993-0, fax +49 (0)89 12 18 993-10
bookable until 14 August 2023

Motel One Munich-Sendlinger Tor
Herzog-Wilhelm-Straße 28, 80331 Munich
www.motel-one.com/en/hotels/munich/hotel-munich-sendlinger-tor
muenchen-sendingertor@motel-one.com
fon +49 (0)89 51 77 725-0, fax +49 (0)89 51 77 725-10
bookable until 1 August 2023

Motel One Munich-Westend
Landsberger Straße 79, 80339 Munich
www.motel-one.com/en/hotels/munich/hotel-munich-westend
muenchen-westend@motel-one.com
fon +49 (0)89 53 88 689-0, fax: +49 (0)89 53 88 689-10
bookable until 1 August 2023

For the call-off of rooms at „Motel One“ please use the forms in the download box at www.renovabis.de/congress. The keyword for each call is „Renovabis“.

The **granting of a subsidy for travel and accommodation costs** is possible after appropriate justification and application in advance of the congress (e-mail to kongress@renovabis.de). The subsidy will be paid by bank transfer after the congress once it has been approved and all original receipts have been submitted. Unfortunately, cash payment during the congress is not possible.

If you have any **questions** please contact:

Renovabis
Thomas Hartl
fon +49 (0) 8161 5309-71
kongress@renovabis.de