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(Re)Thinking Europe

New Synod Hall, Vatican, 27-29 October 2017

Christian contributions to the future of the European project



(Re)Thinking Europe was an event jointly organised by the Holy See (Vatican, Rome) and COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (Brussels, Belgium).

Around 350 high-level Church and EU political leaders gathered in Vatican City between 27-29 October, to engage in a frank and open dialogue with the aim of contributing to a constructive reflection on the fundamental challenges facing the European project.

Some names of prominent speakers: Reinhard Cardinal Marx (President of COMECE), Frans

Timmermans (First Vice-President of the European Commission), Antonio Tajani (photo above) (President of the European Parliament), Manfred Weber (Chair of the European People's Party).

The closing words were expressed by His Holiness Pope Francis. Thus he declared that the first and perhaps the greatest contribution that Christians can make to today's Europe is to remind her that she is not a mass of statistics or institutions, but is made up of people. Moreover, to be a person connects us with others; it makes us a community. The second contribution that Christians can make to the future of Europe, then, is to help recover the sense of belonging to a community.

The Pope further spoke about the importance of dialogue as a building block for the common good, migrants seen more as a resource than a burden, solidarity with the poor, the elderly and the unemployed, Europe as a source of development for the whole world.

