

„Seek peace and pursue it“ (Psalm 34,15)

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,
We extend warm regards to you all
in the communion of faith!**

As Christians we have been trying for many decades already to breathe life into the ecumenical idea of „unity in diversity“ in this world.

Some ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the European churches sent a strong signal of fellowship. The Charta Oecumenica is witness to their willpower, „with the Gospel to stand up for the dignity of the human person made in the image of God, and as churches together to contribute towards reconciling peoples and cultures“. The importance of this task has clearly increased even more in the past few years.

After the horrors of the first half of the 20th century, the concept of reconciliation was for a long time an unquestioned strength of the European idea. All the more therefore we monitor with great concern the growing nationalism and hostility towards Europe by populist parties. There is no doubt that the European Union needs both constructive and critical companions, both women and men. And it has a need for people who are willing to breathe life into the European idea, to meet up and seek to find sustainable answers to the major questions of our time.

As Christians we are called upon to contribute to shaping politics, also at the level of the European Union, with respect for the dignity of every human being. We do this in the knowledge of our ecumenical fellowship with Christians over and beyond all political boundaries.

15th May 2019



ERZBISTUM
HAMBURG



ERZBISTUM
BERLIN



**Evangelisch-Lutherische
Kirche in Norddeutschland**

We can make a contribution so that reconciliation becomes possible in our times, by seeking to enter into open and critical dialogue also with those who lack trust in the European idea. And we will strengthen our ecumenical commitment with our brothers and sisters in Great Britain, should the looming exit from the EU become reality.

Therefore we join in our call:

**Give Europe your vote! Exercise your right to vote on 26th May 2019
and strengthen the democratic forces engaged in seeking understanding!**

The Charta Oecumenica finishes with a reference to the basis on which we stand: Jesus Christ, the Lord of the one Church, is our greatest hope of reconciliation and peace. In his name we intend to continue on our common path in Europe. We pray for God's guidance through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We also ask for His blessing

In Christian communion,



Martin Haasler
ACK Schleswig-Holstein



Uwe Onnen
ACK Hamburg



Matthias Tuve
ACK Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Dr. Hans-Jürgen Abromeit
Bischof im Sprengel Mecklenburg und Pommern



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Bischöfin im Sprengel Hamburg und Lübeck



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Wulf Schönemann
Propst, Ständiger bischöflicher Stellvertreter
im Sprengel Mecklenburg und Pommern
am Dienstsitz in Schwerin