

Office of Information and Communication of the
International Old Catholic Bishops' Conference
Of the Union of Utrecht

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Press Communiqué

The International Roman Catholic – Old Catholic Dialogue Commission (IRAD) came together for their eighth meeting from 14th to 17th October 2007 in Würzburg (D). During this time the Commission continued to work on a consensus paper on the understanding of the Church. This time the discussion focussed on the question of personal, collegial and communal responsibility for the unity of the Church and maintaining it in truth, the primacy of the Pope and the *communio*-structure of the Church. Existing convergence as well as yet unresolved questions and differences were discussed in detail with a view to the possibility of a differentiated consensus. Furthermore, the commission examined the canonical basis of a possible staggered church communion. In future consultations it is planned to take a closer look at the existing consensus papers between the Roman Catholic and the Old Catholic Church.

The IRAD was established in 2003 by the International Old Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in order to take further, on an international level, the work of previous talks, which had been conducted in individual countries.

On the Old Catholic side were: Bishop Fritz-René Müller, Berne, as Co-President, Prof. Dr. Urs von Arx, Berne, Prof. Dr. Günter Esser, Bonn, Prof. em. Dr. Jan Visser, Zeist/Netherlands, Prof. Dr. Angela Berlis, Haarlem/Netherlands, and the Revd Martin Eisenbraun, Salzburg;

The Roman Catholic Church side comprised: Bishop em. Dr. Paul-Werner Scheele, Würzburg, as Co-President, Suffragan Bishop Johannes Gerardus Maria van Burgsteden Haarlem/Netherlands (not present), Prälat Hubert Bour, Rottenburg/Germany, Prof. Dr. Heinrich J. F. Reinhardt, Bochum, Prof. Dr. Hans Jörg Urban, Paderborn, and Msgr.. Dr. Matthias Türk, Rome.

The consultation will continue in spring 2008 in Bern.

Würzburg-Rome, November 2007

Msgr. Matthias Türk
Pontifical Council for Promoting
Christian Unity

Lic. Theol Maja Weyermann.
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