

# DECLARATION ON TOLERANCE 2015 (FRESACH)



## 1. Tolerance, freedom of speech and freedom of religious belief.

- **Tolerance** is an attitude of respect and acknowledgement and creates peace. **Tolerance** is the ability to understand other people's ideas and thoughts.
- **Tolerance** is a result of equality and justice – between people, nations, within Europe and globally.
- **Tolerance** means to understand that every religion which is observed in Europe has to be considered part of Europe and an enrichment or cultural diversity.
- It means more than just tolerance at the time of tolerance patents or of the edict of Nantes.
- **Tolerance** is an opportunity for everyone to live in dignity whichever way of life they choose.
- Who avoids to interact with other people or who does not have any opinion of their own is not to be considered tolerant.
- They who are tolerant give reason to their opinion and accept other's people's opinions whenever these are based on tolerance, too.
- Those who are tolerant, are tolerant towards criticism on their own opinion too and are able to self-reflect.
- **Tolerance** consists of dialogue, respect and rejects hatred, discrimination and devaluation of other people.

## 2. Tolerance in a new Europe

- Residents of Europe have different religions, colors and origins and thus depend on **tolerance** which is not negotiable and forms a strict guideline.
- The European Union has been founded in order to avoid racism, animosities between nations and war. Tolerance has an universal value which is not questionable.
- Institutions of the European Union have to defend any constraints of basic human rights to freedom.
- **Tolerance** and diversity enrich life in Europe and make it a special place to live.
- **Tolerance** doesn't prevent conflicts but helps to resolve any of them in a peaceful manner.

## 3. Europe, wars and global poverty

- **Tolerance** results in the integration of people who have been forced to flee their homeland because of living conditions.
- **Tolerance** means to help immigrants find good living conditions, opportunities of education and employment and to actively make them offers
- They who are tolerant want to actively avoid the high death rate in the Mediterranean region.
- **Tolerance** stops colonialism and neo-colonialism - new partnerships with our neighbors who are not as wealthy are the result.
- Europa has to avoid military interventions which trigger new waves of violence and of terrorism.
- Instead we need to act according to our credible and genuine commitment against poverty and climate change.