

UNIAPAC PRESIDENT FRANCO NAVA: A CALL FOR DIALOGUE ON GOALS FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Dear Friends in UNIAPAC,



It is my pleasure to present the maiden edition of our quarterly newsletter, *Comunicato Si*. These pages seek to enlighten our members about UNIAPAC's projects, keep them abreast of new proposals, inspire new ideas, and encourage their work as Christians in the world of business.

We are confident that this new tool will foster reciprocal understanding and friendship amongst UNIAPAC members. We welcome comments and contributions from all associates in our European member associations who are interested in our joint activities and endeavours.

Nowadays, it is imperative that we open a broad dialogue at both the continental and global levels, in deep consciousness of our Christian identity as developed through Christian Social Thought and Social Church Doctrine. I warmly thank UNIAPAC Europe Vice President József Tóth of Hungary for undertaking the challenge of publishing this newsletter. It would not have been possible without the dedicated support of Mrs. Gwenola Robin of our Paris Secretariat, who gathers the most interesting and innovative news from the individual member associations.

In the spirit of open discussion, I ask you to consider my proposals for a mid- to long-term plan for

UNIAPAC Europe, as outlined in my recent letter to the presidents and standing representatives of our member associations. In the coming years, I would like to see our organization focus on two major common projects:

- **Christian Management Education (CME):** This program seeks to develop country-by-country agreements between business schools and business communities, aimed at linking technical capacities with the principles and purposes of ethical behaviour.
- **Social and Economic Inclusion:** Finding ways to reduce widening inequality, thereby promoting social sustainability.

The first stage of the CME project would take place at the national level. We ask NMAs to gather case studies, business interviews, company statements, workshop results and other data that pays testimony to the strengths that Christian Social Thought can bring to the corporate world. The second stage would take place on a continent-wide level: We will gather the input, results and experiences from national associations, distil this data into education packages, and offer them to business schools, companies and the media.

In the short term, I don't think we can afford more than two common events per year. UNIAPAC Europe leaders might probe the topic of Social Justice in a "think-tank" gathering at the end of 2017, followed by a larger conference on the issue in 2018.

Another possibility for 2018 might be a meeting concerning **issues and practical experiences with socio-economic inclusion**. It was agreed with the International President that this follow-up to the World UNIAPAC Conference in Rome would be developed separately according to geographic region.

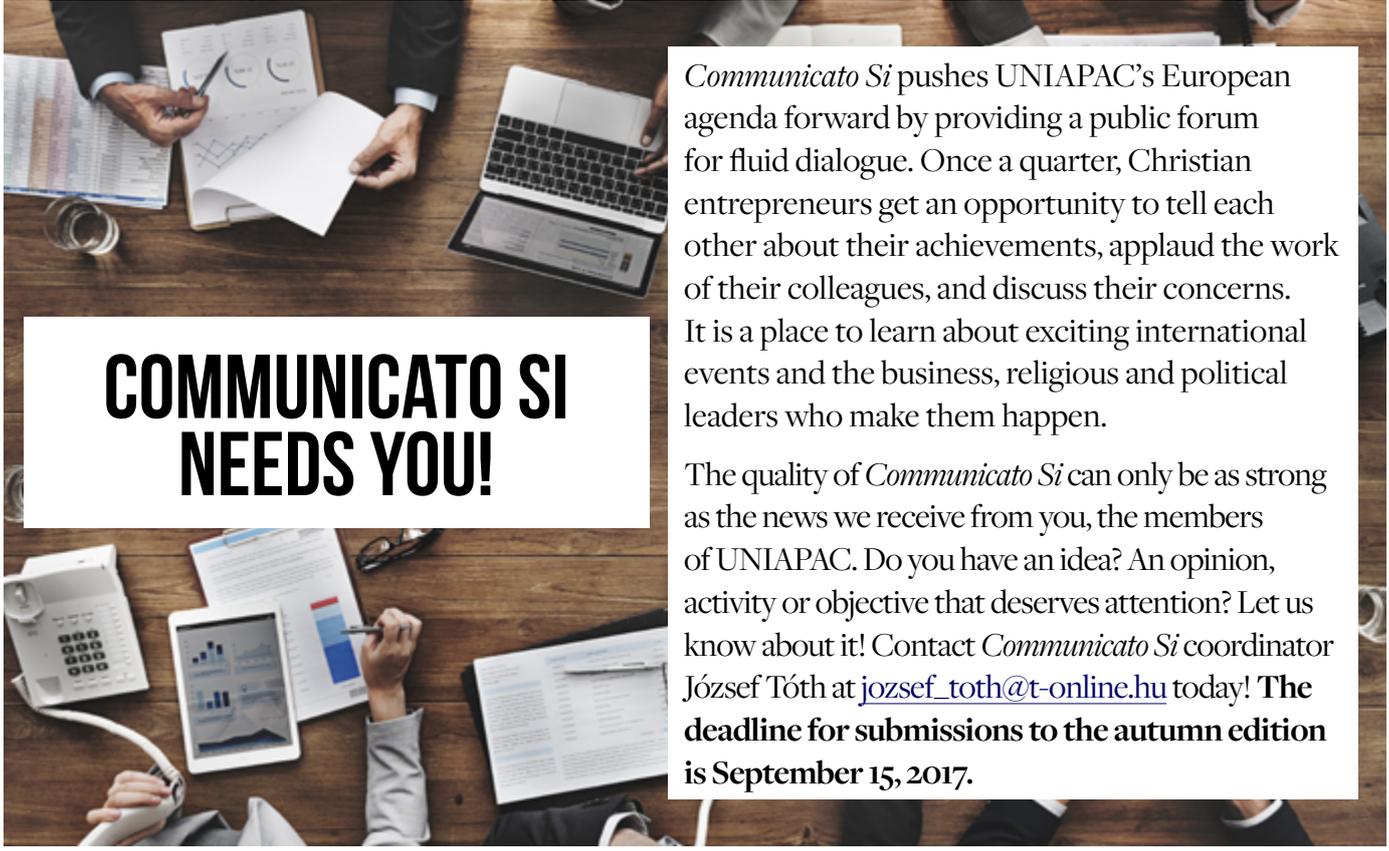
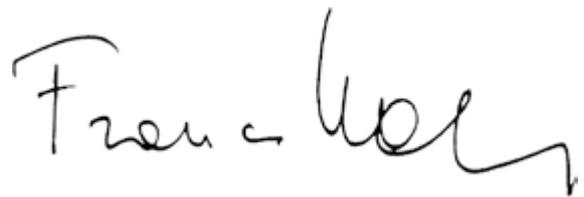
I suggest that our members' more significant experiences with socioeconomic inclusion – some of which have already been reported in the draft booklet that was distributed in Rome – be introduced through reflections on the theme of immigration, which may be the main inclusion problem of our time. Two outstanding speakers might be Staffan de Mistura, the United Nations special envoy for Syria, and Gérard Hannezo, an expert at the UN Industrial Development Organization.

Finally, a word about our commitment to external development and internal support: We are

deeply concerned about identifying the right channels in the following countries or regions: the United Kingdom, Flanders, Holland and Austria. Meanwhile, we will offer support to Acción Social Empresarial (ASE) in Spain and Association Chrétienne de Dirigeants et Cadres (ADIC) in Belgium, in close collaboration with their boards.

This is all for the moment. We need your friendly collaboration. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the UNIAPAC Europe governance, including myself.

I wish you and your families a fruitful and healthy summer!



COMMUNICATO SI NEEDS YOU!

Communicato Si pushes UNIAPAC's European agenda forward by providing a public forum for fluid dialogue. Once a quarter, Christian entrepreneurs get an opportunity to tell each other about their achievements, applaud the work of their colleagues, and discuss their concerns. It is a place to learn about exciting international events and the business, religious and political leaders who make them happen.

The quality of *Communicato Si* can only be as strong as the news we receive from you, the members of UNIAPAC. Do you have an idea? An opinion, activity or objective that deserves attention? Let us know about it! Contact *Communicato Si* coordinator József Tóth at jozsef_toth@t-online.hu today! **The deadline for submissions to the autumn edition is September 15, 2017.**

UNIAPAC EUROPE TO KICK-START CHRISTIAN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROJECT

UNIAPAC is putting a new priority on building its Christian Management Education (CME) project, devoting fresh energy to spreading the principles of Christian Social Thinking in the boardrooms of Europe and beyond.

The project, launched in 2015, recently came to a standstill as an editorial team failed to materialize and organizational changes within UNIAPAC Europe made it difficult for project leaders to coordinate properly, said Giancarlo Traini of Italian association Unione Cristiana Imprenditori Dirigenti (UCID) and Franco Nava, president of UNIAPAC Europe, in a March 2017 letter.

“The success of the project, which was considered one of the most important at the international level, is at risk,” they said. “A realignment of objectives, contents and responsibilities is strongly advisable.”

CME seeks to demonstrate that the principles of Christian Social Thinking are actionable in the corporate world – a critical objective in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. When business leaders put the human person at the centre of their decisions, they may reap stronger profits and achieve more robust social development, UNIAPAC contends.

The strategy is to gather case histories, testimonies, workshop results and other data on the Christian approach to business, with a focus on real-life behaviour and business decisions. This information will then be packaged into modules and made available to educational institutions and corporations through a planned UNIAPAC Digital Academy.

UNIAPAC general delegate Rodrigo Whitelaw has taken the helm as CME project leader and will be asking member associations to contribute raw ma-

terial. At present, the project is operational only in Germany, France, Italy and Hungary, while Portugal and Slovenia have expressed interest. Only two case histories have come in, both from Germany.

“It is very important to increase the number of participants in order to effectively represent the variety and richness of the experiences and approaches the Christian European world expresses in the field of the relations between people and economic activities,” Traini and Nava said.

“A renewed commitment by the UNIAPAC national representatives would be greatly appreciated,” they added.

The project seeks materials that

- originate from within the business community (in language, focus, approach, etc.)
- are jointly developed by university professors and corporate trainers
- utilize established business-education tools (lessons, cases, interviews, exercises, statements, web, etc.)
- are revised by a group of entrepreneurs and experts.

“In this way we will stress the need for obtaining a balance between the operational and practical content of our training programs and the solid theoretical background inspiring it,” Traini and Nava said.

UNIAPAC Europe member associations are already discussing CME with academic institutions and civil-society groups including the Institute for Business Values (ISVI) and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, both in Italy; Christian Social Principles in the Economy (KETEG) in Hungary; the Icam School of Engineering in France; the Catholic University of Eichstätt in Germany; and the Nova School of Business and Economics (NovaSBE) in Portugal.

Revised Project-Management Structure

UNIAPAC aims to solve the problems of coordination and accountability by revamping the project-management structure. Critical components include:

- **a steering committee** (or scientific committee) of distinguished experts from companies, universities and churches, aimed at:
 - establishing the general theoretical framework of the project
 - monitoring contents and formats
 - acting as project witnesses and trustees
 - developing a high-level relationship with the main stakeholders.

- **a project manager**, in the person of Rodrigo Whitelaw, who will be responsible for:
 - defining a project master plan
 - building up and coordinating the European work group
 - supervising the material production process
 - operating as an interface between the work group, the steering committee and the board of UNIAPAC Europe.

- **a European working group**, formed by the representatives of each participating country who ideally will have experience in corporate education. This group will handle the operational side of the project, including:

- defining the structure of the educational outputs
- collecting materials and collaborating in the final output
- building up a “distribution network” in each country through universities and companies.

Members who would like to take an active role in this critically important undertaking should contact Rodrigo Whitelaw at rodrigo.whitelaw@fonduniapac.org.

"INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AWARDS" TO REWARD SOCIAL INNOVATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As part of its mission to promote a more equitable, sustainable society, UNIAPAC intends to recognize six individuals or companies whose activities create outstanding social value through the first-ever Inclusive Economy Awards.

The awards, set to be presented at UNIAPAC's World Congress in October 2018, will recognize innovative best practices that are both financially profitable and foster a positive social or environmental impact. The competition aims to demonstrate that business can help tackle humanity's problems and uncertainties through its capacity to innovate, its dynamism and agility, and its ability to harness energy and mobilize minds.

Companies will be eligible for prizes in "social innovation best practices," "job creation champion" and "new technologies for inclusion." Individuals will be recognised in the "inclusive shareholder" and "young entrepreneur for inclusive economy" categories, while both firms and individuals can compete for the "inclusive entrepreneur/corporate" award.

UNIAPAC decided to organize the Awards as a follow-up to a gathering of 600 Christian business leaders and decision makers in the Vatican City in November 2016. The conference identified a need for business people to carry out a transformation in the meaning of "work," promote inclusive business models, share best practices, and prepare future entrepreneurs for the challenges of the 21st century.

Organizers are currently firming up commitments from sponsors, partners and jury members. The national-level competition is set to take place in February 2018, with each member association selecting the best projects in their countries. Finalists will be named at region-wide competitions for Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe in June 2018, and the global awards will be presented the following October.



CHRISTIAN ISLAND, HUNGARY: DIALOGUE IN “WELL-GROUNDED REALISM”

This year’s Christian Island brought thought-provoking analysis on Christians’ role in modern society

The ÉrMe Network, an association of Christian entrepreneurs and business leaders in Hungary, held the third annual Christian Island gathering on May 27 in partnership with Hungary’s Alliance of Christian Intellectuals (KÉSZ). A 1,400-strong audience representing dozens of Christian civic organizations attended panel discussions on Budapest’s Margaret Island, a park in the Danube River. The presentations centred on four topics: the Church, Public Life and Signs of the Times, Family, and the Media.

“Christian Island is the place where it feels good to be Christian: Where people who seek answers in Christ can try to find solutions to the challenges of our times, working toward a balance between progress and the protection of values, between reform and tradition – in public life, in families and in the Church.” Every year, Christian Island strives to fulfil this objective, as described on the event’s [homepage](#). People from diverse congregations, in true ecumenical spirit, engage in a cordial interchange and learn about important ideas that they can pass along to others.

Zoltán Balog, a Protestant reverend who doubles as the Hungarian government’s minister for human resources, delivered the keynote address in which he described his views on church-state relations: “The state does its best for religious and Christian civic organizations when it keeps out of their affairs,” he said. Christian groups are unique in that they usually operate in a manner that is invisible to the broader society – yet at certain critical junctures, they must stand up as one and declare their values, Balog added.

The minister's speech was followed by a round-table discussion on Christianity's presence in society, with panellists from the Lutheran, Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic faiths. They emphasized that the statistical ratio of Christians in society is not necessarily important: Jesus himself spoke of "leaven" and "salt," whose impact can be significant even though their quantity is small. The speakers also discussed the critical challenge of ministering to Hungary's Gypsy population.

The "Public Life and Signs of the Times" panel reflected upon the ideas of Sarolta Laura Baritz, the Dominican nun who laid the groundwork for Christian Social Principles in the Economy (KET-EG), a Hungarian educational organization. The discussion provoked a string of prescient thoughts on how Christians in public life can help shape the popular worldview. As Father Zoltán Osztie of KÉSZ observed, "Christian hope is well-grounded realism."

Perhaps the biggest round of applause was reserved for the all-female panel that led the "Family" segment. The speakers argued that – contrary to common belief – neither marriage nor the family are in crisis; rather, it is the individual that is experiencing a dilemma. They also exchanged

thoughts on the roles of men and women, noting that "equality" does not mean that both genders must fulfil the same roles.

The fourth and final discussion focused on the media. Speakers examined the prospects of publicly representing Christian values in today's media market, touching on themes of sincerity, outspokenness and credibility.

Activities for children and families added colour to the event. Among the most eye-catching was the appearance of a Christian biker group known as *Motorkerékpárosok*, a Hungarian play on words that combines "motorbike" with the "Order of St. Paul".

The day ended with an evening concert by Holdvivala, a Hungarian electro-folk band that combines traditional music with modern sounds. Christian Island's organizers were particularly gratified to see that the number of participants has been growing from year to year.

See you in 2018!

ÉrMe Network – Business means more than just profit! – <http://ermehalo.hu/>



LATIN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS TO PUSH FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, DECENT WORK

Christian entrepreneurs from across Latin America are set to discuss methods of combatting poverty and social exclusion through decent, sustainable work, reflecting Pope Francis' call to action in his 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si.

The debate over how business can help build a more-inclusive society will dominate the 20th annual meeting of Argentina's Asociación Cristiana de Dirigentes de Empresa (ACDE), which doubles as UNIAPAC's 12th Latin American Congress, on June 29-30 in Buenos Aires.

"The present world presents an unavoidable paradox: A global society that has generated economic growth and development together with a great concentration of wealth and increasing inequity and exclusion," ACDE writes in the conference schedule.

The conference will probe answers to some of the challenges that Pope Francis laid out in *Laudato Si*, which offers a vision for integral human development in response to the current global crisis. Today, 2 billion people worldwide cannot enter the labour market, 1.5 billion are in precarious forms of employment, and 185 million are unemployed. Meanwhile, industry is depleting the world's natural resources and ghettos are proliferating in urban areas.

"The challenge of entrepreneurship - together with other relevant actors in society - is to achieve greater inclusion and reduction of poverty through the generation of decent work and productive work," ACDE writes. "The debate will include the new institutional vectors necessary for a comprehensive analysis of the issue of inclusion in our country, together with the analysis of the new global context and its impact in Latin America and Argentina."

The conference schedule is as follows:

THURSDAY JUNE 29

8.30 - Registration and welcome coffee

9.00 - Opening by Roberto Murchison, President of the XX Annual Meeting of ACDE

9.20 - Spiritual time

9.30 - Inclusion through Decent and Sustainable Work

Representatives from different sectors will share their views on the current situation and actions that may lead to genuine, sustainable inclusion processes. How can business people generate new forms of productive work in those dynamic fringes of entrepreneurship that are multipliers of employment, but need to be integrated into the value chains of the formal economy? Diagnosis and vision.

10:50 - Testimony in action

11:00 - Coffee break

11:30 - The Future of Work: Realities, trends and needs

Different visions will be discussed on how to harness new technologies in a manner that generates jobs. What changes in culture, education and vocational training does the country need to conserve and increase the size of its economically active population? Which jobs are going to disappear, and which new forms of employment are on the horizon?

12:50 - Testimony in action

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Testimony: A social entrepreneur shares his vision and his experience

14:30 - Corruption: Does it affect poverty reduction and job creation?

The relationship between corruption and poverty is a critical dimension in the generation of genuine work. What institutional, political and legal mechanisms need to be identified and improved? What does society demand, from both the public and private sectors, in relation to transparency in the use of state resources?

16:00 - The Latin American context: Key points vis-a-vis the new global scenario

Political changes in Europe and the United States have established a new global scenario whose common denominator is a weariness of established political structures. What is the Argentine vision for facing this worldwide problem? How is the country positioned toward the new foreign policy of greater openness and stronger links with the rest of the world?

17:00 - Interactive Feedback

17:15 - Closing words

FRIDAY JUNE 30

8:30 - Welcome Coffee

9:00 - E. Shaw presentation

9:30 - Habitat, Inclusion and Development:

Keys to sustained progress

The Villa 31 Case: A significant contribution to the social and economic integration of marginalised sectors

In recent years, social, political and economic life has been developing in a new and highly complex geography. Mega-cities and expanding ghettos are threatening the social fabric. How is it possible to implement a concept of greater sustainability, inclusion and employability in the marginal zones of cities in the context of increasingly diverse urban growth?

PANEL DISCUSSION - Mega-cities and social sustainability: The Latin American experience

11:00 - Coffee break

11:30 - The Vision of Entrepreneurs

What is the entrepreneurial vision regarding international political changes and their impact on Latin American businesses? How should business leaders respond to popular dissatisfaction with their leadership, specifically in terms of ameliorating inequity and exclusion?

13:00 - Conclusion by the President of ACDE and the National Authority

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UNIAPAC NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS: ACTIVITIES AND AGENDAS IN EUROPE

Belgium / ADIC

The **Association Chrétienne des Dirigeants et Cadres (ADIC)** is working to flesh out its membership rolls, putting a special priority on reaching out to young entrepreneurs. The challenge is to identify the issues and concerns confronting young business people and to reflect on the role of the media. Should ADIC take a more explicit position in social debates, and how? Members are invited to reflect on these subjects.

ADIC took part in several conferences between September and December 2016:

- “The Challenges of the Social and Professional Integration of Young Immigrants,” led by ADIC.
- “Duo for a Job” - “Big Data: Big Brother or Human Progress?” led by **Vincent Blondel**, rector of the **Catholic University of Louvain (UCL)**.
- “Europe-Market is Dying: Towards a Community of Destinies?” led by **Pierre Defraigne**, director of the **Madariaga-College of Europe Centre**, a Bruges-based research centre that promotes citizen action in the European Union.
- “How to Overcome School Inequity?” led by **Pierre Pirard**, founder of **Teach for Belgium**, a teacher-training organization

Three additional events took place this spring:

- “Identity, Migration and Security: What ethics at the borders of Europe?” was organized by the Centre of Students in Economic Sciences at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) on March

9. The conference included a panel discussion with **Gilles de Kerchove**, EU Counterterrorism Coordinator, **Baudouin van Overstraeten**, director of the **Jesuit Refugee Service Belgium**, and **Gérard Deprez**, member of the European Parliament with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE).

- “Climate change and the Spectre of Hunger” was led by **Olivier de Schutter**, a professor at UCL and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, on April 3.
- “Managing Multiculturalism in Companies,” was a lecture hosted by ADIC on May 15. Speakers were **Jacques Spelkens**, head of CSR networks at sustainable-energy developer **ENGIE**, and **Jean de Leu de Cécil**, former legal adviser at food retailer **Colruyt**.

ADIC convened a spiritual retreat on the theme “Welcoming Christ in my professional life” on March 25.

Other themes recently addressed by ADIC:

- The “Uberisation” of our economy
- Papal encyclical *Laudato Si*
- Islam: Religion of peace or war?
- Reintegrating former prison inmates into social and economic life
- Discussion of concrete experiences from *Tomorrow: A New World on the Move*, a book and film by **Cyril Dion** and **Mélanie Laurent**

- Analysis of the books *Changing Altitude* by **Bertrand Piccard** and *Being Human, Fully Human* by **Axel Kahn**

On February 15, ADIC welcomed UNIAPAC International president **José Maria Simone** to Belgium, where he took part in an international symposium. At Mr. Simone's request, ADIC organized a meeting with members of **Board Coaching to Excellence**, a Belgian nonprofit dedicated to improving the added value of SME directors.

France / Les EDC

Les Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens (EDC) organizes a number of *assises* (conferences) every year, alternating between national and regional gatherings. In 2017, Les EDC will hold *assises* in 12 regions of France to probe the concept of Christian Social Thought, a vitally important topic for the coming years. Items of discussion include Subsidiarity and the Common Good. The *assises* will feature well-known speakers such as **François Villeroy de Galhau**, governor of **Banque de France**, **Pierre de Lauzun**, CEO of the **French Association of Financial Markets (AMAFI)**, and **Henri de Castries**, board member of **HSBC**.

In May, Les EDC published the booklet *Parcours (Itinerary)*, which stresses the importance of taking time for spiritual renewal and internal formation.

The second book in the "Christian Social Thought" collection, *Common Good and Enterprise*, came out in January. UNIAPAC International has translated the book into English and Spanish for distribution to its member associations.

The last three editions of the EDC magazine dealt with the topics of Common Good, Entrepreneur and Citizen.

Philippe Mine, French vice president of UNIAPAC Europe, is heading up a 10-member International Commission whose aim is:

- to ensure good relations between UNIAPAC and its member associations;
- to establish contacts with the Vatican, Christian churches in Africa and other international religious institutions;
- to strengthen relations with Les EDC members abroad, known as *Français à l'étranger*. This comprises 13 teams in London, Brussels, Milan, Barcelona, Bucharest, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion, Guyana, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, New York and Bangalore.

Les EDC President **Laurent Bataille** was a featured speaker at this year's **Forum Zachée** (Zacchaeus Forum), a conference in the medieval French city of Paray le Monial that focuses on establishing coherence between daily life and Christian faith. This year's event, entitled "Work in Disarray: Work - For whom? For what?" ran from May 25-28. Other speakers included economist **Pierre-Yves Gomez**, founder of the Zacchaeus Course and professor at the EM Lyon Business School, and **Luc Ravel**, the new Archbishop of Strasbourg.



Spain / ASE

Acción Social Empresarial (ASE) hosted a launch for author **Jaime Noguera**'s new book, *Solo hace falta ser humilde* (*You Only Need to Be Humble*) on March 8. A video of the event is available [here](#).

The book offers a series of reflections aimed at helping managers face day-to-day challenges in companies and other organizations. Noguera is a consultant, trainer, and a permanent deacon in the archdiocese of Madrid. He was accompanied by **Pablo Cervera Barranco**, editor of the Spanish edition of Catholic magazine *Magnificat*, and ASE President **Luis Hernando de Larramendi**. A separate promotional event was held in May in the cities of Murcia and Alicante in cooperation with the Catholic University of Murcia (UCAM).

On April 6, ASE presented the Spanish-language edition of Belgian author **Philippe de Woot**'s book, *Spirituality and Business: A Christian Viewpoint: An Open Letter to Christian Leaders in Times of Urgency*. De Woot, a former professor at the Catholic University of Louvain and a pioneer in corporate social responsibility, died in 2016.

Slovakia/VENITE

On March 15-16, Slovakia's **VENITE** association organized a seminar on "How to Pass On Family Business to the Next Generation," attended by 40 people in Bratislava. The speaker was **Sergio Cavalieri**, president of UNIAPAC Latin America.

The association regularly organizes spiritual retreats. The next one will focus on the theme "How to be Merciful within Companies."

Portugal / ACEGE

ACEGE NexT, a new youth organization in the **Associação Cristã de Empresários e Gestores (ACEGE)**, aims to serve up-and-coming generations of entrepreneurs in Portugal. On March 25 the group held a conference entitled "The Courage to Make a Difference," where some 150 young people discussed topics that concern them as Christian professionals.

ACEGE hopes this inaugural **ACEGE NexT** event will inspire youthful business people to effect positive change in both the world of work and the environment.



Hungary / KÉRME

The **Keresztény Értékmegőrző Egyesület (KÉRME)** association hosted a gathering on January 28 to mark the end of its three-year educational campaign, The Profit of Values. This initiative promoted the Six Practical Principles for Business that **Peter K. A. Cardinal Turkson** and **Bishop Mario Toso** set forth in their 2012 treatise, *Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection*.

The project centred around a series of conferences organized by former KÉRME president János Bojta in cooperation with Hungarian chambers of commerce. Although the program is now finished, KÉRME continues to encourage its members as well as all other business leaders to observe the six principles, promoting them through workshops and a dedicated Facebook page.

Italy / UCID

On June 7, **Unione Cristiana Imprenditori Dirigenti (UCID)** unanimously elected **Riccardo Ghidella** to a three-year term as president.

"We would like to contribute to the creation of a new class of leaders by reaching out to young people with innovative enterprise and public-administration solutions based on Christian values," Ghidella said in a [statement](#) following his election. "In Italy and internationally, we intend to be the hub of culture and action between the worlds of business and labour, institutions and civil society, offering change, hope, and the building of the common good."

Ghidella, who currently heads up UCID's Piedmont region, will succeed **Giancarlo Abete** as association president. UNIAPAC Europe thanks Abete for his service and wishes the new president much success.

Germany / BKU

In April, **Bund Katholischer Unternehmer (BKU)** established a nine-member International Commission under the leadership of **Stephan Werhahn**. UNIAPAC Europe is presently exploring the possibility of setting up such commissions across Europe in an effort to improve communication and cooperation among member associations. (Please see Franco Nava's letter on p. 15.)

The members of BKU's International Commission intend to focus on globalization, ethics and finance, and migration. They are keen to share topics, issues and opinions with other International Commissions in Europe as they are established.

On October 17, the BKU will hold its **Annual General Meeting** in Münster on the theme, "Rethinking the Economy." All interested UNIAPAC associations are welcome to attend!

News from UNIAPAC International

Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium Hosts Symposium on Social Thought

UNIAPAC International president **José Maria Simone** participated in an Inter-Disciplinary Expert Seminar on February 16-17 in Leuven, Belgium. The symposium was organised by the **Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)**, the UK-based **Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice (CCSTP)**, and the **Centre for Catholic Social Thought at the Catholic University of Leuven**. Academics and their cohorts in the business world reflected on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and reviewed the dialogue it has generated thus far. Participants included experts in fields such as ecology, economics, politics and theology.

Previous workshops have taken place in:

- **Sierra Leone** (West Africa), one of the poorest countries in the world.
- **Ethiopia** (Horn of Africa), the only African country that never was never colonized by Europeans. The country is now developing quite rapidly, with all the issues this entails. Recently, Ethiopia has been ravaged by drought; food security is a critical problem.
- **Colombia** (Latin America), where we met communities from across Amazonia whose lives have been adversely affected by the devastation of biodiversity.
- **Bangladesh** (Asia), one of the most densely populated countries in the world (1,101 people per square kilometre). The country will fall victim to widespread flooding if sea levels continue to rise at their current pace.
- **The United Kingdom** (Western Europe), where most of CAFOD's supporters reside, is a technologically and economically advanced country that is a key player in the promotion of international development.

Upcoming: UNIAPAC to Plumb Social Justice at London Ecumenical Meeting

UNIAPAC Europe is calling business leaders, academics and representatives from the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christian faiths to a meeting that will explore the role of social justice in 21st century business.

The conference is being organized in cooperation with St. Mary University of London and the Centre for Enterprise, Markets and Ethics (CEME) of Oxford, England and is set to take place in London in the second half of 2017.

Participants will debate the meaning of “social justice” and its implications for corporate profit and competition. Topics include the risks that automation portends for the human worker and the tension between globalization and protectionism.

FRANCO NAVA: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS IN EUROPE

Dear Friends,

It is my belief that UNIAPAC requires greater inclusivity in its reciprocal relationships with the National Member Associations (NMAs) due to the increasingly complex practical and cultural interchanges between us in the globalization scenario.

Nowadays, we live in an open and diversified space where many transversal issues cannot be addressed within the confines of national borders. It is therefore advisable to expand our cross-border dialogue to other partners beyond the traditional limit of NMA presidents or their standing representatives.

I would therefore recommend that UNIAPAC Europe take a significant step forward by setting up bodies known as International Commissions throughout our network. Their mission would be to facilitate open dialogue among our members – that is, to exchange views, experiences, programs and proposals. Please consider this idea as “food for thought” that is open to friendly international debate!

Increasing relevance of international issues

As far as I know, some NMAs have already set up International Commissions – namely, the French Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens (Les EDC) and Germany’s Bund Katholischer Unternehmer (BKU).

Without a doubt, the most relevant international issues, themes and events should be debated at the national level first, with the purpose of submitting views and evaluations to the national boards. By relevant international themes, I mean the various

issues related to the economy, finance, immigration, environment, culture and communication. Many of these issues are evoked in Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

Of course there should be parallel communication through the Regional International Board on the information and proposals obtained through its channels and its coordination with the overall International Office.

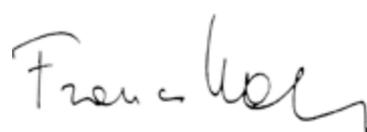
A helpful instrument for establishing this reciprocal dialogue is UNIAPAC’s quarterly European newsletter, *Communicato Si*, which you are reading right now.

There could be three main areas of concern for exchanging ideas and proposals within UNIAPAC’s European network:

- National experiences and initiatives linked to international issues (e.g. the environment, immigration);
- Cultural issues related to the economy, corporate social responsibility, and social solidarity;
- Expectations toward international institutions and UNIAPAC.

I would be eager to receive your comments and/or confirmations of support for establishing International Commissions along these lines!

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Franco Nava". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark blue or black ink.