



Institute for
Freedom of Faith
& Security in Europe

The **World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)**

Your Excellency

Bishop Thomas Schirrmacher

Secretary General & CEO

Friedrichstr.38

53111 Bonn, Germany

Munich, 22.02.2022

Your Excellency,

The need for cultural and religious understanding across Europe and beyond has never been greater than it is today. There is a pressing need for action – the challenges and expectations of a multi-religious European and global society require governance and policy that can fully and adequately respond to its needs with comprehensive programmes.

Such action must be able to combine religious policy and security policy, as well as promoting exchange and cooperation between religion and society. This includes new efforts in the field of integration, measures to avoid misusing and politicising religion as a tool of hate and prejudice and to facilitate moderate practices of faith which complies with regulations; whilst at the same time guaranteeing security and religious freedom for all communities.

The newly founded *Institute for Freedom of Faith and Security in Europe (IFFSE)* is making an active contribution to these challenges. It builds a common bridge between religions, societies, politics, and science in various fields.

IFFSE is a joint initiative of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER). As an interdisciplinary think tank, IFFSE aims to strengthen social cohesion, security, and tolerance in Europe. This will be achieved through the promotion of peaceful coexistence, integration, and positive citizenship; fostering moderate religious practices and safeguarding religious freedoms; mobilising religious leaders to play an active role in improving the security of their communities and countering the abuse of religion; collaborating with governments, civil society, and the private sector to combat hate crime, extremism, radicalisation, and terrorism both on and off-line.

Against the background of an increasing linkage of social and religious issues with relevant topics in the field of foreign and security policy, a stronger involvement of international experts in the work of IFFSE is indispensable.

Your Excellency, we would very much like to draw on your extensive personal experience in this regard.

IFFSE Institute for the Freedom of Faith & Security in Europe Foundation
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In this vein, we are delighted to invite you to actively participate in the newly created Advisory Council of IFFSE, which will provide advice on the strategically important work and objectives of the Institute.

We are thinking of a small informal circle with no complex structures so that the time required for the work in the Advisory Council will be kept within narrow limits.

The former President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, as well as the Karls-Prize winner and founder of the Catholic lay organisation Sant'Egidio Andrea Riccardi and the Archbishop of the Swedish Church, Antje Jackelén and the Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) at IDC Herzliya General Amos Gilead, are among those who have joined the Advisory Council of the IFFSE.

We are delighted and honoured that you have agreed to join our newly formed Advisory Board of the Institute for Freedom of Faith and Security in Europe IFFSE. Please see attached for a short mission statement on the work of IFFSE and the Advisory Council.

We very much believe in our mission and are confident that we will be even more successful in creating impact and change with you joining us.

Dear Bishop Schirmacher, we are finalising our IFFSE website and look very much to adding your name to our distinguished list of the Advisory Board of IFFSE. Please send us a short bio and a photo.

We remain at your disposal if you have any questions. Any further details concerning your participation in the IFFSE Advisory Council can be arranged with Mr Gady Gronich at any time. He can be reached by phone at +49 89 4800-2906 or by e-mail at ggronich@rabbiscer.org.

With kind regards,

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt
President of the CER

Prof. Peter Neumann
Director of the IFFSE

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