



**European Forum of National Laity Committees
Forum Européen des Comités Nationaux des Laïcs
Europäisches Forum der Nationalen Laienkomitees**

**PRESIDENTS COUNCIL 2025
POINTS RAISED IN FEEDBACK**

Important:

- To collaborate and to promote and develop contacts between national Catholic Lay Committee, councils and organizations in Europe. We have to go together.
- We strive for a synodal church, that accepts diversity and Vatican II.
- Sharing is important, as in process of dialogue. Good to share good practice in own country as well as via ELF.
- To stimulate exchanges with churches and organizations of other Christian traditions and ecumenical movements
- Recognition by bishops, each community should have open dialogue with their bishops.
- Explore and present research on laity and bishops.
- Using an everyday language.
- To explore pastoral and socio-political (Political as the way in which we live in society-the church in the world) topics together with invited experts.
- Christian vocation in Europe
- “Communication” is the issue.
- To know each other better. First build our identity, then go out and promote
- Europe secularized - should look for ways of making Christianity acceptable
- In Europe - Christians have something to offer.
- All points are interesting - synodality - discipleship - sister/brotherhood - assumes basic trust - requires new minds.
- Building hopefully the Church together and stay positive.
- Christianity and humanity = whole world
- Unity and Diversity

What are our concrete aims for next three years and how will we realise them?

- How do we achieve the aims?
- Need concrete aims and plans of action
- Practical labs, training sessions for synodality
- We can be an organization of Synodal life in the church.
- Growing in awareness of synodality: dialogue with national laity and with official structures.
- Every president has to speak with his bishop and how to do it.

Points of attention

- Can we merge: ELF flier aim: “Promotes interaction and dialogue with the European structures of bishops’ conferences (CCEE and COMECE)” with
“promotes interaction and dialogue between Catholic Church organizations at European level”
- We need to be cautious in use of “Christian” and “Catholic”
- Family and Life missing

ALPHONSE OBSERVATIONS

Revision of flier and concrete the main scope of ELF

1. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

In different countries to speak open about catholic identity, confessional and in everything. One church who is divers. Unity that is able to integrate the diversity, at all levels in our church, local and continental.

It is also a theological scope.

To open approach of relative diversity.

2. BROTHERHOOD

As baptized (invented the word brotherhood), the reality of fraternity

Common position - Baptised into church - underlines our Sister/Brotherhood

Sons of God, at the same time brothers and sisters

Another aspect of our dignity

Ethical involvement - all God's sons (daughters)

Ethical consequences, for everyone brotherhood, not on a personal level.

This is the Political sense of brotherhood- as citizens

3.SHARING

Key concept in future flier

Changing mandate in last years by way of synodality and Pope Francis culture.

The quality of laity is so important.

Three levels of sharing:

a) **DIALOGUE** – the real one means trust in each other must create conditions for dialogue. This interrogates the respect for those who think different. To learn to speak about our differences.

b) **DEBATE TOGETHER** – the real searching for the truth in a respectful way, developing arguments.

c) **DISCERNMENT** - What is intended by the law (Lord?) not only for myself but for society where God is present.

God is not outside the world (even present in Auschwitz)

Discerning presence of God in our society - Holy Spirit is always acting in our hearts. Also an aspect of hope.

Discernment - decision making levels of our church at all levels in our communities and world.

4. POLITICAL

Citizens is a better word. Citizens in our own societies - baptised citizens

Respect of life, in its beginning and in its end.

Role of family in a changing world – changing mindset about family

Challenges: Family - institution of family - no longer same force as in the past. Transmitters of faith - no longer just family - parish community / school

Challenge - in Europe - immigration - cultural changes about family / education. We live in complex societies. Discernment in its complexity.

Need to spread about own organization.

5. HOW DO WE DO ALL THESE THINGS?

Main keys:

a)Necessity to be positive in what we do in our organization and on European level.

Positive actions from discussion of Gospel.

b) Hopefully – everyone on a certain time in his life lives in a tragical world - cannot forget
But must be hopeful - positive – with the trust of God acting in the world and in the live of everybody.

Lac of participation: as ELF to integrate all countries in our organization, that will help them to discuss with their bishops in local churches, their bishops are often anxious. Help each other to build up bishops confidence.

c) To fight for credibility and accountability, to live and act as responsible adults, at this point in our synodal process. It means a real involvement on different levels. A practical reality of Synodality at all levels

Synodality doesn't end in 2028

Synodality is the way God serves his church in the third millennium - real conviction of Synodal
Way to be Christian Church

Convinced that during the consultations in all continents there was sharing convergences and sharing of differences.