

# Being “for” Europe

**PROMPTS FOR DIALOGUE AND KEYS FOR INTERPRETING** the address given by Cardinal Walter Kasper at *Together for Europe* on 30 June 2016 in Munich.

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## Main concept of the speech

The most important word in the *Together for Europe* programme is “for” and it stands both for unity and for Europe. This could and should be demonstrated by our communities and movements presenting an attractive example of Christian life.

### 1. Summary of the speech

Being “for” unity is the marvellous dream that, in spite of all its critics, has been alive in a particular way since 31 October 1999. This dream is due to the action of the Holy Spirit who initiated the ecumenical movement and who will bring it to completion. It means that unity in diversity is possible in a way that is more real than what is currently thought. *Together* has an experience to offer here because we have witnessed that unity is already more possible than what people generally believe, and being “for” Europe is now more important than ever before. The idea that enemies become friends must be reaffirmed today since the ghosts of nationalism, thought dead, have reappeared. We need to become bridge-builders and peace-makers rather than those who close their borders. They are the ones who will soon starve.

We have a duty to the people arriving in Europe today arising from this “for” which is to demonstrate by example “the attractiveness of Christianity.” All Christians share this duty which in practice means bridging the gaps between us. In short, from now on we must commit not to spreading fear in Europe but to bringing hope because what’s needed today is not fear but hope.

### 2. Prompts for dialogue and prayer:

- *Referring to the content:*
  - “For” unity – what does this mean in practice?
  - The dream of Europe – what is it today? Where are bridgebuilders and builders of hope particularly needed today?
  - Europe is a “work in progress”. How far have we got? Where and how can we work together?
- *With reference to the life of the Movement/Community:*
  - **Gratitude** for the development of the *Together for Europe* Movement/Community. How has the journey been? What have been the milestones on this journey?
  - **Prayer** for unity: where is there a particular need for the action of the Holy Spirit?
  - **Prayer** for Europe: strengthening those who bring hope, the peace-builders and bridge-builders.
  - How do we react to the “ghosts of the past thought dead”?
  - Where can we encourage one another to be more hopeful?