
Croatia: “Iustitia et Pax” Commission, statement on elections. Responding to current challenges, focus on social and constitutional issues

On the occasion of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Croatia on 17 April, the “Iustitia et Pax” Commission of the Croatian Bishops’ Conference has issued a statement entitled “Preserving the Dignity of Politics and the Constitutional and Legal Order of the State”. The document highlights the main current challenges facing the Croatian society, including: “the worrying demographic situation that causes a lack of manpower”, “how to bring Croats back from abroad” and “what policies will be adopted for incoming migrants”. The text goes on to state that “elections are not a political arena where the most important thing is to win at any cost”. Instead, political parties are invited “to present their political agendas and explain how they intend to promote the common good and solve social problems”. According to the statement, “health and pension reforms, social welfare policies, and agrarian reforms” are important to Croatian citizens. Moreover, in choosing their candidates, believers are invited to take into account their stance “on religious freedom, respect for life, non-working Sundays and also gender ideologies”. The statement unequivocally condemns politicians who “violate constitutional provisions and disrupt the constitutional and legal order”. It is crucially important that political parties, “by their actions, avoid a constitutional and legal crisis”, especially at a time of “geopolitical instability in Europe”. The document also mentions the statement by COMECE on the European elections. Particular attention is paid to the problem of corruption, which is “one of the priorities in Croatian society”, with “politicians bearing the greatest responsibility for ending corruption”.

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