



Word of Welcome

Word of Welcome by PAS President Werner Arber

Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery

Workshop 2-3 November 2013

Pontifical Academies of Sciences, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations

Good morning, everyone, I am the President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and I am very pleased that you came to give us your ideas, your counsel on what to do about the problem of human trafficking which, according to my understanding, is very interdisciplinary. We intend, in the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, to cooperate more and more with the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and I am pleased to inform you that we have other meetings already in advanced planning for next year.

This meeting which we start today for two days is a response to our present Pope Francis. We of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences are eager to collect ideas on which aspects of scientific knowledge and its applications can be helpful to solve the serious problems on which we are going to talk in the next few days.

My presence and the presence of a few other members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences is actually to try to see as we can imagine that some, for example, advanced methodologies of sequencing genetic information can be of help, but there will certainly be others and we are eager to make a collection and give our input as we see that we could be of some help. Likewise, I am pleased to see that the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences also deals with this same problem of trafficking.

Thank you very much for your presence and your input.