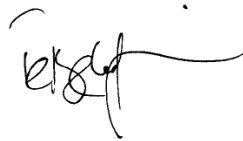


Testimonial on the occasion of the UN Interfaith Harmony Week Price

It was a festive and inspiring start and a highlight of the UN Interfaith Harmony Week 2016 when famous historical Melk Abbey in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Dialogue among Civilizations of Lower Austria invited for the second time to an interreligious dialogue event on February 1. An impressive number of high representatives of the 16 officially in Austria registered churches and faith communities as well as of the eight confessional communities and of members of the civil society gathered for a Peace Vesper in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. The harmonious and open ambiance of the splendid abbey, the moving and stimulating testimonials, the musical performances and especially the contemplative conclusion of the Vesper in the Chapel left a lasting and deep impression with everyone present. The experience of this afternoon of a culture of peace provided important new impulses for the future cooperation and made quite clear that interreligious dialogue in Austria has most committed and reliable partners - and an incredibly beautiful location.

Vienna, March 8, 2016



Teresa Indjein
Director General for Cultural Policy