**Next SIESC meeting at Trier from July 24th to 29th/30th, 2018**

**Topic: “Law – freedom – responsibility”**

*„Und das Gesetz nur kann uns Freiheit geben.“ (Goethe)*

By freedom in a democratic state under the rule of law we first of all think of a sphere protected by the state within which the individual can develop freely. But what is the relationship between the laws of the community and the freedom of the individual? Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that freedom without obedience to the law meant arbitrariness, obedience without freedom meant slavery. In responsibility both are realized, obedience and freedom.

We will illustrate the concepts from various perspectives:

* **From a political-philosophical point of view:** In the course of history two often antagonistic tendencies were balanced: the “will for more power” on the side of the state and the endeavour of the individual to enlarge the scope of freedom against possibilities of intervention by the state. Some stages in the long evolution of this concept of freedom from the Middle Ages to the present will be the topic of the lecture.
* **From a pedagogical-psychological point of view:** Work with children and youngsters displaying behavioural problems demands high pedagogical intuition and courage to use unorthodox procedures. But how are single case decisions, exceptions and particular regulations argued, how are they legitimised against the impression of arbitrariness and subjectivity? A play of thoughts with a very concrete connection to practice and a plea for the “other view” in everyday pedagogical activity.
* **From a theological point of view:** What concepts of law and freedom does the Bible communicate to us and what conclusions can we draw thereof for a responsible life as Christians today?

**Trier** is situated in the central **valley of the Mosel**, near the border to Luxemburg. It is the oldest German town. Nowhere else north of the Alps can the times of the Romans be experienced as authentically as here. **Nine UNESCO world heritage sites** are found at close distance: Porta Nigra, the amphitheatre, the imperial baths, the Barbara baths, Constantine’s basilica, the Roman bridge, and the Column of Igel near Trier, Trier Cathedral, and the Church of Our Lady. We will discover the traces of this rich historic past, but also important cultural monuments of later epochs. The Church of the Benedictine abbey e.g. is a place of pilgrimages and hosts the **only tomb of an apostle north of the Alps,** namely the tomb of the apostle Matthew.

The **optional excursion** at the end of our meeting will take us to Luxemburg, to the European centre at Kirchberg, to the museum of the fortress, to the old town of Luxemburg, then to Echternach, the main place of “Luxemburg’s Little Switzerland”, so attractive for tourists.

SIESC and the preparatory team invite you cordially.

Gisela Gerhardt Wolfgang Rank

Vice-president of SIESC President of SIESC