



'Religions and Ideologies,
Polish Perspectives and beyond.'

International Council of Christians and Jews
in cooperation with the
Faculty for International and Political Studies
of the Jagiellonian University Cracow.
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Presentation by Claude Lhuissier Noel
Wednesday July 6, Collegium Novum, Cracow
Concluding session

Just some flashes:

- It was nice to see young people, among them a Muslim girl: welcome. Some countries improved their participation (France for instance).
- We had time to visit historical Cracow and not only print of Jewish presence. It seems fair. Poland is an old country with a great history, not only a place for the Shoah.
- We have seen the interest of public and religious authorities, who came and have welcomed us.
- To get connected with somebody, and be able to dialogue with him it's important to understand and even share his sorrow, his suffering. So the walk in Birkenau was necessary.
- I'm Christian, Roman Catholic. In our faith, God is not only for a tribe but for the whole world. Dialogue is a constitutive part of life, of faith. It's not optional. Official texts from Vatican confirmed it. So when I hear that there is no time to teach dialogue in seminaries, I dare say "It's wrong". And in that place, in front of this audience it may be a fault. Dialogue should be, must be, a permanent background, and a condition to be admitted in seminaries, as candidate or as a teacher.
- Just because of the suggestion of planting trees, the discussion after the interventions about "justice" was just an ecological one. We missed an opportunity. And why planting trees only in Israel and not elsewhere?
- About the place of the states in dialogue? If no state: ethnic model of the nation, and exclusion. If a strong state: totalitarianism and exclusion. The solution is not the state but personal responsibility.
- Some countries are thinking about "national identity". Almost always search for identity means to look backward: "where are you/we/I coming from?" Would it be possible to build identity gathering people involved in a common goal? But it's supposed a project: hard job for politicians, economists, religions.... The only identity: human being.