



### To all Grand Lodges in Amity

The five Grand Lodges represented by their Grandmasters met this weekend in Berlin. They analyzed the situation of Masonry in France, the latest events, and reactions received after their “Basel Declaration”. They reconfirm their intention to help the French brethren to find ways out of the present crisis. The loss of GLNF’s hitherto privileged status caused a further fragmentation of French regular freemasonry. But at the same time it should be seen as a historical chance for a reconstruction on a broader basis than ever before. To achieve this goal it is necessary to stop the tendency towards fragmentation and start a process of reintegration instead.

Against this background, any attempt of foreign Grand Lodges to set up French districts of their own would be extremely unhelpful. It would be counterproductive as it can only mean further fragmentation and would impede a future reconstruction of regular Freemasonry in France. Based on the erroneous concept that France is now an “open territory”, such moves would be totally unacceptable as it would imply a violation of internationally accepted Masonic rules. In case these rules should indeed be so violated by a foreign Grand Lodge, the five undersigned Grand Lodges would not hesitate to take all necessary measures.

The five Grand Lodges after many probing talks will now start proper negotiations with a view that the French brethren may work out their own salvation with respect to their future role as an internationally recognized part of the world wide chain of brotherhood. With this aim in view the Grand Masters discussed methods, time table, and the overall frame of reference they would like to suggest in view of the negotiation already called for by the “Basel Declaration”.

Berlin, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Grand Lodge of Austria A.F. & A.M., M. W. Bro. Nikolaus Schwärzler, GM**

**Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, M. W. Bro. Eli Peeters, GM**

**United Grand Lodges of Germany, M. W. Bro. Rüdiger Templin, GM**

**Grand Lodge of Luxembourg, M. W. Bro. Paul Geisen, GM**

**Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland, M. W. Bro. Jean-Michel Mascherpa, GM**

Jean-Michel Mascherpa  
Grand Master

Paul Geisen  
Grand Master

Eli Peeters  
Grand Master

Nikolaus Schwärzler  
Grand Master

Rüdiger Templin  
Grand Master