



Brussels, 17th January 2011

Your Majesty

I am in receipt of Your letter dated December 6th pertaining to the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the initiative launched by Yourself and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in October last year.

I am delighted that we had the opportunity of discussing this important initiative during our luncheon at Laeken Castle on December 15th.

His Majesty

*Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein Al-Hashimi
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

Amman.



Since our luncheon, I have further discussed with my government possibilities to support Your initiative. Belgium looks upon the World Interfaith Harmony Week with interest and considers it an important positive contribution to the understanding and peaceful co-existence among nations and faiths.

It is the view of my country that initiatives such as Yours have become all the more urgent in these times where tension between faiths increasingly leads, in some countries, to violence and persecution. I am reminded in particular of the recent attacks against Christians in the Middle East, which were condemned by the European Union. Indeed, during her recent visit to the Middle East, Baroness Ashton on behalf of the European Union reiterated her call "for all religious groups around the world to gather and worship freely. The EU condemns all forms of intolerance and violence against persons because of their religion or belief, wherever it takes place."



The Belgian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr Yves Leterme, has given me his assurance that Belgium will examine positively how we can contribute to the Interfaith Harmony Week.

I am confident that the World Interfaith Harmony Week will be an important engine to enhance worldwide awareness for the importance of peace, harmony, tolerance and respect between faiths.

With warmest greetings
Albert