

## Basel Declaration: withdrawal of GLNF's recognition is official and effective

10.06.2012



### DECLARATION OF BASEL the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2012

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Austria, the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, the Vereinigte Grosslogen von Deutschland, the Grand Lodge of Luxembourg, and the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland, their respective Grand Masters, convened today in Basel, solemnly declare:

1. Following their London declaration of 17 December 2011, the five Grand Lodges have taken the necessary procedural steps for a **withdrawal of GLNF's recognition**, each Grand Lodge according to its general regulations, by-laws and constitution. **The Grand Lodges regret to have to make this withdrawal official and effective as of today.**

2. Under the circumstances, they feel obliged to officially declare that their decision is based on the fact that under its present governance the GLNF has irretrievably slipped its moorings. In actual fact, GLNF's on-going crisis demonstrates an unforgivable neglect of masonic principles and landmarks while the composition of its electoral colleges and the voting procedure have definitely deprived its leadership of all legitimacy, masonic or otherwise. The recent split-up in its very midst, far from solving GLNF's problems, does only underline its state of decomposition. It is with deep sadness that the five Grand Lodges have to acknowledge the demolition of an almost one hundred-yearold masonic heritage along with the courageous work of entire generations, and this by the fault of the present leaders of the GLNF for which history will hold them.

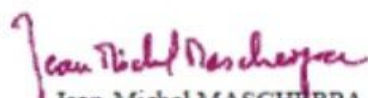
3. The five Grand Lodges affirm their conviction that in view of its great masonic tradition France needs to retrieve its proper place in the universal chain of brotherhood through a bold reconstruction of its masonic landscape avoiding all further fragmentation.

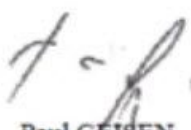
4. **Among all the potential actors of this reconstruction process, the Grande Loge de France could play a major role**, having already been greatly esteemed for some time by the five Grand Lodges not only because of the quality of its brethren and their ritual work but also for their vivid and well-known desire to become part of the universal chain of recognized freemasonry. The five Grand Lodges believe therefore, that there is an historic chance for the Grand Loge de France to realise its aspiration assuming all the necessary choices involved are complied with, especially the need

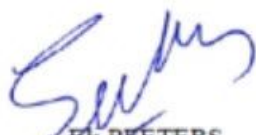
- to continue to work in accordance with the fundamental principles of regular freemasonry ;
- to sever unambiguously remaining links with irregular Obediences ;
- to respect the international customs and traditions governing the relation between a Grand Lodge and a Supreme Council.

The five Grand Lodges seriously wish to support and to counsel the Grand Loge de France in this matter and declare their willingness to start negotiations with a view to its eventual recognition.


5. Notwithstanding this declaration, the five Grand Lodges reconfirm their determination not to abandon the very large number of present and former Brethren of the GLNF who wish to practice their traditional masonry within an administrative framework safely embedded in internationally recognized freemasonry. Their aspiration as well as the interest of all other brethren willing to become part of a reconstructed regular French freemasonry shall at all times be near to the heart of the five Grand Lodges and their negotiating representatives.

  
Jean-Michel MASCHERPA  
Grand Master,  
Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland

  
Paul GEISEN  
Grand Master,  
Grand Lodge of Luxembourg

  
Eli PEETERS  
Grand Master,  
Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium

  
Ruediger TEMPLIN  
Grand Master,

  
Nikolaus SCHWÄRZLER  
Grand Master,



## TO ALL GRAND LODGES IN AMITY

Pursuant the "Basel Declaration" of 10 June 2012, the Grand Masters of the 5 Grand Lodges met today, the representatives of the Grand Lodge of France and the Grand Lodge Alliance Maçonique Française.

The following conclusions have been reached:

The negotiations referred to in the "Basel Declaration" have been officially and formally opened and will deal in the future with the following major issues:

- The search of a credible and balanced project of an institutional structure for a new regular Masonic body in France, which search will be of the sole responsibility of the French Brethren, the five Grand Lodges being prepared to share their relevant experience and give their recommendation and support if required.
- The eventual recognition of this body, all parties being aware of its criteria and of the prerequisites at stake.

An agenda has been agreed upon by common consent, including intermediate evaluations and a first comprehensive assessment of the results by the beginning of December 2012.

Finally all the participants have shared the common concern to integrate all the Brethren who are sincerely willing to participate in the reconstruction of the regular French masonry. To do this, the 5 Grand Lodges reserve the possibility to make the necessary contacts.

Brussel, September 12, 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

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Grand Master

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Grand Master