

FOURTH EUROPE TIBETAN BUDDHISM CONFERENCE, YEUNTENLING, HUY, BELGIUM, 13-14 SEPTEMBER 2024

DECLARATION

We, the Representatives of the undersigned Tibetan Buddhist Centres in Europe have gathered for the Fourth Europe Tibetan Buddhism Conference in Yeuntenling, Huy, Belgium, from 13-14 September 2024 and have unanimously resolved to declare the following:

1. recognising His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's profound contributions to world peace, harmony between different faiths, including among followers of Buddhism. We express our deep gratitude and strongly supplicate His Holiness the Dalai Lama to live long and pray for his wishes to be fulfilled.
2. considering the inseparable karmic bond between the Dalai Lamas, the Tibetan people, followers of Buddhism and millions of others who have been inspired by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, we appeal for the continuation of the Institution of the Dalai Lama for the benefit of all sentient beings and plead to His Holiness for the same.
3. as to the recognition of His Holiness' reincarnation we fully endorse the position His Holiness has outlined in the Statement of September 24, 2011. His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and Gaden Phodrang Institution have the sole legitimate authority over his reincarnation and nobody else.
4. we categorically condemn and oppose any effort by the Chinese government to select Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leaders, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama. China has introduced a number of laws to control the selection of the future Dalai Lamas. We strongly condemn such blatant politicisation. Recognition of reincarnations is intrinsically a religious matter and no other state or government, including the People's Republic of China, an atheist state, has the right to interfere in the matter.
5. we reiterate our resolute commitment to call on the International Community not to accept any person appointed by the People's Republic of China as the reincarnation of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.
6. we unequivocally condemn the relentless attacks being perpetrated against Tibetan language, culture, religion and identity by the Chinese authorities and call on the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end such practices amounting to grave violations of basic Human Rights.

September 14, 2024

Huy, Belgium