

5 **Resolution on the application for reaccreditation of *Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung kanonischer Studiengänge in Deutschland e.V.* (AKAST – Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany) dated 22 June 2017**

Resolution of the Accreditation Council of 6 December 2018

10 I.

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany, acting pursuant to Section 2 (1) 1 of the Act Establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany (*Gesetz zur Errichtung einer Stiftung zur Akkreditierung von Studiengängen in Deutschland*), accredits the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany (AKAST) in accordance with the provisions set out in the following and thereby grants it the authority to accredit study programmes by award of the foundation seal insofar as concerns accreditation procedures under the law applicable until 31 December 2017.

20 II.

Pursuant to Section 24 (1), sentence 2, of the *Musterrechtsverordnung* (Specimen Decree), the Accreditation Council authorises the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany (AKAST) in Germany until 31 December 2023.

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III.

The decision under Article I. above shall enter into effect on 6 December 2018. However, it shall cease to have effect if, by 14 January 2019, the Agency has not, pursuant to Section 3 of the Act Establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany, signed an agreement in accordance with the resolution of the Accreditation Council amended
30 22 June 2016.

IV.

The accreditation and authorisation in accordance with Article I. above are granted for the duration of five years, subject to revocation in accordance with Article III. In accordance with Section 5.2.1 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” of 8 December 2009 as amended on 23 September 2016, the accreditation expires on 31 December 2023.

IV.

The Accreditation Council hereby determines that AKAST meets all quality requirements. Accreditation is therefore granted without conditions.

VI. Rationale

General:

On the basis of the External Review Report and in consideration of the Agency’s response, the Accreditation Council has concluded that the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany (AKAST) substantially meets the criteria under Section 2 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” of 8 December 2009 as amended on 23 September 2016.

AKAST has developed very positively since its establishment ten years ago, further professionalising its work on an ongoing basis and commanding high regard among all stakeholder groups in the field of Catholic theology. In this external review report, AKAST is explicitly reviewed for compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for the first time. The ESG have nonetheless always been taken into account in the Accreditation Council’s criteria and accreditation rules.

The work of AKAST faces imminent changes in both its statutory and its canon law framework. For accreditations under the prior statutory framework (which are now coming to an end), the Accreditation Council, as in the preceding accreditations, restricts the scope of activities under the contractual agreement with AKAST:

“The Agency’s accreditation is restricted to those theological study programmes, as defined in para. 3 of the ‘Key Points for the Structure of Studies in Study Courses Involving Catholic and Protestant Theology/Religion’ of 13 December 2007, which qualify students for the office of pastor or priest or for the profession of lay pastor (‘single-subject theology degrees’), and to Bachelor’s and Master’s study programmes at German higher education institutions whose degrees have canonical value.”