



CALL

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN
EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMY NETWORK

CHURCH
ACTION on
LABOUR and
LIFE

Kirchlicher Herausgeberkreis Jahrbuch Gerechtigkeit

Invitation to the Conference

A Call for Change

Towards a Just, Sustainable and Smart European Economy

Conference to launch the CALL Network

Presentation of the Yearbook on Justice IV

28-30 April 2010

European Parliament, Brussels

Dear brothers and sisters,

On 28-30 April 2010, the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC of CEC) will hold a Conference on European economic and employment policies. The Conference will bring together Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission and representatives of European Churches and church-related organisations.

With the economic downturn the need to address employment and social issues, also in the context of the European Union, has become more pressing. Right now the Member States are defining a new economic, social and ecological framework strategy for the next decade. At the same time, the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 seeks to highlight these realities in Europe. In an open letter to the Presidents of the European institutions, the European churches have recently stressed the need for a change in EU's economic and social policies: "The European churches

understand this crisis as a call for change. Coming back to 'business as usual' will not solve it. To meet the challenges of the crisis it will be necessary to come to significant changes in the economic and social policies of the European Union and its Member States ..."

With this Conference CSC of CEC is launching the European Christian Employment and Economy Network "CALL": Church Action on Labour and Life.

The CALL Network

CALL is intended to provide a network for experts and interested people in churches, industrial missions, university institutes, lay academy centres, ecumenical associations and diaconal ministries, trade unions and employers' associations. CALL will provide a platform to exchange views and experiences on economic questions in different parts of Europe and, thereby, to bridge gaps between European societies. CALL shall promote a Christian perspective in the European debates. Moreover, it will build the capacity of European churches to act on these issues, for instance by offering educational and information material and training. You will find a project proposal for the Network attached to this invitation.

May we kindly ask you to forward this invitation to other people who might be interested in participating.

The "Yearbook Justice"

The "Yearbook Justice" is a German ecumenical initiative. The publication is focusing on justice in Central and Eastern Europe 20 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain. It shall be presented during the Conference.

Practical Arrangements

You will find a draft Programme and a Registration Form attached. The working language of the Conference will be English. The Conference will be hosted on 28 and 30 April at the Conference Centre "Chant d'Oiseau" in Brussels. On 29 April, the Conference will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Conference Fee

The conference fee for the meeting will be 120 € (for the conference, meals and bus transfers on 29 April) Accommodation and travel costs are not included in the conference fee. Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements.

Accommodation

The Conference Centre "Chant d'Oiseau" and the ICA are providing simple accommodation in single and double rooms for a very reasonable price. If you are interested to stay in a more distinguished room we would kindly ask you to book your hotel directly. The hotel reservation agency Resotel (info@resotel.be) is ready to help with hotel offers. We have to pre-warn you that the conference is taking place during an important trade fair week in Brussels and the offer of hotel rooms is both limited and expensive.

Funding

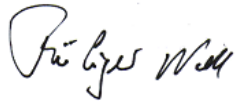
For the churches and organisations interested to be represented at the meeting and not able to meet the costs, there is a possibility to apply for a subsidy. The subsidy fund is,

however, very limited. The organisers of the consultation will not be able to bear the costs caused by a late cancellation of the registration.

We would appreciate receiving your reply at your earliest convenience, in any case no later than 1st April 2010.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office of the CSC in Brussels (Véronique Dessart), Rue Joseph II, 174, BE-1000 Brussels, Tel. +32 2 230 17 32, Fax +32 2 231 14 13, E-mail: csc@cec-kek.be. You will receive a confirmation of your participation with additional practical information.

With kind regards,



Rev Rüdiger Noll
Director

Church and Society Commission
of the Conference of European Churches (CSC of CEC)
Rue Joseph II, 174
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
csc@cec-kek.be

Enclosure: Registration Form, draft Conference Programme, CALL project proposal