**Budapest - Novi Sad**

Title

 First draft

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*“You shall be my witnesses” Acts 1:8
Novi Sad, Serbia, 30 May – 6 June 2018*

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**GS Report**

**CEC as a privileged tool of the Ecumenical Movement.**

* New CEC: streamlined administration, geared to the size of the operation.
* CEC GB and staff carried out the demanding reform process since the BP GA, finalised technically only at the end of 2016. A special word of thanks to the President and the previous General Secretary.
* CEC as a unique forum, the only one uniting all Christians in Europe, a “safe ecumenical space”. Able to avoid similar divisions as we see within our churches, on political or issues of personal ethics?
* The need to heighten CEC’s role as a unique European ecumenical forum and a service organization of its member churches, with high level expertise in focused areas. Roles which no one else could fulfil. The image of the bridge, re Novi Sad.
* CEC: from the ambition of an all-encompassing ecumenical umbrella to a relevant service organisation of its member churches. Added value of CEC for its member churches?
* Is CEC needed by the churches? Why should the big churches fund something which they could do by themselves, bilaterally with other churches? Why should the small churches be committed to CEC, if it seems distant and irrelevant to their reality? Need to intensify communication with MC. Membership fee as an expression of this challenge.
* The need to define the operational base of CEC and its expression through programmes and projects. Develop fund raising: the base funded by the members, the projects also from additional sources.
* Competent staff, good results with limited resources.
* Need to develop the CEC salary scale, to better correspond to the level of expertise and competence CEC requires. Continuous need to recruit competent, internationally recruited staff. CEC as a competent international employer.
* Challenges: experience of many member churches (smaller) of more distance with CEC, without associated members a weakened touch with the breadth and width of ecumenical initiatives, and the need to relate them with each other and the ecclesial nature of the ecumenical vision.
* The perspectives of the CCME-CEC relationship: cohabitation, cooperation, merger?
* Moscow Patriarchate, as a member of CEC, or not?
* Experiences and potential of networks, such as ECEN and CALL. Need for others? Youth? Mission? Ecumenical Theology?
* If Youth is a priority, how should we understand the lack of responsibility from the European churches towards EYCE, and the difficulties in the relation CEC-EYCE?

**CEC in the global Ecumenical Movement**

* WCC pilgrimage of Justice and Peace as an image of the Ecumenical Movement. Is CEC capable of being the European expression of such ecumenical vision and action?
* Relation to the global ecumenical movement: Loss of the daily contact with WCC, LWF in the corridors, cafeteria, meeting rooms of the Ecumenical centre in Geneva. How to revitalise and ensure this relation?
* Confessional networks, such as CPCE, Porvoo, EBF, Methodist, the Anglican Europe structures. Intra-Orthodox developments since the Holy and Great Council of 2016.
* European Christian Convention in 202X? 4th EEA?
* Developed cooperation with COMECE, possibilities with CCEE.

**The European Context**

* Europe's multiple crises: The need to hear more than one narrative of Europe.
* Loss of focus? Definition of “European values/principles, ideals, goals”. Need to redefine the ”European Project”.
* Intra-EU discrimination in the management of the economic crisis? North – South suspicion and division in everyday life reality of ordinary people.
* Eastern European frustration, disappointment.. based on factual developments or not? CEC-CPCE brainstorming meeting on ecumenical challenges and possibilities in E-C-Europe.
* CEC broader than EU. Global character of the ecumenical vision. Crucial in issues of ecology and economic justice.
* CEC's consultation process *What future for Europe* and the impulses from the churches.
* 2017: Reformation 500 years. Ecumenical significance of the jubilee/commemoration.
* Potential of the Charta Oecumenica – future work with it.
* Change in ecclesial and religious landscape: old majorities, state churches...minorities, new churches...Christianity in the public sphere.
* 2019 centennial of the Paris peace conference. The new relevance of ecumenical peace analysis, related to militarisation of the discussion, solutions proposed.

**What future for Europe? An open letter and CEC consultation**

* Europe and the European Union (EU) difficult time period.
* Economic difficulties of countries in the South
* Future stability and functionality of the EU
* Open letter on “Future of Europe” - global problems “need globally coordinated solutions
* Critical challenges of Europe
* Human dignity, peace, reconciliation, justice, the rule of law, democracy, the respect for human rights, solidarity and sustainability
* Good cooperation with partners

**Employment and Social Affairs**

* CEC’s work on employment and social affairs from 2013 – 2018
* CEC Thematic Reference Group on Employment and Social Issues
* The European Semester and the Europe 2020 strategy
* The European Pillar of Social Rights
* Council of Europe – the Steering Committee for Human Rights – Drafting Group on Social Rights
* Church Action on Labour and Life
* The European Sunday Alliance

**European Churches Back Human Rights**

* Background of the Human Rights Programme
* European Commission’s Annual Human Rights Colloquium
* Freedom of Religion or Belief
* Engagement with the EU
* Human Rights Education
* Details on: Cyprus
* Syria
* Montenegro
* Croatia
* The Netherlands
* NATO

**Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

* Europe’s role in refugee protection in the 21st century
* CCME working in solidarity with churches and refugees along the “Balkan route”
* Countering human trafficking as a form of slavery
* Putting an end to death at Europe’s border – Safe Passage
* Uniting in diversity: Migration, a challenge for the unity of the Church
* Churches as witness to inclusive communities in Europe

**Ecclesiology and Theological Dialogue**

* Local impact of Charta Oecumenica
* Ecumenical Theological Education
* Ecclesiology and migration
* Reformation in an ecumenical perspective
* Interreligious dialogue in the face of migration
* Christian witness in Europe today

**Peacebuilding and Reconciliation**

* Engaging in dialogue with the EU Institutions
* Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
* Developing the framework of resilience in cooperation with partners in Brussels
* Peace Conference 2019
* Developing a CEC Peace Task Force

**Education for Democratic Citizenship**

* Education strategies of the European churches
* Challenges re office in Strasbourg
* Participation and cooperation with other ecumenical actors
* Growth of democratic understanding
* Migration
* Presentation and workshop in Novi Sad
* Recommendations

**Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace - Addressing Concerns of Economic and Climate Justice**

* Climate change and sustainable development
* CEC in facilitating a European contribution to Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
* European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)
* Creation Day and Creation Time
* Economic justice