

Conference of European Churches Governing Board

Brussels, 22 – 24 November 2018

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Topic: Minutes June 2018 Meeting

Agenda Item: 4

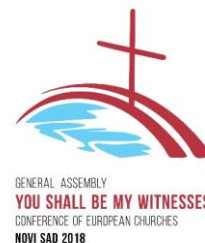
Staff in charge: Fr Heikki Huttunen

Recommendation: For adoption

Annex: N/A

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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

GOVERNING BOARD

6 May 2018 (8:45 – 10:30)

DRAFT MINUTES

Opening of the meeting

The President, Christian Krieger, welcomed the members of the newly elected Governing Board together with the Moderator and General Secretary-elect of CCME (see List of Participants in the Appendix). He then asked the Vice-President, Gulnar Francis-Dehqani, to open the meeting in prayer.

The President then invited each member of the Board to introduce him- or herself briefly.

Preliminary considerations for meetings

The President went on to ask the members of the Board which language(s) they wished to use for their meetings. It was **agreed** that, as a general rule, members would express themselves in English but that, where necessary, members could use other languages as long as another member was available to translate.

The Board further **agreed** that prayers would normally be said in the morning, at lunchtime (briefly) and in the evening. Prayers would be led by different members according to their own liturgical traditions and possibly in their own languages.

In order to encourage free and honest debate, the President urged members to respect the confidentiality of Governing Board proceedings.

Planning for the first substantive meeting of the new Governing Board

The Board **noted** that the first substantive meeting would need, *inter alia*, to:

- Set up a Personnel Committee, a Nominations Committee and a Budget Committee;
- On the basis of the relevant documents, and in dialogue with the staff, agree on goals for the next five years of CEC's work and a strategy for achieving them;
- Taking into account the provisions of the corrected Constitution, adopt revised Standing Orders.

The Board then discussed how much time would be needed to prepare for the next meeting. While, on the one hand, it was important to move quickly so that the staff would not have to wait too long before being able to start on the new programmes of work, on the other hand it was necessary to allow enough time for careful preparation.

In answer to questions, Andreas Aarflot said that according to the Standing Orders the mandates of the thematic reference groups did not expire until six months after the General Assembly. In other words, work could continue as required until the Governing Board agreed on terms of reference of future groups at its next meeting.

The General Secretary mentioned a number of ongoing activities on which work would in any case continue during the next few months, including for example the centenary Peace Conference to be held in 2019, the work of the European Christian Environment Network, a seminar with the European Parliament on the Middle East and the human rights Summer School.

The Board **requested** the General Secretary to send out, in good time before its next meeting, and as far as possible by the end of the summer, a package of materials including:

- Briefing on the procedures and working methods of the Governing Board;
- Minutes of the last four meetings of the Governing Board;
- The Constitution as corrected at Novi Sad;
- The Minutes and other documents of the Novi Sad General Assembly;
- Evaluation of the Novi Sad General Assembly;
- Description of the current work responsibilities of each member of the executive staff;
- List of the existing thematic reference groups together with their terms of reference;
- The Agreement of Cooperation between CEC and CCME;
- Contact list of members of the Governing Board.

Considering that the Standing Orders needed to be revised so as to take account of the corrections made by the General Assembly to the CEC Constitution, the Governing Board **requested** Andreas Aarflot to prepare a draft text by the end of September or shortly thereafter. It was stressed that the draft revised Standing Orders needed to be sent to Governing Board members well before the next meeting.

It was **agreed** that, wherever possible, documents for Governing Board meetings should be sent out well in advance. In particular, a clear deadline should be fixed for sending out any documents requiring consultations within member churches.

Concerning the evaluation of the General Assembly, Alison Mc Donald recalled that the members of the outgoing Governing Board had agreed to send her their observations by the end of June, which she would then collate into a single document. It was then **decided** that members of the new Governing Board would also send her their comments on the General Assembly by the end of June, and she agreed to include these in the same compilation.

It was further **agreed** that a questionnaire should be sent to all General Assembly participants in the near future inviting them to give their evaluation of the Novi Sad General Assembly.

Regretting that the political figures invited to take part in the discussion about the Future of Europe had in the end cancelled their participation, the General Secretary considered that this raised questions about the nature and reality of the churches' dialogue with the European institutions.

In answer to a question, the General Secretary said that there had unfortunately been delays in printing the handbook of information about member churches which Archbishop Yeznik and his staff had been compiling. It should however be ready very soon and will then be circulated in an appropriate manner.

Dates of future meetings

The President said that the Governing Board normally met twice each year, usually in Brussels. Meetings were usually held in late November and late June.

The Governing Board **decided** to hold its forthcoming meetings as follows:

From 9 a.m. on 22 November to 6 p.m. on 24 November 2018 (Brussels)

From lunchtime on 15 May to lunchtime on 18 May 2019 (Strasbourg; to include a visit to the European institutions). Youth representatives to be invited to take part.

20-22 November 2019 (as laid down in the Agreement of Cooperation between CEC and CCME, this meeting will be held back-to-back with the Executive Committee of CCME and will include a joint session)

4-6 June 2020

18-20 November 2020

The President recalled that meetings of the Presidency would also need to be arranged. These usually took place about twice a year.

The President thanked all the members for their participation and closed the meeting at 10.25 a.m.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Presidency

- Rev Christian **Krieger**, Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine (President)
- Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Church of England (Vice President)

Members

- Mr Andreas Henriksen **Aarflot**, Church of Norway
- Rt Rev Nicholas **Baines**, Church of England
- Rev Jelle **Brouwer**, United Protestant Church in Belgium
- Rev Anne **Burghardt**, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Dr Valérie **Duval-Poujol**, Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France
- Very Rev Dean Anders **Gadegaard**, Evangelical-Lutheran Church
- Very Rev Archimandrite **Nektarios**, Church of Cyprus
- Very Rev Archimandrite **Ignatios**, Church of Greece
- H.E. Metropolitan **Joseph** of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of Southern and Western Europe
- Rev Frank **Kopania**, Evangelical Church in Germany
- Prof Petr **Kratochvil**, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
- Rev Alison **McDonald**, Church of Scotland
- Ms Zsuzsanna **Repas**, Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
- Ms Lea Kathrin **Schlenker**, Evangelical Church in Germany

Apologies

- H.E. Metropolitan **Cleopas of Sweden**, Ecumenical Patriarchate (Vice President)
- Ms Emma **Johnson**, Methodist Church of Great Britain
- Bishop Hovakim **Manukyan**, Armenian Apostolic Church
- Ms Aleksandra **Pistalo**, Serbian Orthodox Church

Staff

- Ms Véronique **Engels**, Assistant to the General Secretary
- Very Reverend Protopresbyter Heikki Theodoros **Huttunen**, General Secretary

- Dr Torsten **Moritz**, General Secretary elect - Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

Guest

- Mr Lemma **Desta**, Moderator - Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

Minute Taker

- Rev John **Murray**

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