

Conference of European Churches

Governing Board

Brussels, 22-24 November 2018

CEC Strategy Plan: 2019-2023

You shall be my witnesses: One in Hope, One in Witness

AIM 1: CEC promotes peace, justice and reconciliation in Europe

Building peace and reconciliation in Europe	Working on fear and populism as a threat to Europe	Contributing to the future of Europe	Supporting interreligious dialogue	Educating on diversity and plurality
<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work on current issues related peace security and, reconciliation in Europe ✓ organise a peace conference in 2019* ✓ follow European political developments regarding peace, security, and military solutions ✓ strengthen the churches' competence in the field of reconciliation ✓ provide broader theologically grounded understanding on how to deal with polarising discussions 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ organise a joint CEC-CCEE meeting on "a pastoral approach to fear and populism" ✓ challenge the security-driven concerns of society and promote solidarity and mutual justice ✓ discuss nationalism in relation to ecclesiology ✓ reflect on dissatisfaction, sense of non-participation and marginalisation in relation to democracy <p>* Staff needed</p>	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ organise a conference on a new narrative for Europe (possibly in cooperation with COMECE) ✓ discuss the future of Europe under the motto "unity in diversity" (in cooperation with CCME) ✓ develop a theological and social-ethical understanding of social justice and social inequality in Europe (in cooperation with CALL) ✓ reflect on the issue of EU internal migration (in cooperation with the Romanian Orthodox Church, linked to a seminar proposed in connection to Romanian EU Presidency 2019) ✓ monitor the evolution of Brexit and the entry of Balkan states 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ apply the commitments of <i>Charta Œcumenica</i> and strengthen dialogue with Islam, Judaism, and other religions ✓ revisit CEC's work on developing a Theology of Religions ✓ address Islamophobia, Antisemitism and Christianophobia in Europe ✓ share best practice, create network of church persons involved in interreligious matters <p>* Staff needed</p>	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ participate actively in the discussion about diversity and pluralism in our societies ✓ monitor and contribute to the current developments in intercultural education and dialog policies (<i>Competences for Democratic Culture program</i> of the Council of Europe) ✓ develop Intercultural learning on the base of an ecumenical project to enable Member Churches to become bridge builders ✓ discuss the issue of religion education in school (in cooperation with ICCS)

AIM 2: CEC deepens church communion and ecumenical fellowship

Seeking growth as an ecumenical church fellowship	Continuing the theological dialogue	Being Church together with migrant and minority churches	Acting with other ecumenical actors in Europe
<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provide space for dialogue and encounter by organising regional church meetings on ecumenical, ecclesiological and ethical issues ✓ strengthen Orthodox participation in CEC and in the ecumenical movement ✓ develop a communications strategy enhancing the churches fellowship, especially in creating a network of communicators ✓ raise participation in a CEC program in 2019-2023 to at least 100 Member Churches ✓ organise an annual meeting of ecumenical officers ✓ enhance cooperation with National Councils of Churches by organising an annual meeting ✓ offer training to church leaders and ecumenical officers on ecumenism ✓ organise regular meetings with Organisations in Partnership 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reflect the understanding of “the Church” and “Church as communion” in dialogue with the churches’ cultural context and in relations with nation and state ✓ carry out an inventory of the theological dialog between and among Member Churches and identify key questions of concern: baptism, mixed marriages (between denominations), ... <p>(the Orthodox-Protestant dialogue shall be fostered at CEC level in partnership with CPCE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work theologically on common relevant topics like witnessing in a secularised society, evangelisation, and so on ✓ deepen the theological and ecclesiological foundation of CEC programs 	<p>CEC and CCME will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ organise conversations and cooperation between European churches on migration and displacement ✓ intensify and enhance ecumenical cooperation at national and European levels with migrant and minority ethnic churches ✓ discuss ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe in dialogue with ecclesiologies of ‘migrant’ churches ✓ Reflect on the impact of the changing religious landscape (new Churches, other religions) on the self-understanding of churches 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reestablish regular work with the CCEE, particularly on pastoral issues, <i>evaluating Charta Æcumenica, revisiting Vatican I (150 anniversary in 2020), figuring out next steps</i> ✓ strengthen cooperation with the COMECE, especially to improve the functioning of the European Union Art 17. ✓ cooperate with and give expression to our relationship with inter-confessional partners in Europe (CPCE, Porvoo communion, CROCEU...) ✓ clarify and strengthen the relations with WCC, contribute to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and cooperate in preparing their Assembly in Karlsruhe

AIM 3: CEC raises the Churches voice in Europe and toward the European Institutions

Continuing the dialogue with the European Institutions	Promoting Human Rights and freedom of religions as an essential for justice and human societies	Advancing economic and ecological justice	Analysing and reflecting the issue of digitalisation, artificial Intelligence and human dignity	Monitoring science, bioethics and technology	Defending the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seeker
<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ contribute to the High-level meetings in the European Institutions, work for a better effectiveness of the dialogue (Art 17) and develop a dialogue seminar in cooperation with COMECE ✓ Monitor the work of European Institutions on bioethics, education, human rights, social justice, employment, climate justice, migration, EU foreign policy, ... ✓ contribute to a NGO's network on these topics ✓ meet with the EU presidency in cooperation with local Member Churches 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ deepen its Member Churches understanding of human rights and advance their implementation ✓ support its members in cases of human rights conflicts or violations, especially concerning freedom of religion or belief ✓ provide expertise on human rights issues, in particular freedom of religion or belief, by institutional and political actors (European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN) 	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work to increase engagement of Member Churches in care of creation and sustainable development and sustain ECEN network ✓ advocate at the European level for an alternative and sustainable economy ✓ work together in effective cooperation with other ecumenical actors (WCC, organisations in partnership from civil society) ✓ monitor and contribute to the development, the discussion and the European political decision making on the changes (or future) of work in Europe 	<p>CEC, in cooperation with CPCE, will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide an inventory of the questions linked to this issue ✓ Organise a conference on the subject ✓ Collect the churches' positions regarding this issue ✓ Produce a theological reflection document and orientation guide <p>* Staff needed</p>	<p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create a network to enable Member Churches to participate in the ethical, social and theological debate relating to science, bioethics, and technology ✓ Include youth experience and expertise in this programmatic area 	<p>CEC and CCME will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ advocate and network to enable safe and legal access to Europe for those in need of protection ✓ defend international refugee protection in Europe and EU member states ✓ advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system of migration to Europe based on fundamental rights of migrants ✓ address the protection of those groups discriminated against in the context of ethnic, social, racial, religious and gender-based exclusion

* There is no specific field of work on youth. The involvement of young people will be ensured through an effective presence in all working groups and conferences and regular meetings with representatives.

* There will be a work on a global communication strategy.

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Acronyms

CCEE	Council of European Bishops' Conferences	CPCE	Communion Protestant Churches in Europe
COMECE Union	Commission of Bishop's Conferences in the European	WCC	World Council of Churches
CALL	Church Action on Labour and Life	OSCE	Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en
ICCS	Intereuropean Commission on Church and School	Europe	
CCME	Churches Commission on Migrants in Europe	ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network