

## ExCom 18/2/2

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Brussels, 22-23 March 2018

#### Draft Minutes

##### Present:

Mr Lemma Desta	Moderator
Ms Efthalia Pappa	Vice-Moderator
Ms Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy	Vice-Moderator
Apostle Adejare Oyewole	Treasurer
Mr David Bradwell	ExCom Member
Rev Sabine Dressler	ExCom Member
Ms Dana Gavril	ExCom Member
Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot	ExCom Member/CEC
Rev. Dr Katalina Tahaafe Williams	ExCom Member/WCC
Ms Doris Peschke	General Secretary
Dr Torsten Moritz	Executive Secretary
Mr Emmanuel Kabalisa	Office Manager
Mr Jean Pierre Habimana	Intern

##### Guests:

Fr. Heikki Huttunen

General Secretary of CEC



## Introduction

1. The meeting started with a dedicated closed session at 11:00 on 22 March with the election of a new general secretary from shortlisted candidates as proposed by the search committee, which met prior to the ExCom meeting.
2. Before leading a prayer, the Moderator Lemma Desta welcomed everyone present and announced that the ExCom had appointed Dr Torsten Moritz, currently Executive Secretary, to the post of CCME General Secretary. The selected candidate accepted with emotion to take up the position as of 1 August 2018. The Moderator proposed to proceed with a round of presentation. The General Secretary presented the new intern Jean-Pierre Habimana, a Global Mission fellow who was able to join CCME after a long waiting period for visa.

### I. Adoption of the agenda

3. Before going into the business, the Moderator proposed to look at suggested items on the draft agenda and asked for any comment or additional items to be discussed or to share with ExCom members. Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy proposed giving some updates on the situation in Hungary under "Any other business". The meeting also agreed to add another item on the recruitment of an Executive Secretary.

### II. Minutes of the ExCom meeting in Oslo, 25-26 September 2017

4. The Moderator proceeded with a page by page review of the minutes from Oslo, 25-26 September 2017 and the following correction were suggested:
  - On page 3 (point 8) the sentence should read "The Moderator reported also that the Christian Council of Norway held a conference with the Islamic Council about religion and integration in January 2018..." and not 2017.
  - On page 11 (point 70), the repeated word "thanked" is to be deleted.
  - On page 12 (point 72), the correct spelling of the coordinator of the project on Modern Slavery should be "Elin Sæverås".
5. The ExCom approved the minutes and the Moderator thanked the minute-takers for their accuracy. After corrections, the minutes will be shared with the CEC Governing Board.

### III. Proactive outreach towards members and new/unreached areas, new models of engagement and partnerships to renew, retain and revive churches engagement in light of the changing context both in churches and society

6. The meeting discussed how to develop more systematic ways to make CCME better known and the need to elaborate strategies for people to better know our work and increase membership organisations. To this end, it was suggested using existing individual contacts and churches/organisations.
7. For the commemoration day 2018, it was suggested to encourage churches to organise memorial services and consider the material prepared by CCME.
8. It was suggested to prepare material on Safe Passage for the CEC Assembly in Novi Sad. The material would give a concrete example on what churches are doing on migration. Also providing pictures from events and tragedies around migration would be helpful.
9. After exchange, the meeting underlined the importance of making people aware that the global refugee crisis is still a reality and our societies cannot continue to ignore that reality.

The secretariat will continue to work on the issue and propose to the ExCom ways to go forward.

#### **IV. Moderator's report**

10. Since the last ExCom meeting in Oslo, many events have taken place. The Moderator informed that he took part in the CEC Governing Board in Brussels, 23-25 November 2017 and was also able to sign the agreement of cooperation between CCME and CEC. He informed that the meeting had very interesting discussions including assembly preparations and other issues.
11. Another issue he reported was the news about slavery in Libya end of November - beginning of December 2017. He wrote to the president of WCC and the Moderator of LWF but was disappointed for not getting any response and no statement from WCC. The only response came from CEC.
12. The third issue was the message he received from Doris Peschke that she would not renew her contract. This resulted in the search for candidates for the post of CCME general secretary.
13. The last issue was the follow-up with the Global Compact on migration with meetings in Norway to see how they can respond best.
14. The Vice-Moderator Efthalia Pappa reported on the meeting of the CEC Governing Board she attended (Brussels, 12-14 March 2018). She informed that she was able to attend from the second day and some discussions took place on necessary legal coherence in the CEC constitution to comply with Belgian legislation. Discussions also took place on the assembly and the process of nominations for the Governing Board and assembly committees. Some discussions focused on the future challenges for CEC. The other issue was the installation of Rev. Sören Lenz as new CEC executive secretary in the CEC office in Strasbourg.
15. The Vice-Moderator said that at that meeting Doris Peschke was given the opportunity to present the work of CCME and stressed the most challenging issues in relation to integration and some priorities for the future. Doris Peschke spoke about the situation in Libya, the tragedies in the Mediterranean, search and rescue operations and the necessity to continue the project on Safe passage, humanitarian visas, family reunification etc. She asked for support from the Governing Board to the work of CCME and to her successor. The CEC Governing Board congratulated Doris Peschke for the job done and committed to support her successor.
16. A discussion followed where ExCom members regretted the ongoing situation in Libya and the global inequality inherited from the past and the necessity not to give up. In relation to the situation in the Mediterranean, Sabine Dressler informed that EKD supported financially the "Sea-Watch and the Humanitarian Pilots Initiative" which uses aircraft for civilian missions for search and rescue purposes.

#### **V. General Secretary's Report**

17. The General Secretary said that the beginning of the year is always filled with reporting on what has been done and achieved in the past year. She indicated that the secretariat has been working on both activities and financial report for 2017 which shall be finalised in April. The accounts were audited mid-March.

18. Due to restrictive policies, particularly the Turkey deal and the Turkish intervention in Syria, less refugees arrive in Europe in comparison with 2015. Despite of these developments, the EU continues to put the emphasis on securing borders. As European solidarity is lacking, Greece and Italy are among the countries with relatively high numbers, with numbers rising in Spain at the moment. Other countries outside EU which accept many refugees like Uganda do not get enough funding. She insisted on the necessity to increase efforts because of the many ongoing conflicts like in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea etc.
19. In relation to EU policies, CCME has been working with NGOs and UNHCR. ECRE and UNHCR have jointly published a first assessment on the use of the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) at national levels. It appears that it is difficult for countries to agree even on standards within projects funded by EU. A revision on the use of these funds is expected next year, thus there is time to advise governments on how to improve the use of the funding.
20. The General Secretary informed of a meeting taking place in Brussels the following week with the rapporteur of the European Parliament to exchange on the Dublin IV Regulation. While the EP has agreed on a position, the Council of Ministers could not reach agreement yet, which is a precondition to enter the trilogue. She informed of a recent interesting case where the former General Secretary of the LIBE Committee in the EP, Emilio Di Capitani, took the Parliament to court for not allowing access to documents from the EP relating to ongoing co-decision negotiations. The EU Court ruled in favour of the complainant for non-respect of the transparency principle.
21. The EU Commission published a new proposal to amend the common EU visa policy aiming at easier access for so-called "trusted travelers" but also making it stricter for other applicants. For the Commission, one of the main objectives is to "deliver on return and readmission".
22. It has become a tradition to issue a joint statement by CEC-CCEE and CCME on International Roma Day 8 April; however, as 8 April in 2018 falls on the (Orthodox) Easter Sunday, a decision was taken not to issue one this year.
23. In relation to the CEC assembly, there will be a Hungarian Roma youth advisor nominated by the Hungarian Reformed Church and there is hope to give recognition to the work of Roma people.
24. The Federation of Italian Protestant Churches has launched the humanitarian corridors, and France and Belgium joined with small contingents. After the elections in Italy, the question will be whether the programme will continue. On Saturday 24 March 2018, there will be an event "Solidarity is not a crime" to underline that those who are involved in the rescue operations are not smugglers.
25. The European citizens' initiative campaign is collecting signatures with a target of one million from all EU countries until February 2019. CCME will be supportive but without a leading role. The information will be shared with members and CEC where and whenever possible.
26. Doris Peschke informed about some changes in the secretariat: Jean-Pierre Habimana from Rwanda arrived in December 2017 for a period of 2 years. He is a Global Mission fellow, the programme of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In addition, Claudia Doldo has joined CCME for 3 months as of January 2018.

Another intern is expected to join in April for 3 months as part of the programme with the Trinity College Dublin.

## VI. Christian Organisations' Report

### EU Return Policy

27. The General Secretary presented the draft document by Christian organisations on recommendations for humane return policies in Europe. The document was not yet final but was to be developed further and finalised in the week to follow.
28. During an open discussion on the subject, a question was raised if the rights of third country nationals are respected and which kind of data are transmitted, i.e. by IOM or UNHCR, but also member state authorities to the countries of origin, and how long they keep this information. It was suggested to approach the European Ombudsman who can check if standards are respected.
29. It was agreed to send comments or any potential amendments to the Secretariat by Monday 26 March to enable finalisation of the document. ExCom also requested the secretariat to summarise the document as shorter documents can more easily be shared in the constituencies. Yet, such extra efforts can sometimes not easily be done.

### Humanitarian Visa

30. The European Commission has issued a new proposal for the Schengen Visa Code mid-March 2018, however, humanitarian visa articles are maintained but not improved. The European Parliament Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights (LIBE) is planning an own-initiative report on humanitarian visa. CCME and Christian organisations were invited to a hearing, as the document by the group of Christian organisations was received with interest.

## VII. WCC Activities

### World Mission Conference Arusha 08-13 March 2018

31. Before sharing information on the topic, Katalina Tahaafe-Williams explained first the normal channels to be used to better communicate with WCC. Similar to the Athens conference, CCME members had asked about participation with some of the information like Mapping Migration, but procedures for registering interest were not entirely clear.
32. The conference on World Mission and Evangelism comes a decade after the one that took place in Athens (May 2005). The host was the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. She indicated that it was a very interesting and inspiring event. The WCC statement "Together Towards Life" presented at the Busan Assembly was a shaping document for the conference.
33. The conference reflected 4 characteristics: mission, ecumenism, African conference and formation of young mission leaders for the future. Katalina Tahaafe-Williams indicated that she was happy with the outcome of the conference and statements reflected interests of the various churches and was adopted with easy consensus. Migration and multicultural ministry were strongly addressed at the conference.

### 70 years World Council of Churches

34. WCC is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Katalina Tahaafe-Williams expressed hope to highlight the issue of migration and CCME in the coming gatherings to see how

to strengthen the cooperation. She informed about the Jubilee World Roma Congress which will take place in London in 2019 supported by WCC which had also sponsored the congress of 1978. The other issue on the agenda of WCC is the work on racism, xenophobia and populism. These issues will be raised within the context of global migration and refugees and the relation to the rise of populism.

35. In June, there will be WCC Executive Committee and Central Committee meeting in Geneva and there is hope to get Pope Francis there for the celebration. There will be no single big celebration but the programmatic areas will find ways to celebrate. She informed about a celebration she will organise in the Pacific for indigenous people but she will try to find other ways to celebrate racial justice and other topics as well.

#### Further plans for Cooperation

36. In the discussion the hope for a new initiative for regular global meetings on migration, following on the Global ecumenical migration network, was expressed. Continuity and regular thematic exchange between the regions is important for cooperation and synergies.

#### VIII. Processes towards the Global Compacts on international refugee protection and international migration

37. Katalina Tahaafe-Williams informed that due to the lack of resources, she has not been able to engage directly but relies on the work done by the ACT Alliance. The recommendations articulated by churches and ACT Alliance members are supported by WCC.
38. The ACT Alliance is coordinating responses on the global compacts, and there are two documents led by ICMC which CCME has co-signed. What is now coming up is the UN intergovernmental conference on international migration in Marrakesh in December 2018, during which the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration is expected to be adopted.
39. During the exchange that followed, questions were raised, e.g. how civil society's voice can be heard.

#### IX. Conference of European Churches

40. The General Secretary of CEC, Fr Heikki Huttunen gave a brief introduction to the life of CEC. He informed that the vacant post of an Executive Secretary focussing on bio-ethics, and engagement with European institutions in Strasbourg was filled by Rev. Sören Lenz beginning of 2018. He also recalled that the Budapest assembly adopted a constitution and the reform has taken energy but it reflects what the organisation is there for. The general secretariat moved from Geneva to Brussels and due to the different legal systems, there are some minor technical changes to be adopted but this will not be the main content of the CEC assembly.
41. In the field of human rights, CEC has been able to tackle issues related to rights of minorities and this initiative has had great interest and a big significance with the visit of 10 young Serbs from Croatia and 10 young Croats from Serbia to the European institutions in Brussels.
42. The other issue was the CEC involvement in the Future of Europe. The process took the form of 4 regional meetings. The letter from CEC has been translated into several languages and was widely used beyond what CEC had expected.

43. In relation to the collaboration between CEC and CCME, there are regular meetings of the CEC Collegium where CCME staff participate in line with the agreement of cooperation. CCME also sends a representative to the CEC Governing Board and the CEC representation to the CCME ExCom.
44. He informed also that the CEC Presidents will make a visit to Lebanon to revive the cooperation with the Middle East. The AACCC will also be represented in the Novi Sad assembly.
45. In line with the above-mentioned potential constitutional changes, the CEC lawyers had a look at CCME articles of association and pointed out some articles that should be adjusted to the current Belgian legislation. The CCME statutes have been adopted in 1999 and the law changed after that. ExCom took note of the comments and agreed to have a look at the statutes with help of lawyers in preparation of the next CCME assembly.

#### Information on the CEC Assembly 2018

46. The CEC General Secretary explained that the assembly will take place outside of the EU, underlining that CEC is Pan-European. The city has a name in 9 different languages. The theme of the assembly will be "You shall be my witnesses" and key issues will be justice, hospitality and witness. The assembly will work 4 full days around these themes. A youth event is planned prior to the assembly. It will be a smaller assembly compared to previous CEC assemblies. There will be 170 delegates, out of them 12 are youth. There will be also advisers and youth advisers both recommended by churches and networks. Altogether the assembly will have about 450 people.
47. Accommodation will be provided in near-by hotels and there will be a variety of bible studies and keynote speeches with some reflections on the main themes. For Sunday, worship participation is foreseen in local churches followed in the afternoon by 2 Europe plenaries. There will also be a prayer at one of the Danube bridges. It is planned to have 15 workshops and CCME will be involved in 3 of them. The assembly will elect a new Governing Board and discuss priorities for the next 5 years reflecting the needs of churches.
48. CCME will have 3 representatives (Lemma Desta, Victoria Kamondji Johnston and Elena Timofticiuc).
49. The Moderator thanked the CEC General Secretary for the relevant information shared and also for taking up issues of minorities in Europe like Roma. It was also stressed that this issue will be more heard if it is emphasized by delegates or other church representatives.

#### Document from Copenhagen Consultation, December 2016

50. ExCom exchanged on the document from the joint Consultation on "Migration and Ecclesiology – Being Church in Europe Today" that took place in Copenhagen, December 2016. The meeting took note of the document and decided to adopt it. After exchange, they also decided to recommend to the CEC Governing Board to endorse it before submitting it to the Faith and Order Commission. The document will be presented first to the next meeting of the CEC Presidents in Amsterdam which will decide on the next steps. In the meantime, it was agreed to share it only with participants of the consultation. As it will be the basis of some discussions in a workshop at the assembly, it was hoped that the Governing Board would agree to a wide distribution as a joint document.
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## X. Finances

### CCME Financial Report 2017

51. The General Secretary presented the financial situation but first apologised that the accounts were not audited prior to the ExCom meeting due to auditor's schedule which obliged him to postpone the planned audit for a week. The financial report 2017 presents a balance sheet with a total of 493,890.40 EUR. The result of the year is a loss of -1,205.53€ to be split into:
- Assprop activities: -8,706.37€ (covered by Assprop investment reserve)
  - CCME activities: +7,500.84€ (to be allocated to the accumulated result).
52. After discussion, ExCom unanimously adopted the accounts 2017 and agreed for the Assprop deficit to be recovered from Assprop reserves and the surplus from CCME activities to be added to the accumulated result of CCME.
53. The meeting also thanked the accountant Charlotte Vander Borgh and Daisy Bielo for their work on CCME accounting.

### Project Development

54. Torsten Moritz provided an overview of current projects and applications.

### ONGOING PROJECTS

#### *Safe Passage*

55. The "Safe passage" project continues as a project of CCME with churches across Europe, which aims at making safe passage a reality for those migrants and refugees trying to reach the EU through its Southern borders (Mediterranean Sea and land border with Turkey, Ceuta/Melilla). In addition, and in a longer term, the project aims at changing European asylum and migration policy so that refugees and migrants no longer have to resort to perilous journeys to reach safety.

The project works through a combination of

- Practical monitoring of both border procedures at the EU Southern border as well as of "search and rescue" operations in the Mediterranean by church actors;
  - Communication to a non-specialised general public about the situation at the EU's Southern borders;
  - Advocacy at EU level for legal pathways across the borders (legal labour migration, family reunification, additional pathways into refugee protection – resettlement, humanitarian admission;
56. CCME continued to promote the ideas of the project and together with partners convinced the EP to adopt a provision for humanitarian visa in the Schengen visa code. However, this development came to a halt as the Council refused to discuss this idea and the Commission withdrew its proposal for a visa code.
57. New openings have appeared as several political groups in the European Parliament are looking to submit an own-initiative report for an EU instrument on humanitarian visa. CCME has contributed to these discussions and spoke at an event of the EP's Green group.
58. Lobbying with the EP continued to be intensive on questions of refugee resettlement in view of the European Commission's proposal on a resettlement framework. Regular

contacts with the rapporteur and member states have led to some improvement even though the question of conditionality of resettlement cooperation with third countries remains. Resettlement pledges of EU member states have gone up, also due to the increased financial means allocated to resettlement – a success of civil society lobbying.

59. The project continues to receive considerable interest in current migration discussions with CCME being regularly invited to present on safe passage. It has also mobilised resources from churches across Europe.

### COMPLETED

#### *Tracks*

60. CCME was part of a consortium which had been awarded a grant under the AMIF fund for a project on trafficked persons in the asylum procedure. It had a specific focus on the protection of trafficked persons through asylum.
61. CCME has compiled a tool for asylum practitioners how to address and assist trafficked persons in the asylum procedure, which was tested by other partners practically.
62. CCME had also provided advice to the project partners, in particular on EU law, and helped with the dissemination of findings. Project results were presented at the final project conference in Brussels on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.

#### *Refugees and Communication Rights in Europe – “changing the narrative” report*

63. This project on the communication rights and media portrayal of refugees seeking safe passage and refuge in Europe was proposed by the World Association of Christian Communication (WACC)-Europe and had received funding by church partners for 2017. It was carried out in partnership with CCME. Main activities consisted of a coordinated media monitoring across 7 European countries and a closed door round table between media professionals and refugee/migrant activists.
64. A final project conference with presentation of results was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Brussels. The results and the report “changing the narrative” have been widely received and generated great interest, in particular the findings on a “pattern of invisibility” of refugees and migrants. The project has helped to establish a name for CCME as an expert on media and migration issues. (more info: <http://www.refugeesreporting.eu/>)

### SUBMITTED

#### *ARIA*

65. CCME has been invited by the European University Institute (Florence) to join the ARIA (ICT supported services for enhancing labour market Integration of newly Arrived migrant women in Europe) project in its bid for EU funding. ARIA is a partnership of academia, information and communication technology (ICT) companies and local actors. The ARIA project will develop and deliver a digital platform and related ICT tools that will support local authorities and NGOs in providing targeted services to support the labour market integration of newly arrived migrant women from non-EU countries.
66. CCME’s main role is being the link of the consortium with migrant women (through CCME members in Vienna and Hamburg) in order to contribute to defining the requirements of the system as well as in the pilot for evaluating its development. The project duration is 36 months, starting – depending on the EU Commission’s decision making - in late

2018/early 2019. Staff costs of CCME and local partners in Vienna and Hamburg would be covered.

### *Cha Cha migration*

67. As a follow up to the project on refugees and communication rights, CCME has partnered with WACC and the European Journalist Federation for a project proposal submitted for EU funding. The project Cha Cha migration (Challenging and Changing the narrative on migration) would be carried out over 36 months in 2019-2022 and include a new round of media monitoring of printed media (and their social media outlets) in 10 European countries. This would be complemented by specialised trainings for refugee/migrant activists and media professionals delivered by migrant/journalist trainers. A common training tool would be composed and a high level consultation of media editors would complement the activities. CCME is coordinating this project. The budget would cover costs for supervision and allow employing the previous media consultant for the duration of the project.

### OTHER PROJECT COOPERATION

68. The REMINDER research project led by the International Migration Institute of the University of Oxford looks at the free movement of persons inside the EU, seeking a thorough analysis vis-à-vis some of the popular myths around EU citizens moving to abuse social and health systems, taking jobs of nationals, etc. The three-year project started in January 2017, the last meeting was on 22-23 February 2018. CCME has been present as an advisor in the project meetings.

### NOT SUCCESSFUL

#### *Reception conditions for applicants of international protection:*

69. ICMPD, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Vienna has requested CCME to become advisor in a project comparing reception conditions in several EU countries. The project application was put together early September 2017. In the end the European Commission, which wanted to commission the study, decided after half a year to completely cancel the call for tenders.

### **XI. Membership Application – Armenia Round Table Foundation**

70. ExCom exchanged on the application for membership introduced by the Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation in October 2017. Unanimously, the meeting welcomed the application for membership and decided to recommend it to the next general assembly for formal decision. In the meantime, the Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation will be treated as other CCME ordinary members.

### **XII. Process towards a European conference on migrants and minority ethnic churches**

71. Due to lack of time for in-depth discussion, the meeting decided to come back to the subject in the next ExCom meeting.

### **XIII. Consultation on conversion to Christianity and consequences in asylum procedures**

72. The meeting exchanged information on how to better gather and share information on converts and implications in the asylum procedures. This planned consultation was

initially scheduled to take place in March 2018 but was postponed until May. The General Secretary informed that invitations were going to be sent out in the following week.

73. The meeting was also informed about initiatives like in the Netherlands where a commission “the Plaisier Commission” has started to interview asylum applicants who converted to Christianity. There will also be a conference in Germany in June 2018 on this topic which is new to the lawyers. This event will try to assess what are the consequences of having converted to Christianity and sent back to the country of origin.
74. The May 2018 consultation will touch the dilemma for authorities to check the credibility of an asylum claim and to judge the conversion to Christianity. CCME will co-organise the consultation in cooperation with COMECE.

#### **XIV. Proposed Conference Bucharest 17 May 2018**

75. The General Secretary informed the meeting that the conference was an initiative of the Romanian Patriarchate. CCME was invited to attend and the date set is 17 May 2018.
76. Dana Gavril indicated that they wanted to give a strong message on the phenomenon of migration and the presence of the church hierarchy will be a good signal and very encouraging. CCME will continue to encourage potential participants to join the event.

#### **XV. European asylum legislation conference, Athens-Chios 15-20 October 2018**

77. Torsten Moritz introduced the subject and indicated that it is an initiative of Churches and Diakonie from Germany which were joined by other churches and it became a European Conference. It started as an annual conference but it is now taking place every 2 to 3 years. CCME was requested to co-organise.
78. After exchange, the meeting decided to mandate Efthalia Pappa to be the CCME ExCom representative handling the conference and Torsten Moritz would deal with it from the Secretariat.

#### **XVI. Upcoming events**

79. Doris Peschke first informed of an invitation from the Presbyterian Church USA for a special visiting programme which will take place in Louisville between 18 October and 17 November 2018. The CCME representative would talk about issues pertaining to migration in Europe and the work of CCME in several places in the US. ExCom agreed to try finding someone to represent CCME and send a response to the secretariat within a week.
80. The Asylum sub-group of the European Platform on Asylum and Migration-EPAM will hold their meeting on 27 March 2018. Doris will attend.
81. Fiona Kendell will represent CCME in the EASO Consultative Forum Thematic meeting “Provision of information” which will take place on 28 March 2018 in Valletta (Malta).
82. The 7<sup>th</sup> Berlin Demography Forum “Domestic Migration in Europe” will take place in Berlin on 10-11 April 2018 and Doris Peschke will participate.
83. The European Resettlement Network (ERN) will convene a ERN+ Conference on Complementary Pathways of Admission to Europe for Refugees in Brussels on 12 April 2018.

84. Doris Peschke will attend a Workshop organised by Diakonie EWDE (Evangelical Work for Diaconia and Development): "Why and what do we need international work on migration?" The workshop will take place in Berlin on 12-13 April 2018.
85. Doris Peschke and Torsten Moritz will attend the Christian Organisations' meeting which will take place in Brussels on 17 April 2018.
86. Doris Peschke will attend an internal consultation on Humanitarian Corridors to Germany in the Evangelische Akademie der Pfalz, Landau on 19 April 2018.
87. CCME will organise a consultation "Conversion to Christianity and the Impact and Challenges for the Asylum Procedures" in Brussels on 2-3 May 2018.
88. CEC collegium meeting is scheduled for 3-4 May 2018 in Brussels. Both Doris Peschke and Torsten Moritz will attend.
89. Torsten Moritz will attend the WSCF Europe Staff and Officers meeting to be held between 4-12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Palermo, Sicily.
90. The Evangelical Church in Rhineland (EKIR) scheduled a meeting of the working group on EU external borders on 14 May 2018 in Düsseldorf. Doris Peschke will attend.
91. Torsten Moritz will attend the event of the European Migration Network (EMN) 10 Year Anniversary to take place in Brussels on 15 May 2018 with a conference "Understanding Migration in the EU: past, present, future".
92. The Frontex Consultative Forum will have their regular meeting in Brussels on 16-17 May 2018 and Doris Peschke will be present.
93. Doris Peschke will participate in the Consultation "European Churches responding to migration" organised by the Patriarchate Romania in Bucharest on 17-18 May 2018.
94. All CCME staff will attend the CEC assembly in Novi Sad from 28 May to 08 June 2018.
95. Doris Peschke will attend the EPAM meeting which will take place on 12 June 2018.
96. Eurodiaconia will hold its AGM in Wroclaw (Poland) on 13-15 June 2018. Those who are interested were requested to register.
97. WCC Central Committee will meet in Geneva/Bossey 15-22 June 2018.
98. Doris Peschke will receive a delegation from the Northern Churches visiting Brussels from 19-21 June 2018.
99. ENAR General Assembly will take place on 21-24 June 2018 in Lisbon (Portugal).
100. The International Network of Local Initiatives with Asylum Seekers – INLIA will celebrate their 30 years on 22-25 June 2018 in Groningen (The Netherlands). Doris Peschke will attend.
101. Torsten Moritz will attend the CEC Summer School on Human Rights 2018 with the theme "Religious Freedom" in Malaga on 08-12 July 2018.
102. The Evangelical Church in the Rhineland (EKIR) Working Group on EU borders will meet on 06 September 2018. Torsten Moritz will attend.
103. The Nordic ecumenical meeting on migration is scheduled to take place in Turku or Helsinki on 10-11 September 2018.

104. The CPCE will hold their assembly in Basel on 13-18 September 2018. Doris Peschke may attend if invited and the Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim Churches has been invited to send a representative.
105. Torsten Moritz will participate in the Churches Witnessing With Migrants 9 scheduled to take place in New York on 19-28 September 2018.
106. Torsten Moritz will attend the Asylum Conference in Greece on 15-20 October 2018.
107. Doris Peschke will attend the Frontex Consultative Forum meeting which will take place in Warsaw on 17-19 October 2018.

#### **XVII. Recruitment of new Executive Secretary**

108. The meeting exchanged on the replacement of the Executive Secretary. Due to the fact that the selection process takes a relatively big amount of time, the implication of ExCom members would be time consuming. After discussion and as there is no legal obligation for a direct involvement of ExCom, the meeting mandated the General Secretary to coordinate with the Moderator in order to hire an executive secretary whose skills would supplement those of the new General Secretary.

#### **XVIII. Any other business**

109. The meeting discussed dates for the next ExCom meeting. Due to the invitation from the UK, ExCom decided to hold its next meeting in London. In order to allow for contacts with local partners in London, the meeting will start at lunchtime on 27 September and close on Saturday 29.09.2018 and give some space for farewell to Doris Peschke.
110. A request was formulated to the Secretariat for the upcoming ExCom meetings to get related documents early in advance to allow ExCom members sufficient time to read them properly.
111. Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy informed the meeting about the situation in Hungary. She indicated that the number of arrivals in 2017 as announced by the immigration office was 1200 migrants and this is exactly the same number which was agreed for relocation. The government was being humiliated by the opposition to have financed immigration related activities, in the midst of the anti-immigration campaign. As a response the government announced to withdraw the AMIF calls for grants in 2018. There is a new legislation package "Stop Soros" that is intended to deter immigration and asylum and to criminalize helpers, and tax immigration supporting activities. NGOs that support third country nationals for international protection would be considered as supporting migration and thus constituting a threat to national security. Under the same legislation, NGOs getting funding from abroad for migration would pay 25% tax. If the proposals go through, Kalunba would be threatened to close down.
112. Before the closing prayer led by Sabine Dressler, the Moderator Lemma Desta thanked again the General Secretary for the job well done and expressed hope for a good transition period while she continues to lead the secretariat until end of July 2018. He also expressed the will to have a date for a proper farewell to Doris Peschke.