

## Agreement

CEC and CCME recognise that migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and the work against racism and discrimination in Europe are of common concern: the discourse on migration and refugee issues, the recognition of minority ethnic persons and diversity in societies in Europe remains controversial. For Christians the commandment to “love your neighbour as you love yourself” is a guiding principle. The Christian tradition remembers that the People of God were strangers in Egypt, they found refuge in Egypt from starvation, and they were liberated from enslavement. The biblical traditions of the exodus, the exile experience, and as a people on the move are critical for the churches’ understanding of migration today. According to the Gospel, Jesus Christ became a refugee in Egypt with his family during the very first time of his earthly life. The Saviour is referred to as the Stranger by some spiritual traditions, and he can be encountered and received through the people who come as refugees and newcomers to our midst.

CCME is an ecumenical organisation in partnership with CEC, and therefore this agreement constitutes the partnership agreement between CEC and CCME.

## Mandate

1. In its commitment to Europe as a whole, the vision of the CEC is to promote a community of Churches sharing their spiritual life, seeking reconciliation, strengthening their common witness and service, and fostering the unity of the Church. In providing an authentic, credible and socially responsible Christian witness, it will work towards a humane, social and sustainable Europe at peace with itself and its neighbours in which human rights and solidarity prevail. CEC commits itself to continued work in the thematic areas of, i.a. migration and asylum, and diaspora and migrant churches. (CEC Constitution July 2013)
2. CCME is an ecumenical organisation that serves the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives. (CCME Mission statement, CCME Assembly June 2014)

CEC and CCME seek to deepen the understanding of migration today and to strengthen their impact by cooperating more deeply.

1. CEC and CCME will inform each other on initiatives which touch on each other’s mandate. CCME and CEC will coordinate outreach into each other’s constituencies, respecting each other’s needs, particular procedures and time frames to act on specific issues in their mandate.
2. CEC and CCME will seek stronger representation and participation of migrant and minority ethnic churches in CEC beyond migration issues in all areas of CEC fellowship and work.
3. CEC and CCME will strive for coherent advocacy vis-à-vis European institutions.

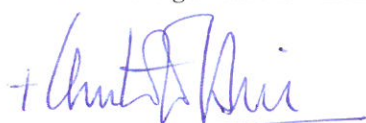
Therefore CEC and CCME will strengthen their instruments of cooperation:

1. To ensure interaction in governance, CEC and CCME will strengthen the linkage between the Governing Board of CEC and the Executive Committee of CCME. CEC representation in CCME governance is currently stipulated in CCME articles of association, which guarantee two CEC delegates with voting rights in the CCME Assembly and one representative appointed by CEC in the Executive Committee of CCME. To ensure CCME representation in CEC governance structures, the CCME moderator, or a representative of him/her will be invited to meetings of the CEC Governing

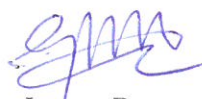
Board. The Governing Board will ensure CCME participation in the CEC General Assembly by indicating to CCME the number of CCME participants in the CEC Assembly.

2. The CEC Governing Board and CCME ExCom shall at least every second year meet in the same venue back-to-back with a joint session to discuss pertinent issues and plan jointly. The first such meeting shall be planned for spring 2019.
3. CEC and CCME will jointly develop their work programmes and ensure transparency through regular reporting; timelines will be agreed to avoid duplication and additional work-loads. When CEC work plans are developed for the period 2019-2023, the CCME Work Programme 2018-2020 adopted by the CCME general assembly in Prague 2017 will be taken into account.
4. CEC and CCME will develop common financial planning, development of projects and joint fundraising. To this end, the CCME treasurer and the moderator of the CEC Budget Committee and the General Secretaries of both organisations will define the best modes of cooperation and exchange of information. CEC will cover the costs of a least one executive secretary working in CCME. If CEC is not able to meet its financial commitment, CEC will inform CCME with a notice of 12 months.
5. CEC and CCME will explore how CCME staff can be employed by CEC and according to the CEC salary scheme, while at the same time working under the responsibility and auspices of the CCME ExCom.
6. CCME executive staff will participate in the CEC collegium, CCME administrative staff will participate in the CEC staff meetings to further improve the cohesion of different areas of work in which CCME and CEC already cooperate.
7. CEC and CCME will seek to enhance the communication of concerns and issues both to the respective constituencies and externally. CCME will continue to cooperate ecumenically in the group of Christian organisations and with other civil society actors on joint advocacy statements, advise CEC and WCC when joint statements are recommended, and elaborate relevant CEC statements, where appropriate.
8. The CEC and CCME Assemblies shall be envisaged to be held jointly in 2023.
9. When needed, a joint committee of CCME and CEC shall be appointed by the CCME ExCom and the CEC Governing Board.
10. This agreement will be valid from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2024. It will be evaluated by the CCME and CEC assemblies in 2023. Decisions of the respective assemblies will guide further steps to be agreed in 2024.

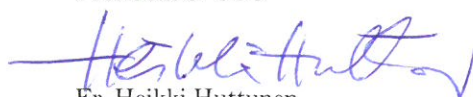
It is hoped that the enhanced cooperation will lead to strengthening the joint witness of churches in Europe and that the two organisations will in essence be seen as one.



The Rt Rev Christopher Hill KVCO, DD  
President of CEC



Lemma Desta  
Moderator of CCME



Fr. Heikki Huttunen  
General Secretary of CEC



Doris Peschke  
General Secretary of CCME

24.11.17