

CEC Strategy Plan: 2019-2023

You shall be my witnesses: together in Hope and Witness

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

| Building peace and reconciliation in Europe | Contributing to the future of Europe | Supporting interreligious dialogue | Educating on diversity and plurality |
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| <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work on current issues related peace security and, reconciliation in Europe, <u>e.g.</u> 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 ✓ share the best practices of the member churches in the field of reconciliation ✓ Work on the Christian approaches to fear, dissatisfaction and insecurity ✓ promote solidarity and mutual justice, ✓ discuss nationalism in relation to ecclesiology ✓ reflect on the sense of non-participation and marginalisation in relation to democracy ✓ provide and exchange best practices for Member Churches on how <u>to strengthen democracy, human rights and rule of law,</u> <u>to responding to</u> xenophobia, populism and nationalism within the church framework | <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work on <u>a</u> new narrative for Europe, <u>e.g.</u> organise a conference on a new narrative for Europe ✓ discuss the future of Europe under the motto “unity in diversity” ✓ <u>strengthening</u> a theological understanding of social and ecological justice in Europe ✓ reflect on the issue of EU internal migration ✓ Follow the broader political developments in the European Continent (e.g. Brexit, the EU entry of the 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 ✓ <u>contribute to the shaping of</u> a Theology of Religions ✓ Address anti-religious prejudice, including Antisemitism, <u>Christianophobia and</u> Islamophobia in Europe ✓ Share best practices, create network of church <u>representatives</u> involved in interreligious matters <p>* Staff needed</p> | <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Empower its member churches in the discussion about diversity and pluralism in our societies ✓ monitor and contribute to the current developments in intercultural education and dialogue 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 <u>religious</u> education in school |

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 ecumenical <u>partners</u> in Europe |
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| <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provide space for dialogue and encounter <u>e.g.</u> by organising regional church meetings on ecumenical, ecclesiological and ethical issues, <u>and by</u> organizing a kind of “Erasmus program” different length, European fundings ✓ commit itself to strengthen <u>member churches</u> participation in CEC ✓ develop a communications strategy enhancing the churches fellowship, especially in creating a network of communicators ✓ raise participation in at least one CEC program in 2019-2023 to at least 100 Member Churches ✓ increase cooperation with 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 (with elements on specificities on European context, specific ecumenical agreements...) ✓ organise regular meetings with Organisations in Partnership | <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reflect on our different ecclesiologies and understanding of “communion” ✓ reflect our different cultural context and church relations with nation and state ✓ carry out an inventory of the theological dialogue between and among Member Churches and identify priorities and key questions of concern, working theologically on common relevant topics ✓ encourage further reflection on Christian witness and evangelisation in a secularised society ✓ deepen the theological 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 and fellowship 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"> ✓ <u>build</u> further on existing work with the CCEE, particularly on <i>Charta Ecumenica</i> and <u>populism</u> ✓ strengthen cooperation with the COMECE, especially to improve the functioning of the <u>dialogue in the frame of TEU Art 17</u>. ✓ Strengthen the cooperation with and give expression to our relationship with inter-confessional partners in Europe <u>e.g.</u>: Engaging young theologians with their work and common history, annual training, Global Christian forum, especially in the regional level ✓ 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 and strengthening the dialogue with the European Institutions (European Union, Council of Europe) | Promoting Human Rights and freedom of religion or belief as essential for justice and human societies | Advancing economic and ecological justice | Analysing and reflecting on the issue of digitalisation, artificial Intelligence and human dignity | Monitoring and engaging with science, bioethics and technology | Defending the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seeker With CCME, according to our agreement |
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| <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 the European Institutions and engage in advocacy on CEC's strategic priorities. ✓ contribute proactively to faith networks and networks of NGOs. ✓ meet with the EU presidency in cooperation with local Member Churches. | <p>CEC will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ help to broaden 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 global 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' views on 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 ✓ Monitor and respond to policy developments in the European Institutions (in particular the Council of Europe) in these areas | <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 ✓ Provide a space for dialogue where there are divergent views among member churches on the consequences of migration to Europe and within Europe |