

Conference of European Churches
Governing Board

Strasbourg, 15 – 18 May 2019

Doc N°: **8b**

Topic: Meeting of ecumenical officers and secretaries for
 theology

Agenda Item: 7

Staff in charge: Katerina Pekridou

Recommendation: For approval

Annex: Not applicable

Earlier docs: Not applicable



**Conference of European Churches
Together in Hope and Witness
Meeting of ecumenical officers and secretaries for theology
24-26 September 2019 (dates tbc)
Kaunisniemi, Finland**

Aim

The meeting will bring together the ecumenical officers of the Member Churches of CEC and the secretaries of theology of the World Christian Communion for a two-day Consultation meeting, which will be convened annually. This meeting will enable CEC to restore regular exchange with its Member Churches and establish new networks and ways of organising its theological work.

Objectives

- 1. To listen to priorities and key questions in the areas of ecclesiology and mission.** Each participant will be asked to prepare and share in advance a two-page paper on the current burning questions of their Church/Communion. Thematic sessions will be organised and facilitators of the sessions will be identified based on the papers received. This part of the meeting will set the ground for re-establishing theological exchange among CEC Member Churches and will be a concrete step in the process of creating 'an inventory of the theological dialogue between and among Member Churches and identify priorities and key questions of concern' (Strategy Plan column 2, point 3). It will enable CEC to pursue its theological work based on the current needs of the Member Churches. The meeting will take stock of agreements and developments within and between Churches and reflect on how CEC could promote their reception regionally and locally.
- 2. To initiate the Programme on Ecclesiology & Mission.** The second part of the programme will focus on enhancing ecumenical cooperation and fellowship with 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches. Participants will be asked to reflect on visions and models of unity, sharing of ministries, and working together in mission. This part of the meeting will help CEC identify the situation on the ground with regard to the realities of 'migrant' churches. It will set the stage to 'discuss ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe in dialogue with ecclesiologies of 'migrant' churches, and 'reflect on the impact of the changing religious landscape on the self-understanding of churches' (Strategy Plan column 3, points 3 and 4).

Draft Budget for 20 participants

Board & Lodging	20 x 2 nights x 40 Euro = 1,600 Euro
Self-paying participants	12 x 2 nights x 40 Euro = 960 Euro
Subsidies for Board & Lodging for 8 participants	8 x 2 nights x 40 Euro = 640 Euro
Travel expenses	20 x 300 Euro = 6,000 Euro
Self-paying participants	12 x 300 Euro = 3,600 Euro
Subsidies for Travel for 8 participants	8 x 300 Euro = 2,400 Euro
Conference Facilities	CEC will not be charged for them
Transportation from/to the airport provided by CEC	600 Euro
Miscellaneous	1,000 Euro
Total	9,200 Euro
Amount to be raised	4,640 Euro
Contribution by the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland	3,000 Euro
Total amount to be raised	1,640 Euro

Draft Schedule

Day 1

Arrivals

15:00-15:30 Opening Prayer

15:30-16:00 Welcome by CEC and the local Churches

16:00 Introductions and rationale of the meeting

What are the current priorities and key questions in the Member Churches?

What are their expectations from CEC?

16:30-17:30 Session 1

Three facilitators will be identified from the participants group

17:30-18:00 Coffee/Tea

18:00-18:45 Session 2

Three facilitators will be identified from the participants group

18:45-19:00 Day recap: What have we listened to? What is new? What is urgent?

19:00 Dinner

Social evening

Day 2

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-9:00 Morning prayer

What are the major concerns of the World Christian Communion at the moment? How do these concerns relate to the European context?

9:00-10:30 Session 3

Facilitators to be identified from the participants group

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

***The theological dialogue between churches with historical longevity in Europe and the so-called 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches:
Identifying partners and key concerns***

11:00-13:00 Session 4

Most Senior Apostle Adejare Oyewole, Deputy General Secretary,
Unification Council of Cherubim & Seraphim Churches, UK
Rev Dr Robert Calvert, Church of Scotland, Contextualisation and self-
understanding of migrant churches

13:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:00 Session 5

Rev Dr Benjamin Simon, Bossey Ecumenical Institute/WCC, Christian
communities and migration: An ecclesiological opportunity?

16:00-16:30 Session 6

Guided discussion on ecclesiologies of communion and 'migrant' and
'minority ethnic' churches

16:30-17:00 Coffee/Tea

17:00-18:00 Session 7

Dr Ani Ghazaryan-Drissi, Programme Executive, Faith and Order
Secretariat/WCC: The Faith and Order working group on the dialogue with
the Evangelical and Pentecostal Churches – Strengthening partnerships

18:00-18:30 Session 8

Guided discussion on the question of terminology and key questions to be
studied by CEC

18:30-19:00 Prayer

19:00 Dinner

Social evening

Day 3

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-9:00 Morning prayer

9:00-10:30 Group work on CEC's programmatic work (themes, key partners, resource
persons)

10:30 Coffee/Tea

11:00-12:00 Discussion in Plenary and conclusions

12:00-12:30 Ideas for facilitating communication between meetings, brainstorming on the theme of next year's meeting

13:00 Lunch

Departures