



## Conference of European Churches Governing Board

Brussels, 20-22 November 2019

### Activity Report Strasbourg Office

#### The Strasbourg office

The office in Strasbourg is both the office of the Conference of European Churches and the Conference of the Rhine Churches (KKR). The Union of Protestant Churches of Alsace and Lorraine UEPAL is responsible for one full time Executive Secretary (60% CEC; 40% KKR). A part time administrative assistant is employed by CEC. An associated staff member from the Anglican Church contributes to the activities of the office. The Strasbourg office maintains contact with the European Institutions especially with the Council of Europe which includes the European Court of Human Rights. The Strasbourg staff participate in meetings of certain intergovernmental committees like the Steering Committee of Human Rights (CDDH), the Steering Committee of Biomedicine and Ethics (DH-Bio) and the Steering Committee for Education Policies and Practices (CDDP).

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#### Lectures and Workshops (CEC and Europe)

- 22<sup>nd</sup> May      Workshop on Europe and the Churches, University of Mainz      (S.Lenz)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.      Round table on Europe after the elections, Academy of  
Liebfrauenberg/France  
Lecture on Kant's essay "[Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch](#)" (S.Lenz)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.      "Kurz vor dem Brexit. nach der Wahl – Europa vor einer Zerreißprobe"  
Lecture given to the Working group of Christian Churches in Germany  
(ACK)      (S.Lenz)

#### Council of Europe

4-7<sup>th</sup> June      CDDH-Bio (Bioethics)  
Participation in the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of Biomedicine and Human Rights (CDDH-Bio) Main topics: Public debate in the field of Bioethics, Strategic Action Plan in the future years.

#### 18-21st June      CDDH (Human Rights)

Participation in the 91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights. Main topics: The European Convention on Human Rights, the system, development and promotion of human rights in areas such as immigration detention, development of the

ombudsman role, the importance of reconciling freedom of expression with other rights, future work on bioethics. Examined the draft report on Recommendation CM Rec (2010)5 on combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. (CEC was an observer on the Drafting Committee for this Recommendation).

### **17 – 18<sup>th</sup> October CDPPE 3 (Education Policies and Practices)**

Participation in the Meeting of the Steering Committee of Education Policies and Practices.

Main topics: Competences for Democratic Culture, Inclusive approaches to education History lessons for Democracy, Remembrance of the Holocaust: draft recommendation (with a comment contributed by CEC on the Responsibility of Religious Leaders), Education provision for refugees/migrants/vulnerable groups.

### **28<sup>th</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of International NGOs (INGOS)**

CEC will, together with other Christian INGOs in preparing a White book on Cultural Heritage of Europe. The religious aspect will have a place and a co-ordinated work coming from all Christian NGOs is being considered. Another point of interest was a presentation on “How CoE Organisations can effectively work together with NGOs and other organisations of civil society. CEC is in contact with the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning the topic of “Diaspora” as a political and ecclesial concept.

### **Coordination with WCC on the subject of the General Assembly in Karlsruhe 2021**

The CEC office in Strasbourg will have a key function concerning the Assembly in Karlsruhe. The geographical proximity of Strasbourg and Karlsruhe together with CEC’s status as a participative member of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe makes co-operation between of CEC and WCC indispensable.

The Strasbourg office is working together with both the staff in Karlsruhe and with the WCC in Geneva to define working areas and to coordinate the participation of CEC in this event.

The projects in which CEC will be involved are:

- **The Europe Day in** the official delegates program – coordinating the collaboration of the WCC with the European Institutions in Strasbourg (Council of Europe, European Court of Human rights, European Parliament)
- **The Peace Train project** from Novi Sad to Strasbourg. An initiative of the Church and Peace Network. Approximately 100 participants from European/international contexts will travel together on a Peace Train for three to five weeks, stopping at certain European locations. (places where there have been demonstrations of strength and/or experiences of pain) and raising awareness of the importance of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
- Coordinating a **“Begegnungsort Europa / Place of encounter Europe”** in Karlsruhe during the Assembly

## Others

- 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June Participation in the project group "Europe" at the Deutscher Evangelische Kirchentag DEKT in Dortmund
- 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September Ex Sec S.Lenz attended the General of Oikosnet, an organisation in partnership. A closer cooperation was discussed. Oikosnet will actively participate in the Thematic Groups and share their expertise in some working areas.

## Activities for KKR

- Visit of the Protestant Church in Liechtenstein
- Visit of the Protestant Church in Bregenz /Autriche
- Participation in the German-French Section of the ACK Baden-Württemberg  
Theme: "The growing of Populism and right wing extremism in France and Germany"
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All minor events and organisation of discussions with church delegations at the Council of Europe or conferences are not listed

S.Lenz 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019