

Conference of European Churches

Governing Board
Brussels, 20-22 November 2019

MINUTES

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During the meeting, morning, evening and lunchtime prayers were led by Bishop Guli, Archimandrite Ignatios, Anne Burghardt, Aleksandra Pistalo, Valérie Duval-Poujol, Christian Krieger, Archimandrite Nektarios and Alison McDonald.

Part of the meeting took the form of a joint session with the Executive Committee of the CCME. Mr Lemma Desta, Moderator of CCME took the chair of the joint session for agenda item 9 (CCME Activities Report).

After dinner on Wednesday 20 November, Bishop Nicholas led an informal discussion on Brexit.

1. Roll call and invitation of third parties

1.1 The President opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, particularly the members of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME). Metropolitan Cleopas (Vice-President) was unwell and was therefore unable to attend this meeting.

The Governing Board:

- a) **established** that the meeting was quorate (see Appendix 1 for the list of participants);
- b) **extended** a special welcome to the members of the Executive Committee of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME).

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2. Taking note of agenda

The Governing Board **took note** of the proposed agenda (see Appendix 2).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (May 2019) and of the 2019 General Assembly by written procedure

Minutes of the previous meeting (May 2019)

3.1 Jelle Brouwer (Treasurer) asked for a correction to paragraph 21.5 (see Decision).

3.2 Subject to this correction, the Minutes were adopted by the Governing Board, one member abstaining.

3.3 Members of the Board then drew attention to certain matters arising from the Minutes which were not due to be dealt with under subsequent agenda items.

3.4 With reference to paragraph 5.9 concerning completion of the handbook giving information about member churches, the Governing Board was informed that the handbook was now available on the CEC website. Although member churches had been informed of this, some Board members felt that this was not widely known.

3.5 With reference to paragraph 8.3 concerning the need for a predictable rescue and disembarkation system for migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, Bishop Nicholas asked if there had been any response from the EU Ministers of the Interior to CCME's letter. Torsten Moritz (General Secretary of CCME) said that there had only been a formal acknowledgement and that discussions were ongoing.

3.6 Andreas Aarflot urged the staff to check back from time to time between meetings to make sure that decisions were indeed being implemented. If, for some reason this was not the case, an explanation should be given.

Minutes of the 2019 General Assembly by written procedure

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3.7 Andreas Aarflot pointed out that as the two-month period for member churches to react to the draft Minutes had not yet elapsed, the Governing Board would not be in a position to add them to the official register of CEC minutes until its next meeting.

3.8 Emma Weaver pointed out that the name of the delegate of the United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic should be corrected to "David".

3.9 The President thanked Andreas Aarflot for having prepared the draft Minutes of the written General Assembly.

The Governing Board:

a) **corrected** the fourth sentence of paragraph 21.5 of the Minutes of its previous meeting to read as follows: "The Budget Committee now proposed that, in accordance with the financial strategy agreed by the General Assembly, the Governing Board revise the decision it had made at its meeting in November 2018 and transfer the full amount of €80,000 to the reserve for the next General Assembly.";

b) subject to this correction, **adopted** the Minutes of its previous meeting, held in Strasbourg from 16-18 May 2019;

c) **requested** the staff to check back from time to time between meetings to ensure that decisions were being implemented;

d) **took note** of the draft Minutes of the 2019 General Assembly by written procedure and **noted** that, subject to any observations by member churches during the two-month period for comments, it would need to agree at its next meeting to add them to the official register of CEC minutes.

4. First presentation of Public Issues (with CCME ExCom)

The Governing Board **discussed** the possibility of making a public issues statement on Brexit (withdrawal of the UK from the European Union) and, while noting that it would have an informal evening discussion of this question led by Bishop Nicholas, **agreed** that it would be premature for CEC to take up a public position on the matter.

5. President's Report (with CCME ExCom)

5.1 The President circulated his report (document 2GB2019_Doc5) and underlined the following points:

- during the period of vacancy of the post of General Secretary, members of staff had had to take on extra duties; he expressed particular gratitude to Véronique Engels (Assistant to the General Secretary) with whom he had been in daily contact;
- administrative matters connected with such things as the change of General Secretary and the preparation of staff regulations had taken up a lot of time, which meant that important questions such as the restructuring of CEC's work had had to be deferred until the appointment of a new General Secretary;
- it was necessary to build a clearer profile for CEC's role and tasks;
- for example, should CEC aim to contribute to global ecumenical events or confine itself to working at the European level?
- CEC's finances were not adequate to meet all the expectations of member churches;
- shortage of staff had made it very difficult to work efficiently during the past year.

5.2 In the discussion which followed, there was general agreement that resource constraints now and in the future made it necessary for CEC to sharpen its focus and be prepared to set priorities among the many activities which it might wish to undertake. CEC should concentrate on areas of work where it was particularly well fitted to make a contribution and which other bodies were not so well equipped to deal with. Some felt that churches' interaction with the European political organisations (not only the EU) was

central to CEC's role, although it was underlined that such intervention needed to be competent and focussed. It was also suggested that CEC could help churches develop their responses to current challenges such as migration, nationalism and populism.

5.3 The Chair concluded that the Governing Board should pursue its reflections along these lines with a view to providing orientation for the next General Assembly.

5.4 With reference to paragraph 31 of the President's report concerning the lack of recognition of CEC on the occasion of the Semi-centennial of the Orthodox Metropolis of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and the visit of His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch to Brussels, Archimandrite Nektarios felt that the President's words were unduly negative. There would be opportunities in future for greater involvement by CEC.

The Governing Board:

- a) **noted** the proposed dates for future Governing Board meetings up to March 2023 (see paragraph 26 of document 2GB2019_Doc5);
- b) **received** the report of the President (document 2GB2019_Doc5) and thanked him for his exceptional efforts for CEC during the vacancy of the post of General Secretary.

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6. Report of General Secretariat activities (with CCME ExCom)

EU Presidencies

6.1 Peter Pavlovic (Study Secretary) presented his activity report on contacts with the countries successively holding the rotating EU presidency (document 2GB2019_5a). These meetings were much more effective in cases where CEC and COMECE were able to submit

a joint text expressing their hopes and concerns. This had been the case with the meeting in June on the Finnish presidency. Croatia would be presiding in the first half of 2020 and meetings with the Croatian Permanent Representative and with the Prime Minister were planned.

Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future

6.2 Peter Pavlovic presented his report in document 2GB2019_Doc5b. He mentioned in particular the team visit by the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) to Belarus, an encouraging occasion for sharing between churches in different parts of the European continent. In addition, the churches' action to support the EU attempt to reach

carbon neutrality by 2050 was a good example of how churches can get involved in political debates on matters of concern to them.

6.3 Bishop Nicholas asked that Board members be informed when the document adopted at the 6th International Conference on Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics (ECOTHE), held in Crete in September 2019, was published.

Human Rights

6.4 Elizabeta Kitanovic (Executive Secretary) presented her report in document 2GB2019_Doc5c.

Strasbourg office

6.5 Sören Lenz (Executive Secretary) presented his report, covering in particular contacts with the Council of Europe (document 2GB2019_Doc5d).

Theological dialogue

6.6 Katerina Pekridou presented her report in document 2GB2019_Doc5e.

6.7 Emma Weaver said she had received very positive feedback on CEC's first meeting of ecumenical officers and secretaries for theology held from 24-26 September in Finland (see paragraph 17 of the report).

Additional matters

6.8 Peter Pavlovic was pleased to inform the Governing Board that the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia, which had been considering the possibility of withdrawing from membership of CEC, had decided to remain.

6.9 Katarina Pekridou drew attention to the Appendix to her report setting out the new *Guidelines for Relationships and Cooperation between the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Regional Ecumenical Organisations (REO)* which had been adopted at the annual WCC meeting with REO's at Bossey (Switzerland) on 2-4 July 2019. It was good that the Guidelines now provided that REO's should be involved when WCC plans meetings in their region. CEC should now take care to put into practice its stated wish to work more closely with WCC.

6.10 Valérie Duval-Poujol regretted that, once again, there had not been sufficient time for the Governing Board to engage in detailed discussions with staff on the progress of current activities.

Noting with gratitude that staff had had to take on additional duties during the vacancy of the post of General Secretary, the Governing Board **took note** of brief reports by staff on the following areas of work:

- a) relations with EU presidencies (document 2GB2019-Doc5a);
- b) Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future (document 2GB2019-Doc5b);
- c) Human rights (document 2GB2019-Doc5c);
- d) Work of the Strasbourg office (document 2GB2019-Doc5d);
- e) Theological dialogue (document 2GB2019-Doc5e).

7. Report from Youth Desk (with CCME ExCom)

7.1 Lea-Kathrin Schlenker circulated her youth advisor's report for May-November 2019 (document 2GB2019_Doc7). She drew attention in particular to the difficulties inherent in setting up the proposed "pool" of young experts and suggested some possible alternative ways of finding young experts to take part in CEC's working structures.

7.2 The following points were made in discussion:

- it was desirable to build on our existing cooperation with youth organisations, particularly WSCF and EYCE; in this way we could help to strengthen these bodies;
- when we speak of youth experts we do not necessarily mean academics but also people with relevant practical experience;
- young experts are typically short of both finance and time;
- we often meet good young experts at conferences and other events.

The Governing Board **took note** with gratitude of the report by their youth advisor, Lea-Kathrin Schlenker, on her activities since May 2019 (document 2GB2019-Doc7).

8. Communication Strategy (with CCME ExCom)

8.1 Anders Gadegaard presented his progress report on the work of the Communication Task Force (document 2GB2019_Doc8). Since being set up one year ago by the Governing Board, the Task Force had held two meetings in Brussels and hired an external consultant to review the current situation. The review showed that CEC's

communications channels have a good level of activity and audience outreach and that this provides a good basis for increasing outreach through a more strategic approach and through developing content tailored more to younger audiences. It would be important to consider who speaks for CEC and who our primary audience is: member churches (in which case we need to consider who are our contacts in the member churches) or the secular world. The report ended with a list of short- and long-term recommendations.

8.2 The following points were made in discussion:

- communications needed to be at the heart of CEC's business;
- we should be selective in what we communicate and find out what is most useful for the communications officers of member church;
- although the focus was currently on member churches, communication with the secular world was important too;
- it would be useful to analyse who are our "subscribers".

8.3 The Chair expressed the Board's thanks for an excellent progress report.

The Governing Board:

- a) **received** with thanks the progress report of the Communications Task Force (document 2GB2019_Doc8);
- b) **requested** the Task Force to continue its work once a new General Secretary had taken up his position.

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9. CCME Activities report

This item was taken in joint session with the Executive Committee of CCME and the Moderator of CCME, Mr Lemma Desta, took the Chair.

9.1 Lemma Desta introduced the session by welcoming the attention given to migration and refugee issues at the CEC General Assembly in Novi Sad. In June 2020 the CCME General Assembly would be called upon to adopt new Articles of Agreement together with a new work plan and financial plan. He was appreciative of the growing cooperation between CCME and CEC and looked forward to a further deepening of this relationship.

9.2 Torsten Moritz (General Secretary of CCME) then gave the Governing Board a detailed update on the work of CCME and the current migration situation (see summary in Appendix 3; see also the CCME Activity Report 2018, 2GB2019_Doc9).

9.3 Archimandrite Ignatios said that although strenuous efforts had been made by the Greek people and churches to help refugees, people were very worried about the continuing influx and angry about the failure of other EU countries to take their share. It was not fair that Greece was left to deal with the matter on its own and if the refugees ended up settling in Greece the ethnic and religious composition of the population would be altered.

9.4 Efthalia Pappa (CCME ExCom) added that in the first ten months of 2019 nearly 60% of new migrants in the Mediterranean region had come to Greece, with 12,500 new arrivals in September alone. Most were confined to the hotspots on the islands where they had to live in appalling conditions. They included many unaccompanied minors who were extremely vulnerable. The local population had been very tolerant but there were limits.

9.5 Bishop Nicholas said that it was no good just giving money to the Greek government and leaving them to cope. Other countries needed to accept refugees but public opinion was against. The attitude of Western European countries was shameful.

9.6 The Chair concluded that the situation was serious and could not be ignored. CCME and CEC would have to keep the situation under review and see how they could help.

The Governing Board:

- a) **took note** of the CCME Activity Report for 2018 (document 2GB2019_Doc9);
- b) **was informed** orally about the migration situation in Europe and about CCME's work in recent months (see Appendix 3).

10. Statement on populism (with CCME ExCom)

10.1 Elizabeta Kitanovic (Executive Secretary) presented the Statement entitled *Have hope not fear! Responses to populism from a religious and human rights perspective* (document 2GB2019_Doc11) adopted at the conference "Alternatives to Populism from a Human Rights Perspective" organised by CEC in Malaga from 17-19 October 2019. She

suggested that the Governing Board might wish to give a formal endorsement to the Statement.

10.2 Questions having been asked about the rules for publication of documents adopted at conferences organised by CEC, Andreas Aarflot recalled that Article 19.9 of the Standing Orders provides that such documents may indeed be published immediately but only in the name of the conference participants, not in the name of CEC.

10.3 After some discussion, the Chair concluded that although the Statement was of great interest it did not seem appropriate or necessary for the Governing Board to “endorse” it. The Statement had already been published on the CEC website. It had the authority of the participants at the Malaga Conference; if it was additionally to be given

the authority of the Governing Board, the latter would feel the need to examine it more fully and might well wish to make some minor amendments.

10.4 The Governing Board also considered some possible ways of following up the results of the Malaga Conference. Thus, the careful conceptual analysis in the Statement, and the conclusions and recommendations, would repay further study. It was also suggested that CEC might collect examples of good practice in the churches in the matter of responding to populism.

10.5 Sören Lenz (Executive Secretary) recalled that one of the workshops at the CEC General Assembly in Novi Sad had been devoted to populism and education; this work could be continued within the new Thematic Group on Education, Democracy and Diversity.

10.6 It was also mentioned that CCEE and CEC are planning to work together on a theological and pastoral reflection on populism and nationalism.

10.7 In conclusion, the Governing Board voted unanimously to request Elizabeta Kitanovic and Sören Lenz to work on following up the conclusions and recommendations of the Statement.

The Governing Board:

- a) **took note** with interest of the Statement entitled *Have hope not fear! Responses to populism from a religious and human rights perspective* (document 2GB2019_Doc11) adopted at the conference organised by CEC in Malaga from 8-12 July 2019;
- b) **requested** staff members Elizabeta Kitanovic and Sören Lenz to work on following up the conclusions and recommendations of the Statement.

11. Appointment of the General Secretary (closed session)

The Governing Board **appointed** Dr Jørgen Skov Sørensen as General Secretary for an initial period of six years with effect from 1 January 2020.

12. Personnel Committee (closed session)

The Governing Board:

- a) **was informed** by the Chair of the Personnel Committee about various personnel matters;
- b) **received** a proposal to reorganise the communications service, and **adopted it**;
- c) **decided** that the CEC office would close from 23 December 2019 for the Christmas break.

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13. CEC Work/Staff Regulations

13.1 The President presented the draft staff regulations as set out in document 2GB2019_Doc14a together with the Explanatory Note in document 2GB2019_Doc14c. The draft, which had been checked with Securex for its conformity with the Belgian law, had also been checked with the legal advisors Andreas Aarflot and Patrick Schnabel. The legally binding text would necessarily be the French one; the English translation in document 2GB2019_Doc14b was unofficial and had been prepared only for the information of the Governing Board and the non-francophone Staff. The President further explained that the sections highlighted in blue were specific to CEC and are considered by law as acquired rights for CEC employees. He then invited the Governing Board to approve the draft staff regulations, following which staff, who had already been consulted informally, would have 15 days in which to make any comments.

13.2 Frank Kopania, Chair of the Personnel Committee, said that, after having received a number of explanations, the Personnel Committee had signified its agreement to the draft.

13.3 After some discussion, the Governing Board decided to make three amendments to the draft text (see details in Decision below).

13.4 Aleksandra Pistalo pointed out that the Governing Board next needed to adopt rules for the appointment of administrative staff, to be proposed by the Personnel Committee as laid down under Article 16(2) b of the Standing Orders.

The Governing Board:

a) **examined** the draft *Règlement de Travail* ("Work Regulations") for the CEC staff set out in document 2GB2019_Doc14a;

b) **made the following three amendments** to the draft text:

- Article 17.5 on sick leave to read: "Toute absence de plus de deux jours consécutifs (jours fériés compris) doit être justifiée par un certificat médical.";

Article 17.8 on parental leave to read: "Il ne peut être licencié en cours de ce congé de paternité.";

- Article 20.4 on travel to read: "L'option de voyager en train doit, dans la mesure du possible, être privilégié."

c) **approved** the draft *Règlement de Travail* ("Work Regulations") for the CEC staff as thus amended;

d) **noted** that the staff now had a period of 15 days in which to signify any possible reactions, after which, in the absence of such reactions, they would enter into force;

e) **expressed its gratitude** to the President for bringing this long overdue matter to a satisfactory conclusion;

f) **noted** that, at its next meeting, the Governing Board would consider rules for the appointment of administrative staff, to be proposed by the Personnel Committee as laid down under Article 16(2) b of the Standing Orders.

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14. Thematic Projects 2020-2021

14.1 The Chair invited the Governing Board to examine and approve a number of project proposals prepared by the staff.

14.2 During the course of the discussion, members of the Governing Board expressed reluctance to approve projects without first receiving more information about budgets, sources of funding, objectives and intended outcomes. For this reason, the projects were approved “in principle”, subject to the raising of the necessary funds. In future, the staff should present projects in accordance with a standard format indicating, inter alia, budgets, funding plans, an estimate of staff time required, and an indication of relative priority and relative urgency. Time should be allowed in future Governing Board meetings for a more thorough examination of project proposals.

ECEN Assembly 2020: Reconciled with creation – a call for urgent action on climate and biodiversity

14.3 Peter Pavlovic presented the planned ECEN Assembly (see document 2GB2019_Doc15). The Assembly would take place near Karlsruhe and would, *inter alia*, be making preparations for the ECEN contribution to the WCC General Assembly at Karlsruhe in 2021. He recalled that ECEN, for which CEC provided the secretariat, was a joint operation with the Roman Catholic Church through CCEE. The youth organisations ECYE and WSCF would also be involved. He also explained that ECEN activities were self-financing.

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14.4 The Board voted unanimously to approve this project in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds.

7th Summer School on Human Rights: Religious Freedom and the Public Sphere – Fostering Tolerance, Combating Populism

14.5 Elizabeta Kitanovic presented the planned Summer School (see document 2GB2019_Doc15a). Fundraising had started for this event, to be held in Berlin in July 2020. It would focus on questions of freedom of religion and belief in the public sphere, with reference to various cases heard by the European Court of Human Rights, as well as training for dealing with hate speech.

14.6 Anders Gadegaard, noting that these were key issues for churches, asked the staff to prepare a communication and advocacy strategy around the summer school.

14.6 Bishop Nicholas felt that “tolerance” was a rather weak word and urged the organisers to find a more proactive vocabulary.

14.7 The Board voted unanimously to approve this project in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds.

Conference on Religious Freedom and Security

14.8 Elizabeta Kitanovic presented the planned Conference (see document 2GB2019_Doc15b). Based on work by OSCE, it was proposed to hold the conference in Kosovo where some Christian places of worship are under military protection. The project was still at a formative stage but needed a green light from the Governing Board to permit more detailed planning.

14.9 Anders Gadegaard was not willing to approve this project unless the staff supplied further information on planned objectives and outcomes.

14.10 Bishop Nicholas asked the Secretariat to send the OSCE document to Governing Board members for information.

14.11 The Board voted unanimously to approve this project in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds and on condition that the Secretariat supply further information on objectives and outcomes.

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The Hope of Communion: international conference on church unity

14.12 Katerina Pekridou presented this project as set out in document 2GB2019_Doc15c. The year 2020 marks the centenary of two documents that played a major part in launching the modern ecumenical movement: The Patriarchal Encyclical to “the Churches of Christ everywhere” and the Lambeth Appeal to all Christian People. It was therefore proposed to hold a conference in autumn 2020 in Istanbul to reflect on the historic significance of the two texts, the ecumenical achievements that followed and their relevance for the current challenges of Christian unity.

14.13 The Board voted unanimously to approve this project in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds.

Seminar on Baptism

14.14 Katerina Pekridou presented this project as set out in document 2GB2019_Doc15d. It was proposed that the preparatory work be carried out by the Thematic Group on Ecclesiology and Mission; it was very difficult to obtain funding for theological projects. This long-term project, which featured in the CEC Strategy Plan for 2018-2023, was in part the outcome of discussions with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE). It was proposed to hold a first seminar in the winter of 2020.

14.15 The Board voted unanimously to approve this project in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds.

Preparatory Gathering of the European delegates to the 11th WCC General Assembly

14.16 Katerina Pekridou presented this project as set out in document 2GB2019_Doc15e. She pointed out that all CEC and CCME staff would be involved in its further development. The meeting will be organised by CEC in its capacity as a Regional Ecumenical Organisation (see also paragraph 6.9 above). It was proposed to hold the Preparatory Gathering in Warsaw from 18-20 February 2021. Katerina Pekridou went on to circulate a very preliminary paper outlining how CEC might contribute to the WCC Assembly (see Appendix to document 2GB2019_Doc15e).

14.17 The President added the following points about planning for the WCC General Assembly in Karlsruhe:

- there will be cross-border French-German element;
- there will be a "Europe Day" during the General Assembly;
- Sören Lenz (Executive Secretary, Strasbourg) is working on a plan to invite the General Assembly to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

14.18 Bishop Nicholas hoped that CEC might be able to contribute some in-depth thinking about developing a new narrative for Europe that spoke to younger generations and did not simply hark back to post-war reconciliation. He agreed to send the staff a short note setting out his ideas.

14.19 Valérie Duval-Poujol said she would like to know how many CEC member churches were not members of WCC and vice versa.

14.20 Bishop Hovakim hoped it would be possible to invite suffering Middle Eastern churches so that their voice could be taken into account.

14.20 Several members expressed the view that this meeting was a clear priority for their churches. On the other hand, as the financial arrangements for the meeting were still uncertain it was unanimously agreed to authorise planning to start pending a final decision in November 2020 on the basis of a draft budget and programme.

14.21 With reference to the preliminary draft paper on the possible contribution by CEC to the WCC General Assembly (see paragraph 14.16 above), Board members were requested to send their comments and suggestions to Katerina Pekridou.

14.21 It was further agreed to set up a planning group for the proposed Preparatory Gathering comprised of Bishop Nicholas, Anne Burghardt, Bishop Hovakim, Fr Nektarios, Frank Kopania or colleague, Petr Kratochvil and a representative of the Orthodox Church of Finland.

The Governing Board:

a) **approved** the following projects in principle, subject to the raising of the necessary funds:

- i) ECEN Assembly 2020: *Reconciled with creation – a call for urgent action on climate and biodiversity* (document 2GB2019_Doc15);
- ii) 7th Summer School on Human Rights (document 2GB2019_Doc15a);
- iii) Conference on Religious Freedom and Security (document 2GB2019_Doc15b) - on condition that the Secretariat supplies further information on objectives and outcomes;
- iv) The hope of communion: international conference on church unity (document 2GB2019_Doc15c);
- v) Seminar on Baptism (document 2GB2019_Doc15d);

b) **agreed** that planning should begin for a Preparatory Gathering of the European delegates to the 11th WCC General Assembly (document 2GB2019_Doc15e) pending a final decision in November 2020 on the basis of a draft budget and programme;

c) **set up** a planning group (comprising Bishop Nicholas, Anne Burghardt, Bishop Hovakim, Fr Nektarios, Frank Kopania or colleague, Petr Kratochvil and a representative of the Orthodox Church of Finland) for the proposed Preparatory Gathering;

d) **requested** the staff to ensure that future project proposals be presented according to a standard format including in particular:

- a detailed budget;

- an indication of how the project will be funded;
- an estimate of how many days of staff time will be required;
- an indication as to the relative priority attaching to each project;
- an indication as to whether a decision is urgent or not.

15. Budget and Accounts

2019 accounts as of end October

15.1 Jelle Brouwer, Treasurer, distributed an overview of the accounts for the year in progress (see document 2GB2019_Doc16). He explained that with the constant changes from one temporary accountant to another it had been extremely difficult to keep abreast of the situation and he was not therefore in a position to give the Governing Board as clear a picture as he would have wished. Given that some sizeable membership fees were still expected by the end of the year; it was not yet clear whether CEC would end the financial year with a deficit or a surplus. The situation would, however, have been worse but for the fact that there had not been a full complement of staff throughout the year.

15.2 In response to a question from Anders Gadegaard as to why expenditure on staff travel, audit fees and computer costs had been much higher than budgeted, the Treasurer gave the following explanations:

- auditing is now done by an external firm of accountants;
- expensive repairs and protection had been necessary after a very damaging cyberattack on the CEC computer system.

15.3 In a discussion on staff travel costs, it was confirmed that staff travel had to be approved by the General Secretary. It was further pointed out that it would be useful to distinguish in the budget between presidency travel and staff travel.

15.4 Although there had been a number of special factors in 2019, it was clear that CEC's finances showed a structural deficit. Financial planning would have to face up to this situation, particularly as some member churches were likely to find it necessary to reduce their contributions during the coming years. Thus, the EKD-Synod had decided on a

reduction in its general budget of 10% by 2025 and 30% by 2030, which was bound to affect the CEC contribution. This will lead CEC to proceed to an internal reorganization.

Reports of the Treasurer and the Budget Committee

15.5 The Treasurer went on to present his report (document 2GB2019_Doc16a). In order to achieve a balanced budget for 2020 it had been necessary to make the thematic groups “cost neutral” and to reduce some staff costs. Moreover, many areas of expected income were uncertain (e.g. the contribution from the Churches of the Rhine) and it was never possible to predict exactly how much the churches would end up paying in membership fees.

15.6 In discussion, it was clarified that “budget neutral” meant that a) there were no costs to the CEC budget apart from staff time; b) such activities would be dependent on attracting grants or voluntary contributions; c) if these were not forthcoming, the activity might have to be cancelled.

15.7 The following further points were made in discussion:

- a) cancellation of events was difficult when they were co-organised with others;
- b) staff costs might change in the light of the future General Secretary’s plans for reorganisation;
- c) donors were usually prepared to give money only for projects and not for staff costs;
- d) it seemed strange that, even though their costs were apparently included under projects, there was no specific budget line for the thematic groups.

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15.8 Archimandrite Nektarios warned that not all ways of raising money were suitable for a Christian organisation such as CEC. It was important to check the credentials of potential funders.

15.9 Following a question from Anders Gadegaard, the Chair confirmed that the revised 2020 budget would specify the Communications Task Force.

15.10 The Governing Board approved the provisional draft 2020 budget unanimously with one abstention.

15.11 Recalling that it was the (written) General Assembly, not the Governing Board, that voted the budget, and noting that because of staff shortages the 2020 budget was late, the Treasurer said that the written General Assembly should be asked to approve both the 2020 and the 2021 budgets in June 2020 following the Governing Board session at the beginning of June.

15.12 It was agreed, therefore, that at its next meeting (4-6 June 2020) the Governing Board would examine a revised draft budget for 2020 and a draft budget for 2021.

15.13 The Chair noted that in future:

a) projects should be costed more clearly;

b) it should be made clearer in the budgets which costs were fixed and which were more flexible;

c) although it appeared that this was technically more difficult than might have been thought, work should continue on how to identify contributions in kind in future accounts;

d) budgetary matters should be dealt with at an early stage of Governing Board meetings, and in the presence of the staff, so as to facilitate the subsequent decisions on future activities.

15.14 The Treasurer then presented document 2GB2019_Doc16c setting out the state of payment of membership fees at the end of October 2019.

15.15 As required by the Constitution, the current CEC staffing plan was circulated and approved (see Appendix 4).

15.16 Concerning the staffing plan, it was noted that the CCME post should not appear as it was not part of the CEC staff. It should appear in the budget as a financial contribution by CEC in application of the Agreement of Cooperation concluded between CEC and CCME in November 2017. As new Governing Board members were not necessarily fully informed about this Agreement, it was decided that a copy would be sent to all members for information.

15.17 Notwithstanding the constitutional requirement that the membership figures for each member church should be revised before each General Assembly, it was agreed that the existing figures would be used for the 2020 written General Assembly, after which they would be revised.

15.18 The Treasurer then asked the Governing Board to consider the Budget Committee's recommendations to the Governing Board (see pages 1-2 of document 2GB2019_Doc16a).

15.19 Concerning the recommendation that staff issues should always be referred to the General Secretary or the President and not to individual members of the Governing Board, the Chair concluded, after some discussion, that a) any complaints by members of staff should be addressed direct to the General Secretary; b) if staff spoke to a Board member about staff matters, the Board member could listen, but should then refer the person concerned to the General Secretary.

15.20 The Treasurer then drew the Governing Board's attention to the "Evaluation Rules" (for valuation of CEC assets) as proposed by the interim accountant and drafted by the Treasurer (see Appendix 1 to document 2GB2019_Doc16a).

15.21 The Evaluation Rules were approved.

15.22 Considering that the Standing Orders (Article 10.3) required the Governing Board to adopt draft financial regulations, the Governing Board decided to request the Budget Committee to submit, if possible in time for approval at the next meeting, draft financial regulations along the lines laid down in the Standing Orders.

15.23 The Treasurer said that Carsten Simmer had joined the Budget Committee. On the other hand, there was still a vacancy for an Orthodox member, and it was important that this place now be filled.

The Governing Board:

a) **took note** of an update of the 2019 accounts to the end of October (document 2GB2019_Doc16);

b) **received** the Treasurer's report (document 2GB2019_Doc16a) and **noted** that the lack, and constant changes, of financial support staff during 2019 had made the work of the Treasurer and the Budget Committee extremely difficult;

c) **agreed** to use the "Evaluation Rules" (for valuation of CEC assets) as proposed by the interim accountant and drafted by the Treasurer (see Appendix 1 to document 2GB2019_Doc16a);

d) **took note** of the state of payment of membership fees at the end of October 2019 (document 2GB2019_Doc16c);

e) **noted** that the Governing Board would examine the final accounts for 2019 at its next meeting, at which point it would decide on any transfers to or from the reserves on the basis of proposals from the Budget Committee;

f) **requested** the President to send an information note to Governing Board members by the end of February summarising the final results of the 2019 accounts;

e) **agreed** that while the written General Assembly for 2020 would be convened on the basis of the church membership figures for 2018 it would be necessary to review the figures in subsequent years;

f) **examined** the provisional draft budget for 2020-2021 (document 2GB2019_Doc15b);

g) **agreed** to re-examine the draft budgets for both 2020 and 2021 at its next meeting, notably in the light of any changes proposed by the new General Secretary, after which they would be submitted for approval by the 2020 written General Assembly;

- h) **noted** that, although this question was proving to be more difficult than initially imagined, the Treasurer and the Budget Committee were continuing to consider how to make contributions in kind visible in the accounts;
- i) **adopted** the current staffing plan (see Appendix 4);
- j) **noted** that, as many churches were experiencing financial difficulties, CEC would need to reduce expenditure during the coming years;
- k) **noted** that the Treasurer would add clarifications and explanations to future accounts, especially where expenditure had been significantly different from what had been budgeted;
- l) **agreed** that budgetary and financial matters should in future be dealt with at an early stage of Governing Board meetings and with the presence of the staff;
- m) **agreed** that it should be a priority for the new General Secretary to ensure that budget and programme proposals be presented more clearly in future and in good time before Governing Board meetings;
- n) **requested** the Budget Committee to submit for approval by the Governing Board, in time for the next meeting if possible, draft financial regulations along the lines laid down in Article 10.3 of the Standing Orders.

16. Non-profit Leaders' Liability Insurance

16.1 The Chair invited the Governing Board to examine the proposal by AXA Belgium for a non-profit leaders' liability insurance designed to cover Board and staff members against claims for compensation for damages caused to third parties in the performance of their duties. He noted that the proposal set out in document 2GB2019_Doc17 was an English translation of the binding French text.

16.2 The Governing Board voted unanimously to subscribe to the proposed insurance policy.

The Governing Board **agreed** that CEC should subscribe to the insurance policy proposed in document 2GB2019_Doc17.

17. Nomination of Thematic Groups

17.1 Alison McDonald, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented her Committee's proposals for membership of the Thematic Groups set up by the Governing Board at its last meeting, namely:

- Ecclesiology and mission;

- Education, democracy and diversity;
 - Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future;
 - Science, new technologies and Christian ethics;
 - Human rights;
- Social justice and labour.

17.2 The Chair of the Nominations Committee went on to make the following observations. It was proposed that each group should have 10 members chosen from the candidates submitted by the member churches plus up to three experts from organisations-in-partnership. Although the Nominations Committee had made strenuous efforts to respect all the necessary balances, this had been extremely difficult to achieve on the basis of the candidates proposed by the member churches. In particular, it was most regrettable that women were seriously under-represented. Furthermore, it was not clear how much the meetings of the groups would cost since member churches had not

always specified whether or not their candidates would need to have their expenses paid by CEC. Finally, two very late nominations had just arrived; these had been included by the Nominations Committee.

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17.2 Frank Kopania said that candidatures from the German regional churches should be listed as EKD since it was EKD (Protestant Church in Germany) which was the member of CEC.

17.3 Anders Gadegaard noted that Sören Lenz was responsible for two thematic groups; he wondered whether this was realistic.

17.4 Some Board members wondered why only seven members were proposed for the social justice and labour group. They also asked what was the distinction between this thematic group and the group on economic and ecological justice; some felt that the two groups could perhaps be combined.

17.5 The President explained that the work of the Thematic Group on social justice and labour dealt mainly with labour questions and was carried out in connection with the CALL network. The main topic of work in the coming period would be the impact of digitalisation on labour. He felt that, pending the probable review and restructuring of CEC's activities during the next two years, it was advisable to keep to the existing shape of work as agreed by the Board at its last meeting.

17.6 Considering that human rights issues were of great importance to his church, Archimandrite Ignatios suggested adding an eleventh member to the Thematic Group on Human Rights, namely the candidate proposed by the Church of Greece.

17.7 The Chair of the Nominations Committee said that two experts from Greece had been proposed: one from the Church of Greece and one from the Evangelical Church of Greece. Her committee had proposed the expert from the Evangelical Church on the grounds that it was a minority church and because the Church of Greece was already represented on all the other thematic groups.

17.8 A number of members spoke in favour of adding the Church of Greece expert as an eleventh member.

17.9 Frank Kopania offered to withdraw the EKD candidate so as admit the Church of Greece expert and keep to ten members.

17.10 The Chair of the Nominations Committee said that she had no objection to adding an eleventh member given that the member churches clearly attached great importance to it.

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17.11 The Governing Board then voted on adding an eleventh member to the Thematic Group on Human Rights: 12 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions (carried).

17.12 The Governing Board went on to vote on approving the membership of all the thematic groups as proposed by the Nominations Committee with the addition of the Church of Greece expert as an eleventh member of the Thematic Group on Human Rights: carried unanimously with one abstention.

17.13 The Chair noted that the Governing Board wished to give further consideration at its next meeting to the costs of the thematic groups as now constituted.

The Governing Board:

- a) **discussed** the Nominations Committee's proposals for membership of the thematic groups which the Board had agreed to set up at its last meeting (see document 2GB2019_Doc3, item 14);
- b) **agreed** to increase the membership of the Thematic Group on Human Rights from 10 to 11 (plus 2 experts from organisations- in-partnership);
- c) **approved** the amended lists of members of all the thematic groups (see Appendix 5);

d) **agreed** to give further consideration at its next meeting to the budgetary implications of the thematic groups.

18. CEC Peace Task Force

18.1 The President recalled that the previous Governing Board had decided in November 2017 that CEC should set up a Peace Task Force (see document 2GB2019_Doc19a). He had therefore asked the preparatory group for the CEC Peace Conference, held in Paris in September 2019, to draw up proposals for the practical implementation of this decision. He invited the Governing Board to examine these proposals as set out in 2GB2019_Doc19 and to decide how CEC should now take this initiative forward. In response to a question, he said that the proposed Task Force could potentially be involved in several types of conflicts, inter-State, inter-Church or within churches.

18.2 Several members of the Board expressed doubts about the proposal on the following grounds:

- it was not clear whether or not CEC was likely to be asked to be intervene in conflict situations;
- given that it was important to avoid amateurism when getting involved in extremely delicate situations, it might be wise to leave this kind of work to specialised peace organisations, which might on occasion wish to ask CEC to contribute to their work;
- the proposal was expensive and dependent on obtaining seconded staff.

18.3 The Governing Board voted unanimously not to take this proposal forward at the present time in the form proposed. At the same time, bearing in mind that the CEC General Assembly in Novi Sad had attached importance to the question of peacebuilding, it was agreed that the President should continue to reflect on the matter with a view to possibly bringing forward revised proposals in the future.

The Governing Board:

- a) **took note** of the proposed Work Plan for a Peace Task Force (see document 2GB2019_Doc19);
- b) while noting that the President would continue to reflect on the matter, **decided** not to take this proposal forward at the present time in the form proposed.

18a. Group on EU legislation and policy

18a.1 The President said that several member churches had asked why the Governing Board had not set up a group of legal experts to monitor EU legislation and policy. He added that the regular meeting on Art 17 (every 6 months) of the Brussels offices of CEC Member Churches to monitor the EU's political activity. But there is also a need of more legal monitoring and proposes to establish, and he proposed to establish, as the General Secretary is permitted to do, a task force. There would be practically no additional cost to CEC.

18a.2 Frank Kopania, supported by Archimandrite Nektarios, strongly advised setting up such a group on the grounds that it provided a service to which member churches attached particular importance.

18a.3 The Governing Board voted unanimously, with one abstention, to set up a task force on EU legislation and policy.

18a.4 The Chair noted that Andreas Aarflot was willing to join the group.

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The Governing Board:

- a) **noted** that this was a matter of particular importance to member churches;
- b) **decided** to request the new General Secretary to convene a group of legal experts, which should include an Orthodox member, to monitor EU legislation and policy from the point of view of churches.

19. Strategy towards the 2023 General Assembly of CEC

19.1 The Chair recalled that, at its last meeting, the Governing Board had “expressed regret that it had not been possible at the Novi Sad Assembly in 2018 to engage in an in depth discussion of CEC’s future strategic priorities and therefore decided to agree at its next meeting on a methodology and a timeline for preparing for a more thorough discussion of CEC’s future strategy at the 2023 General Assembly”. In particular, the Board had decided to prepare, in advance of the next (physical) General Assembly, a draft strategy plan which could be communicated to the Assembly’s Policy and Strategy Committee.

19.2 Andreas Aarflot then presented document 2GB2019_Doc20 containing the relevant extracts from the CEC Standing Orders concerning the preparation of the General Assembly. In particular, he mentioned that the Governing Board would need to adopt, at

least two years in advance, terms of reference for the Assembly Planning Committee, which had to be chaired by a member of the Board. A General Assembly Nominations Committee also had to be set up and in this case the Chair needed to be one of the members of the Governing Board who would not be standing for re-election.

19.3 The Chair requested Board members to consider, in advance of the next meeting, which of them might be prepared to act as chairs of these two committees.

19.4 The Chair also recalled that it would be necessary, at a slightly later stage, to appoint members of the Assembly Planning Committee. Moreover, the Assembly Coordinator shall be appointed in accordance with Standing Order 11 (1), which provides that “the Governing Board shall in particular appoint an Assembly Coordinator, either from the existing staff or as a temporary position on the staff.

19.5 Concerning the date for the 2023 General Assembly, Anne Burghardt and Anders Gadegaard asked the Governing Board to bear in mind that the next Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation would take place from 21-27 June 2023 (in Krakow, Poland).

19.6 Concerning possible venues, the President said that the ecumenical officers of the Nordic-Baltic region were considering the possibility of offering to host the next CEC General Assembly in Estonia. The possibility of meeting in the United Kingdom had also been mentioned as a way of showing European solidarity after Brexit.

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19.7 The Chair noted that the Governing Board intended to decide at its next meeting on the date and location for the next General Assembly as well as adopting terms of reference for the Assembly Planning Committee and a timeline for the preparations.

19.8 Furthermore, considering that the regional consultations held in advance of the Novi Sad General Assembly on CEC’s open letter on the Future of Europe had been particularly valuable, the Chair invited the staff to consider preparing a document of comparable weight for discussion in regional consultations before the next General Assembly. Such a document, which would be drafted primarily by the staff with some input from outside experts, should feed into the process of preparing a draft strategy plan (see para 19.1 above). It could possibly be examined by the Governing Board in May 2021 with a view to organising regional consultations in 2022. The Board should give more thorough consideration to these plans at its next meeting.

The Governing Board:

a) **agreed** to decide at its next meeting on the location and date of the 2023 (physical) General Assembly as well as adopting terms of reference for the Assembly Planning Committee (bearing in mind that the Chair must be a member of the Governing Board) and agreeing on a timeline for the preparations;

b) further agreed to make plans at its next meeting for the preparation of the following materials:

- a substantial paper, to be prepared mainly by the Secretariat, suitable for discussion in regional pre-Assembly consultations, as had been the case before the Novi Sad Assembly;
- a draft CEC strategy to be presented by the Governing Board to the General Assembly as a basis for discussion in the policy and strategy committee.

20. Cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

20.1 The President said that, following the visit of the Archbishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) to the CEC office in Brussels, a proposal had been developed whereby the ELCF Legal Advisor for European Affairs, Ms Lena Kumlin, would work half-time in Brussels for an experimental period of six months. 50% of her time in Brussels would be devoted to work on behalf of ELCF and 50% to work on behalf of CEC for tasks relating to advocacy at EU level. Given that CEC currently had no staff person for work on EU legislation and policy, this could be a useful means of cooperation with a member church. CEC would allocate a vacant office to the person concerned and, given that the salary would be paid wholly by the ELCF, the costs to be borne by CEC would be minimal. The proposal had been expressed in the form of a draft Agreement of Cooperation between ELCF and CEC which the President invited the Governing Board to consider (see document 2GB2019_Doc21).

20.2 Although welcoming this generous offer from the ELCF, some members wondered whether it might be better to wait until the new General Secretary had had an opportunity both to establish his relations with EU contacts and to review the staff situation in the light of CEC's needs.

20.3 Most members felt, however, that, at a time when he was being asked to carry out several urgent tasks, the new General Secretary would benefit from support in the area of relations with EU bodies. As long as it was clear that, for her CEC activities, the person concerned would work under the authority of the General Secretary, there was every reason for accepting the offer of the ELCF without delay. The Governing Board would in any case have an opportunity to review the arrangement at its next meeting when considering whether or not the two parties wished to extend it for a further period.

20.4 The Governing Board voted by a majority to accept the proposed Agreement of Cooperation with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland: 10 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

The Governing Board:

- a) **welcomed** the offer of cooperation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland;
- b) **authorised** the President to sign the draft Agreement of Cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as set out in document 2GB2019_Doc21, subject to a textual amendment, to be drafted by Andreas Aarflot and the President, to make it clearer that in their work for CEC the person concerned will work under the authority of the General Secretary;
- c) **noted** that any proposed extension of the Agreement of Cooperation would be considered by the Governing Board at its next meeting in the light of its developing thinking on the role and priorities of CEC.

21. Cooperation with CPCE

21.1 The Chair invited the Governing Board to consider the letter addressed by the General Secretary of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) to the then General Secretary of CEC on 1 March 2019 (see document 2GB2019_Doc21a). The letter contained a number of proposals by the newly elected Council of the CPCE for cooperation with CEC.

21.2 While wishing to maintain and develop mutually beneficial working relations with CPCE, members of the Board expressed doubts about some of the proposals contained in the letter, particularly paragraph A.6 which stated: "The CEC shall forward the CPCE's political statements to the European institutions and include CPCE in its own processes of adopting statements". Member churches were clear that CEC was their vehicle for relations with the EU institutions.

21.2 Frank Kopania, while sharing these doubts, asked the Board and the staff to bear in mind, when approaching German churches, that while the regional Protestant churches were (in most, but not all, cases) members of CPCE, only the EKD was a member of CEC.

The Governing Board:

- a) **examined** the letter of 1 March 2019 addressed by the General Secretary of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) to the then General Secretary of CEC (see document 2GB2019_Doc21a);
- b) **requested** the President (the post of General Secretary being vacant at present) to reply to the effect that while the Governing Board was open to discussing possibilities for

cooperation to the mutual advantage of the two bodies, it did not consider that the proposals set out in the letter were a satisfactory basis for discussion.

22. Approval of Public Issues Statement

The Governing Board **did not adopt** any public issues statement at the present meeting.

23. Other business

23.1 Speaking on behalf of all Board members, Vice-President Bishop Guli expressed the Board's warmest thanks to President Christian Krieger for all that he had done, together with Véronique Engels, during recent months to ensure the continuity of CEC's work during the vacancy of the post of General Secretary. (Applause)

23.2 Several Board members said that the very limited Wi-Fi connection in the meeting room had made it difficult to follow the business of the meeting efficiently. They hoped that this would be taken into account when considering future meeting venues.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

- Rev Christian **Krieger**, Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace-Lorraine (President)
- Rt Revd Dr **Guli** Francis-Dehqani, Church of England (Vice President)

Members

- Mr Andreas Henriksen **Aarflot**, Church of Norway
- Rt Revd Nicholas **Baines**, Church of England
- Rev Jelle **Brouwer**, United Protestant Church in Belgium
- Rev Anne **Burghardt**, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Dr Valérie **Duval-Poujol**, Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France
- Dean Anders Borre **Gadegaard**, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark
- Bishop **Hovakim** Manukyan, Armenian Apostolic Church
- H.E. Metropolitan **Joseph** of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of Southern and Western Europe
- Very Rev Archimandrite **Nektarios** Ioannou, Church of Cyprus
- OKR Frank **Kopania**, Evangelical Church in Germany
- Prof Petr **Kratochvil**, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
- Rev Alison **McDonald**, Church of Scotland
- Dr Aleksandra **Pistalo**, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Zsuzsanna **Répás**, Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
- Ms Lea-Kathrin **Schlenker**, Evangelical Church in Germany
- Very Rev Archimandrite **Ignatios** Sotiriadis, Church of Greece
- Ms Emma **Weaver**, Methodist Church of Great Britain

Apologies

- H.E. Metropolitan **Cleopas** of Sweden and All Scandinavia, Ecumenical Patriarchate (Vice President)

Staff

- Ms Véronique **Engels**, Assistant to the General Secretary
- Dr Elizabeta **Kitanović**, Executive Secretary
- Rev Sören **Lenz**, Executive Secretary
- Rev Dr Peter **Pavlovič**, Study Secretary
- Ms Katerina (Aikaterini) **Pekridou**, Executive Secretary
- Ms Naveen **Qayyum**, Communication Assistant

Guest

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Executive Committee of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

- Dr Torsten **Moritz**, General Secretary
- Mr David **Bradwell**
- Mr Lemma **Desta**
- Ms Sabine **Dressler**
- Ms Dana **Gavril**
- Ms Dora **Kaniszai-Nagy**
- Most Senior Apostle Adejare **Oyewole**
- Ms Efthalia **Pappa**

Minute taker

- Rev John **Murray**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call & invitation of third parties
2. Taking note of Agenda
3. Minutes previous meeting (May 2019), Written Procedure 2019 General Assembly
4. First presentation of Public Issues (with CCME ExCom)
5. President's Report (with CCME ExCom)
6. Report of General Secretariat activities (with CCME ExCom)
7. Report from Youth Desk (with CCME ExCom)
8. Communication Strategy (with CCME ExCom)
9. CCME Activities Report
10. Statement on populism (with CCME ExCom)
11. Appointment of the General Secretary (closed session)
12. Personnel Committee (closed session)
13. CEC Work/Staff Regulations
14. Thematic Projects 2020/2021
15. Budget and Accounts
16. Non-profit Leaders Liability Insurance
17. Nomination of Thematic Groups (TG)



cec

conference of european churches

18. CEC Peace Task Force
19. Strategy towards 2023 General Assembly of CEC
20. Cooperation with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
21. Cooperation with CPCE
22. Approval of Public Issues

Summary of report by Dr Torsten Moritz, General Secretary of CCME

Another hectic year in the migration field, full of controversy. Churches can help to refute the idea that the arrival of newcomers is always at the expense of existing citizens.

Search and rescue: a number of member churches are taking initiatives (e.g. EKD is looking at launching a rescue ship with other partners, Italian and French churches are looking at creating a humanitarian corridor for people stuck in Libya).

Thousands of asylum-seekers are stuck in terrible conditions in “hotspots” in the Greek islands. Cyprus, a small country, is now seeing a big increase in new arrivals; the recognition rate is high.

How to help asylum-seekers sent from one country to another by virtue of the Dublin regulation?

Delicate issues raised by conversions to Christianity during asylum procedures.

Many requests from churches for help with refugee issues.

European Union

In order to engage well with EU policy-making we need to show ourselves to be reliable and well informed partners.

The leaflet we produced for the European Parliament election attracted a reasonable amount of attention. We are now working with other Christian organisations to contact new MEP's. Some of our suggested questions for new commissioners were used by MEP's in the EP hearings.

The new President of the European Commission is interested in the churches. She promises a “fresh start” in migration policy, but what does this mean?

There is much talk about return systems but we know that very often countries will refuse to accept returnees. The planned Common European Asylum System: is this dead or can it be revived?

Criminalisation of solidarity: people are accused of aiding trafficking, but are usually acquitted by the courts.

No one talks about integration any more.

We continue to have drownings in the Mediterranean, not to mention the 39 Vietnamese who suffocated in a lorry in the UK.

There is a slight overall increase in asylum applications, but a lack (deliberate?) of reception facilities.

People don't realise the difference between facts and perception: for example, that it is Poland which has given the highest number of residence permits to citizens of a SINGLE non-EU country (Ukraine).

The Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland organised a very useful meeting during the Finnish EU Presidency on values and integration.

Views in the churches

A number of churches have expressed interest in joining CCME, which is good as long as it doesn't impact negatively on CEC.

Some churches are still sceptical about migration but there are some signs of ecumenical dialogue to try and achieve greater mutual understanding.

Many churches are working hard to help migrants, but activists are getting tired.

CCME future plans

Conference on justice for Roma

Conference on unity in diversity: being church together

All-Africa Conference of Churches wants to talk to European churches on migration issues.

Cooperation with WCC, especially with a view to the Karlsruhe General Assembly.

Following the computer virus attack, CEC and CCME now share the same data protection officer.

Staff meetings and many facilities are shared with CEC. Cooperation with CEC President has been very good. Thanks to Andreas Aarflot and Patrick Schnabel for help in revising Articles of Agreement.

CCME needs to set its priorities more clearly: which are the areas where we are best placed to work, which areas can we leave primarily to others?

STAFFING PLAN

General secretary 1 FTE
Assistant to the GS 0,8 FTE

Brussels staff

Communication 1 FTE
 Comm. Assistant 1 FTE

Accounting

Finance Officer 0,8 FTE (0,52 FTE for CEC) **
 Acc. Assistant 0,8 FTE (0,6 FTE for CEC) **

Ecology 1 FTE

Theology 1 FTE

Human Rights 1 FTE

(Peace 1 FTE) *

Assistant for all areas 1 FTE

CCME 1 FTE payed by CEC

Strasbourg staff

(Seconded staff member 1 FTE (0,6 FTE for CEC)) *
Assistant 0,75 FTE

*() = Seconded

** Additional hours payed by CCME

CEC Thematic Groups 2019-2023

Title	Name	Church/Organisation in Partnership	Church Family	Region	F/M	out	CV	Pref.	Subs.
Ecclesiology & Mission - Katerina Pekridou									
1	OKR'in Dr	Beiner, Melanie	Protestant Church in Germany	United	Central West	F	N	1	N
2	Pastor	Boulet, Gwenaël	United Protestant Church of France	United	South	F	N	1	N
3	Dr	Heith-Stade, David	Ecumenical Patriarchate	Orthodox	Nordic Baltic	M	?	Y	1
4	Academic Secretary	Jorgensen, Jonas Adelin	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	M	N	1	N
5	Rev Dr	Karttunen, Tomi	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	M	N	1	N
6	Dr	Kristenson, Olle	Church of Sweden, Uniting Church of Sweden, Christian Council of Sweden	Lutheran/United	Nordic Baltic	M	N	1	N
7	Rev	Milko, Pavel	Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia	Orthodox	Central East	M	N	1	Y
8	Rev Dr	Ploeger, Mattijs	Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands	Old-Catholic	North West	M	N	1	N
9	Rev Canon Dr	Worthen, Jeremy	Church of England	Anglican	North West	M	N	Y	1
10	Mr	Yagazoglou, Stavros	Church of Greece	Orthodox	South East	M	?	1	?
11	Dr	Apresyan, Marianna	Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women - Armenia	Oriental Orthodox	East	F	N	1	N
12	Ms	Gebauer, Christiane	World Student Christian Federation			F	Y	1	?
13	M.A.	Vasilevich, Natallia	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland - Belarus	Eastern Orthodox	Central West	F	N	1	N
Education, democracy and diversity - Sören Lenz									
1	Mr	Blöser, Matthias	Protestant Church in Germany	United	Central West	F	N	1	N
2	Rev Dr	Fischl, Vilmos	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary	(Lutheran)	Central East	M	N	1	N
3	Ms	Flaata, Sigrid	Church of Norway	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	F	N	Y	1
4	Mr	Kalaitzidis, Pantelis	Church of Greece	Orthodox	South East	M	?	1	?
5	Rev	Käpp, Triin	Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	F	N	1	N
6	Assistant Program Officer	Karapetyan	Armenian Apostolic Church	Oriental Orthodox	East	M	Y	1	Y
7	Mr	Ojica, Alexandru	Romanian Orthodox Church	Orthodox	Central East				
8	Dr	Paravati, Claudio	OPCEMI/Methodist Church in Italy	Methodist	South	M	N	1	N
9	Kirchenrat	Quandt, Raphael	Protestant Church in Germany	Lutheran	Central West	M	N	1	?
10	Dr/Advisor	Siirto,Ulla	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	F	N	1	N
11	Ms	Kappelhoff, Bianca	Intereuropean Commission on Church and School ICCS		Central West	F	N	1	N
Economic and ecological justice and a sustainable future - Peter Pavlovic									
1	Ms	Almås, Guro	Church of Norway	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	F	N	Y	1
2	Mr	Asproulis, Nikolaos	Church of Greece	Orthodox	South East	M	N	1	?
3	Mrs	French, Theresa Lundquist	Interchurch Council - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark		Nordic Baltic	F	N	Y	1
4	Coordinator	Götefelt, Henric	Uniting Church of Sweden, Church of Sweden and Christian Council of Sweden	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	M	N	Y	1
5	Rev Dr	Kodacsy, Tamas	Reformed Church in Hungary	Reformed	Central East	M	N	1	?
6	Doctoral Researcher	Kurenlahti, Mikko	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Lutheran	Nordic Baltic	M	N	1	N
7	Br. OP	Salmela, Gabriel	Finnish Ecumenical Council		Nordic Baltic	M	N	1	?
8	Mr	Shaw, Adrian	Church of Scotland/Scottish Episcopal Church/The Methodist Church		North West	M	N	1	?
9	Rev Fr	Valcu, George	Romanian Orthodox Church	Orthodox	Central East	M	?	1	?
10	Mr	Kalogerakis, Antonios	Oikosnet/Institute of Theology & Ecology - Orthodox Academy of Crete		South East	M	?	1	?
11	Ms	Meir, Miriam	Oikosnet/Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt		Central West	M	N	1	?
12	Mr	Nieuwerth, Kees	Church and Peace (Quaker)	Quaker	North West	M	N	1	?

Title	Name	Church/Organisation in Partnership	Church Family	Region	F/M	Out	CV	Y	Subs.
Science, new technologies and Christian ethics - Sören Lenz									
1	Dr	Jacobs, John	Council of Churches in the Netherlands	North West	M	N		1	N
2	Mr	Kornarakis, Konstantinos	Church of Greece	South East	M	?		1	?
3	Bishop	Maximos of Melitene	Ecumenical Patriarchate	Intern.	M	N		1	Y
4	Rev Dr	McCarthy, Brendan	Church of England	North West	M	N	Y	1	N
5	Assoc. Prof., Dr Theol.	Nissen, Ulrik	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark	Nordic Baltic	M	N		1	N
6	Rev Prof	Pöder, Johann-Christian	Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church	Nordic Baltic	M	N		1	N
7	Mr	Pöntinen, Henrikki Benjamin	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Nordic Baltic	M	Y		1	N
8	Prof	Savarino, Luca	Waldensian Ch. in Italy, Italian Methodist Ch., Italian Baptist Union, Italian Lutheran Ch., Italian Protestant Federation	South	M	N	Y	1	Y
9	Prof Dr	Vidovic, Julija	Serbian Orthodox Church	Central East	F	N			N
10	Prof Dr	Zeilinger, Thomas	Protestant Church in Germany	Central West	M	N		1	?
11	Mr	Bodrov, Alexei	Oikosnet/St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute	East	M	?		1	?
12	Dr	Zormpas, Konstantinos	Oikosnet/Orthodox Academy of Crete	South East					
Human rights - Elizabeta Kitanovic									
1	Very Reverend Archimandrite	Bogiannou, Aimilianos	Ecumenical Patriarchate	Intern.	M	N	Y	1	N
2	Dr	Filos, Altana	Evangelical Church of Greece	South East	F	N		1	N
3	Dr	Gunner, Göran	Church of Sweden, Uniting Church of Sweden, Christian Council of Sweden	Nordic Baltic	M	N	Y		N
4	Program Officer	Kocharyan, Karine	Armenian Apostolic Church	East	F	N		1	Y
5	Dr	Palcsó, Attila	Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia	Central East	M	N		1	Y
6	Dr	Pistalo, Aleksandra	Serbian Orthodox Church	Central East	F	N		1	N
7	Rev Dr	Schnabel, Patrick	Evangelical Church in Germany	Central West	M	N		1	?
8	Associate Professor	Slotte, Pamela	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Nordic Baltic	F	N		1	N
9	Professor	Stathokoska, Vassiliki	Church of Greece	South East	F	N		1	?
10	Superintendent Dr	Topalski, Daniel	The United Methodist Church in Bulgaria	South East	M	N	Y	1	Y
11	Ms	Wurts, Kieryn	European Baptist Federation	North West	F	Y	Y	1	Y
12	Mr	Lane, Andrew	Quakers	Central West	M	N		1	N
13	Ms	Tomaselli, Angelita	Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)	South	F	N	Y	1	?
Social justice and labour									
1	Mr	Gerka, Vladimir	Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia	Central East	M	N		1	Y
2	Dr	Kloster, Sven Thore	Church of Norway	Nordic Baltic	M	N	Y	1	N
3	Rev Dr	Latvus, Kari	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Nordic Baltic	M	N		1	N
4	Ms	Lüders, Fenja	Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria	Central West	F	N		1	?
5	Rev	Schipper, Petra	United Protestant Church in Belgium	Central West	F	?		1	?
6	Mr	Tsironis, Christos	Church of Greece	South East	M	?		1	?
7	Ms	Zäckel, Renate	Protestant Church in Germany	Central West	F	N		1	N
8	Mr	Forbes, David	Church and Peace	North West	M	N		1	?