



Conference of European Churches  
Conférence des Églises européennes  
Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen  
Конференция Европейских Церквей

Governing Board, Online 18-19 Nov 2020
Agenda Item: 13
Document Name:
2GB2020_DOC13B CEC - ELCF COOPERATION_REV
Purpose: For adoption

**Continuing the joint ELCF – CEC Project  
Strengthening the voice of Churches in Brussels  
between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF)  
and the Conference of European Churches (CEC)  
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2021**

**Revised 12/11/20202**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC) have agreed to continue the joint project **Strengthening the voice of Churches in Brussels** for the period **1 January to 31 December 2021**.

The aim of the joint project, which started on 1 January 2020 is to develop a well-focused, defined, effective and strategic advocacy work on European level for both CEC and ELCF. This is in line with the CEC Strategy for 2019 – 2023, one of the three key aims being to *raise Churches' voice in Europe and the European Institutions*. Within the scope of the project, LL.M. Lena Kumlin, Senior EU Policy Advisor (ELCF) has worked part-time for CEC.

The project has proven that strengthening cooperation between ELCF and CEC creates synergy benefits and win-win situations for both parties. All tasks – both CEC and ELCF-related - truly support each other, thus strengthening the voice of both CEC and ELCF at the European level.

The global COVID-19 pandemic that started in March 2020 has significantly affected the implementation of the project. It has not been possible to fulfil the aims of the project, and most of the concrete actions and events planned have been cancelled or postponed. The Coronavirus situation has also made it impossible for the Senior EU Policy Advisor to spend half of her working time in Brussels, as initially intended. Instead, she has mainly been working from home in Finland since mid-March.

Although the project has thus taken a different shape than was planned, ELCF and CEC propose to continue the cooperation until 31 December 2021 to be able to strengthen the voice of churches in Brussels and develop the advocacy work on EU Affairs of CEC.

The Senior EU Policy Advisor will during 2021 continue working for CEC in addition to her ELCF-related tasks, dedicating at least 25 % of her full working time to CEC-related tasks. As soon as the situation permits, she will resume working about two weeks a month in Brussels.



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## **The tasks of the Senior EU Policy Advisor relating to CEC advocacy work at EU level are:**

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- Contributing to developing and enhancing the dialogue between the EU and Churches according to Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty (TFEU) and contributing to the Article 17 related meetings of CEC.
- Planning and developing an advocacy strategy for CEC.
- Coordinating the CEC work related to EU Presidencies.
- Coordinating the CEC work related to the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe.
- Coordinating a CEC Task Force on EU legislation and policy
- Take responsibility for a 'Europe of Values' discussion forum at the European level.
- Other tasks and duties assigned by the CEC General Secretary.

All CEC-related tasks are to be carried out in close cooperation with the General Secretary and CEC Executive Staff Members. All CEC-related tasks support the ELCF work on European Affairs, and vice versa.

## **Economic consequences, duties and responsibilities of the parties**

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ELCF remains the employer of the Senior EU Policy Advisor, covering all salary costs, expenses for travelling between Helsinki and Brussels, accommodation and ordinary insurance costs. ELCF also covers additional expenses relating to tasks carried out for and on behalf of ELCF. ELCF provides the Senior EU Policy Advisor with a mobile phone with subscription and a laptop PC.

CEC provides office space for the Senior EU Policy Advisor in the CEC Brussels office, including office services. CEC does not participate in the salary costs of the Senior EU Policy Advisor, but will cover expenses directly linked to CEC-related tasks, such as traveling and representation expenses, participation fees etc. Such costs and expenses are always to be agreed upon separately and well in advance with the CEC General Secretary. The Senior EU Policy Advisor will attend meetings of the CEC Staff Collegium and, if deemed appropriate by the CEC General Secretary, CEC Governing Board and Presidency meetings.

The Director General of the Church Council of ELCF remains the primary superior of the Senior EU Policy Advisor. In tasks related to CEC, the CEC General Secretary will act as the superior. The Director General of the Church Council of ELCF and the General Secretary of CEC shall maintain regular contact to monitor and discuss the implementation of the joint project.

The cooperation project may be terminated by either party at any time without notice.



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## Reporting and evaluation of the project

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The Senior EU Policy Advisor will report on a regular basis about activities relating to the project to the Director General of the Church Council of ELCF and to the General Secretary of CEC.

In November 2021, both Parties (represented by Director General of the Church Council of ELCF and the General Secretary of CEC) shall evaluate the project and make recommendations on the continuation of cooperation regarding advocacy work on the European level.

Brussels / Helsinki, November 2020

Jørgen Skov Sørensen

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