



Conference of European Churches CEC Peace Conference 2019 10-12 September 2019, Paris, France

Introduction

2019 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). It also marks the 100th anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference. Given CEC's ongoing role of promoting reconciliation and building peace, CEC is hosting in the autumn of this year a significant international conference, with a twin focus on the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the current global and European situation.

The proposed 2019 CEC Peace Conference will reflect on the past as well as provide greater understanding for the context in which we live today. Reconciliation for peace as desired and as experienced in the different churches of CEC can then become a central leitmotif for CEC in its wider engagement in society.

The Conference's outcomes will be:

- Participants will be more critically aware of the legacy of the past and the legacy impact on contemporary relationships within Europe and the world.
- The capacity for participants to reflect theologically and ethically on a dark past and the major challenges within 21st century Europe and the world will be enhanced.
- CEC and Member Churches will be empowered to be mobilised and to become more actively engaged in a public role of positive peace building in contemporary Europe, especially through the Peace Task Force of the Conference of European Churches *being set up*.

Draft Programme – CEC Peace Conference 2019

10 September 2019 NAMING THE PAST

ARRIVALS

12.00-13.00 Welcome and registration at the Institut Protestant de Théologie
IPT: 83, Boulevard Arago, 76014 Paris

13.00 Bus leave the IPT for the Palace of Versailles
Experiencing the Palace of Versailles where the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919

19.00 **Opening of the Conference**

Opening Prayer – Protestant

19.15 – 20.00 **Words of Welcome** by Rev. Christian Krieger, President of the Conference of European Churches and by H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, acting President of the Council of Christian Churches in France

Greetings by Sylvain Waserman, Vice-President, French National Assembly and by Claudia Roth, Vice-President, German Bundestag

Opening Address 'Paris 1919: Recreating The International Order?'

In 1919 much of the world came to Paris to try and construct, in the wake of one of the most destructive wars in history, a new world order. Questions to be considered include: Did Paris succeed? To what extent was the Paris 1919 task a thankless task? Paris 1919's aim was to recreate the international order but whose order? What are the legacies of Paris that remain?

Speaker: Johnston McMaster, adjunct assistant professor, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin

20.30 *Dinner at FIAP Jean Monnet – 30 rue Cabanis 75014 Paris*

11 September 2019 UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT

8.45 – 9.00 *Morning Prayer – Orthodox*

9.00 – 10.10 ***Seminar 1 'The West's Legacy in the Middle East'***

The legacy of the Paris mandate is still with us in the Middle East with the crisis in Syria and Iraq and other regions and countries and the continuing volatile reality of Israel / Palestine. What responsibility does the Atlantic West have for the past, present and future?

Moderator: Rev. Aaro Rytönen, Executive Director Al Amana Centre, Muscat, Oman

Speakers: H.E. Ambassador Nagi Abi Assi and Mr Ziad El Sayegh, Middle East Council of Churches

10.15 – 11.25 ***Seminar 2 'Populism, Sustainability and Economics'***

Much of the 1919 Paris Conference was about economics, which still dominate our concerns and efforts for peacebuilding. But can we construct just economics within the life of the world? Just economics are needed to address the ongoing challenges of economic migration, in order to create a more just world and healthy environment. What responses are required to increasing populism and the growth of new forms of nationalism?

Moderator: Rev. Alwyn Pettersen, Church of England

Speaker: Rev. Tony Addy, Consultant, Lutheran World Federation

11.25 – 11.50 *Break*

11.50 – 13.00 ***Seminar 3 'Keys to Interfaith Engagement - Strengthening the peacebuilding praxis of faith communities'***

Interfaith engagement is an imperative of our time but often within the churches there is hesitancy and a lack of confidence and skills of dialogue for such an engagement. How can people of faith be equipped and empowered for interfaith engagement.

Moderator: (tbc) Conference of European Churches

Speaker: (tbc) Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30

Panel discussion 'The Abrahamic Religions and the Dialogue of Peace'

Much conflict in the world has a religious dimension but religion also has deep resources for peacebuilding. No one religion by itself can build peace but peace in the world may depend, in part, on peace between Christianity, Judaism and Islam. This is especially true in a world where there are growing tensions between Christianity and Islam. An enhanced and sustained dialogue of peace between the Abrahamic traditions is an imperative of our time.

Moderator: Johnston McMaster, adjunct assistant professor, Trinity College, Dublin

Speakers: Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee, International Director of Interreligious Affairs;

Fr Themistocles Hadjioannou, Church of Cyprus

H.E. Mohammad Al-Sammak, Secretary General, National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue;

15.30 – 15.45

Break

15.45 – 17.00

Peace Forum: 'Europe's Peace Vocation and the Role of Security and Peace' The world order is changing. There is, for example, a current dynamic described as 'Easternisation' as power and wealth move from West to East, to China in particular as the emerging super power. In the realignment of power blocs what is Europe's role in the coming world order? Has Europe a distinctive peace vocation and what might it look like? What is the Churches' role in helping to shape the peace vocation? Security has become an obsession in the 21st century and often such security seems to be of a militarised form. Can this truly be described as peace?

Moderator: Rev. Dr Björn Cedersjö, Christian Council of Sweden

Speakers: H.E. Mgr. Youssef Soueif, Archbishop of the Maronites in Cyprus, representing the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)

OKRin.i.R. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Church and Peace;

Jan Oberg, director, Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research, TFF, Lund, Sweden;

Evening Prayer – Baptist

19.00 *Dinner – CEC 60th anniversary at FIAP Jean Monnet – 30 rue Cabanis 75014 Paris*

12 September 2019 VISIONING THE FUTURE

8.45 – 9.00 *Morning Prayer – Lutheran*

9.00 – 10.30 ***Address ‘The Public Role of European Churches in Peacebuilding and International Affairs’***

CEC and its Member Churches have a vocation to be active participants in God’s mission of peacebuilding and reconciliation. What, then, has been the role of CEC and its member Churches in peacebuilding and reconciliation since its creation, 60 years ago? The Conference of European Churches has also the public role of articulating a moral vision of peace. How can CEC and its Member Churches carry out this public role? What actions are necessary or are called for? How can churches mobilise for peace work?

Moderator: Julija Vidović, Serbian Orthodox Church

Speaker: H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Ecumenical Patriarchate

10.30 – 11.15 *Break*

11.15 – 12.45 ***Creating a CEC 2019 Paris Peace Treaty***

A century ago, the Paris Peace conference produced a series of treaties. Perhaps the best known was the Treaty of Versailles. Can we create a CEC 2019 Paris Peace Treaty? This session will involve a series of small groups with each group invited to propose one action point, which would encourage and help the Churches to be peacebuilders in the 21st century.

Introduction by Rev. Alwyn Pettersen

Moderator for reflection group 1: Rev. Aaro Rytönen, Executive Director Al Amana Centre, Muscat, Oman

Moderator for reflection group 2: Antje Heider-Rottwilm, OKRin.i.R., Church and Peace

Moderator for reflection group 3: Rev. Björn Cedersjö, Christian Council of Sweden

Moderator for reflection group 4: Katerina Pekridou, Conference of European Churches

12.45 – 13.00

Concluding remarks – (tbc)

13:00

End of the Conference