Introduction

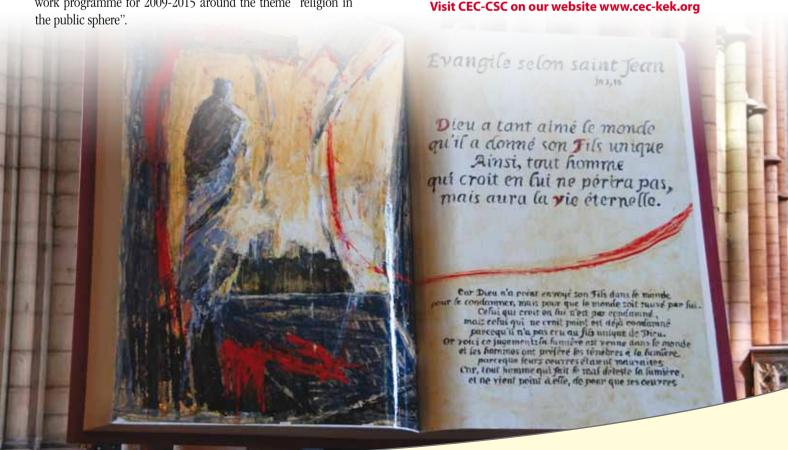
Ms Anthea Cox, Co-Moderator of the Church and Society Commission of CEC

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Church and Society Commission.

009 was a special year for the Commission as it saw several anniversaries including 50 Years of Ecumenical Presence in Brussels, 50th Anniversary of CEC and 10 years of the merger between CEC and EECCS. This meant that the plenary meeting of the CSC had an added dimension provided by meeting in Nyborg Strand, Denmark, the place where the European churches met for the first CEC Assembly in 1959. This became a time for looking back over the achievements of the Commission as well as looking forward.

During the year the Commission's work has included the review of the work programme for the previous and the coming year, preparation of the 13th Assembly of CEC in Lyon, 15-21 July 2009, evaluation of our work and developing the CSC's draft work programme for 2009-2015 around the theme "religion in The previous six years of the Commission's work was taken forward to the 13th CEC Assembly during July, where the work priorities were agreed for the next Commission.

As the members of the last Commission hand over to the newly appointed members. I wish to convey my thanks to all those who have served on the Church and Society Commission and have offered their experience, enthusiasm, knowledge and theological reflection to its important work. Special thanks also to the CSC Executive Committee, including those who, beside myself, have served as Co-Moderators: Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm OKR'in, Hegumen Philip (Ryabykh) and Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba. I know that all the members of the Commission would want me to save my final thanks for the CSC staff and their Director, Rev. Rüdiger Noll, for the tremendous work they do.





Foreword

Rev. Rüdiger Noll, CSC Director and Associate General Secretary of CEC

he Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches is engaged on a daily basis with its member churches and the European Institutions on European issues and concerns. However, from time to time, it is important to take a step back from the daily commitments and to reflect together with one's constituency on the common mission and future priorities. What are the challenges ahead? How can the Church and Society Commission meet these challenges? The year 2009 provided several occasions for such reflections.

The first occasion was the Assembly of the Conference of European Churches, which takes place every six years. 300 delegates from member churches as well as many associated organisations, advisers, observers and guests came together in Lyon (France) from 15 to 21 July 2009 in order to reflect on the theme of hope, to take stock of the work of the Conference of European Churches and its Commissions in recent years and to set priorities for the future. (cf. article on pages 10-11)

The Assembly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) — another special occasion on which to look back and to look forward. CEC was founded in 1959 in Nyborg (Denmark) as a bridge-building organisation between the churches in Europe, especially between the churches east and west of the emerging iron curtain. Building bridges remains a major task of CEC,

but not only between the churches of Eastern and Western Europe, but also between majority and minority churches of different confessions, churches in the global South and North, between rich and poor, men and women, young and old. CEC stands for the unity of the churches and endeavours to strengthen their common witness in society as well as vis-à-vis the European Institutions.

Parallel to the establishment of CEC as a pan-European ecumenical organisation, civil servants started at about the same time to establish a Groupe Oecuménique, one of the founding streams of what is now known as the Church and Society Commission (CSC). The initial worship service of the Groupe Oecuménique

Both the CEC Assembly and the church and society secretaries affirmed the importance of the churches' commitment in the Charta Oecumenica (2001) "to seek agreement with one another on the substance and goals of our social responsibility, and to represent in concert, as far as possible, the concerns and visions of the churches vis-à-vis the secular European institutions".

was held in Brussels on 11 February 1959. Therefore, 2009 did not only see the 50th anniversary of CEC, but also of the CSC. At their annual meeting in November 2009 the church and society secretaries of European churches were joined by former leaders and former staff of the CSC in order to celebrate 50 vears of ecumenical presence vis-à-vis the European Institutions in Brussels. The former Director, Rev. Marc Lenders, joined by one of the pioneers, Helmut von Verschuer, and others addressed present challenges in the light of the raison d'être and the mission of the CSC. http://csc.ceceurope.org/who-we-are/ csc-background/.

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However, the year 2009 was not only one of taking stock. Too many important developments required the attention of the Church and Society Commission and of European churches; to name just a few: the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Copenhagen UN Climate Change Conference, the preparations for an EU strategy 2020, and the election of a new European Parliament. In addition, the churches continued their debates on human rights, globalisation and

Following a CEC Assembly, new governing bodies are elected for CEC as a whole as well as for its Commissions. Therefore, we want to use this opportunity to also thank all those who have supported the work of the CSC over the last six years: as members of the Commission or its Executive Committee, as members of its Working Groups, Task Forces and Project Groups. It is the indispensable contribution and commitment of member churches and their representatives that on so many occasions made it possible for the common voice of the churches to be heard. We especially wish to give thanks to our Co-Moderators during this

time: Ms Anthea Cox, Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm OKR'in and Hegumen Philip (Ryabykh).

At the same time, the CSC prays for God's blessing for the new leadership of CEC, the President, H.E. Metr. Emmanuel of France, and Vice-Presidents Rev. Cordelia Kopsch and The Right Rev. Christopher Hill. The newly-elected Church and Society Commission will meet for the first time in May 2010.





What kind of dialogue do we need? - CEC and Latin American Council of Churches discussing the challenge of globalisation

CLAI on the impacts of globalisation was one of the major initiatives of the CSC carried out in 2009. The joint CSC/CEC and CLAI project was already initiated shortly after the WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre. The joint Task Force with delegated members from both partner organisations was a driving force taking over the overall responsibility for the project. Two meetings during 2009 in Buenos Aires and Oslo demonstrated the willingness and ability of both ecumenical organisations to work together.

The major outcome of the process was a growing trust towards each other. The Latin American delegation expressed it in the following words: "As the process is going on, we are arriving at consensus on a number of themes. Although still having different positions in other fields, which result from historical experiences, we are able to identify a number of common areas of concern and to define joint actions. We will always remember with gratitude all the preparations and details that CEC did for the CEC-CLAI dialogue".

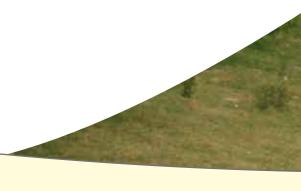
The meetings demonstrated the need to respect each other in the differences we experience and to strengthen our ability to listen to each other. Mutual exchange confirmed the need to work on overcoming the lack of information, misperceptions and sometimes prejudices, which strongly influence an appreciation of each other from two different continents. The project was a process of mutually coming closer together. The willingness to discuss and to understand different realities, experiences, judgments and histories, and to learn from them, was demonstrated by both sides.

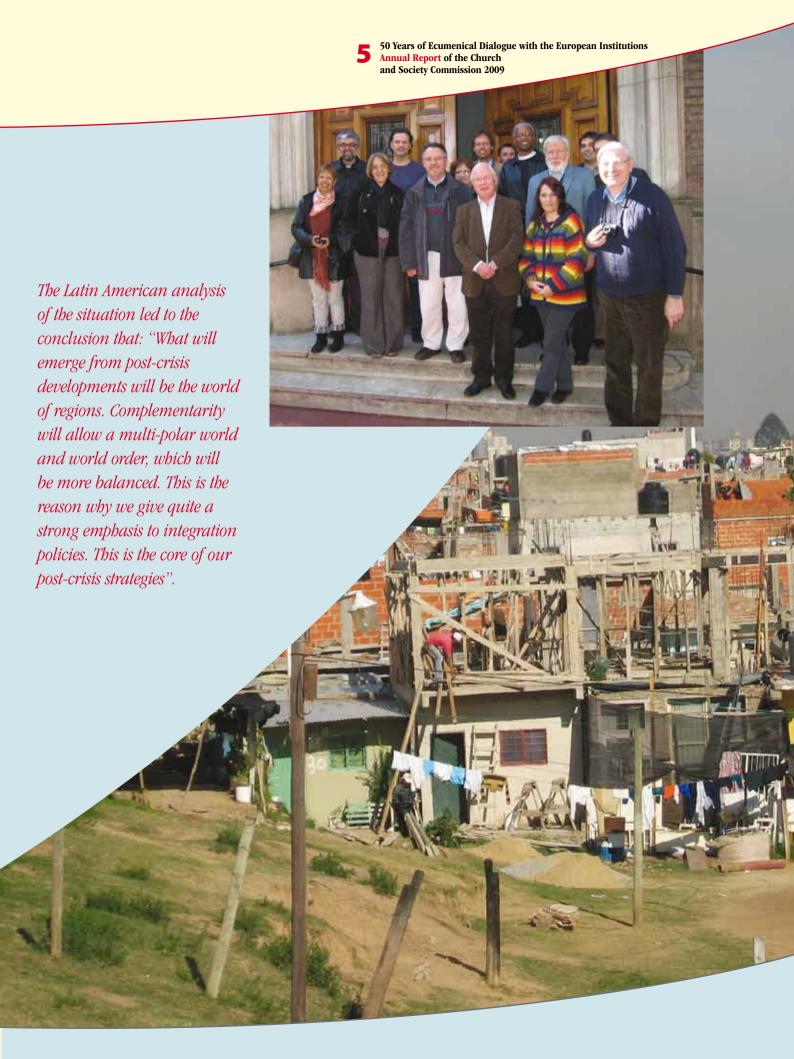
The economic and financial crisis, its impacts and challenges for the churches' work induced by this development, were at the centre of the discussion. The Latin American analysis of the situation led to the conclusion that: "What will emerge from post-crisis developments will be the world of regions. Complementarity will allow a multi-polar world and world order, which will be more balanced. This is the reason why we give quite a strong emphasis to integration policies. This is the core of our post-crisis strategies".

The European experience with the integration process and with the implementation of the rules of the social market economy were therefore an appropriate and welcome contribution to the agenda. Both delegations agreed that: "The core of the integration process has to be the individual, the human being and a better quality of life. This would require combining the market and the state in our countries. This would be something other than an extended market: a place for development of advanced regulation so that the quality of labour is guaranteed".

The identification of areas for joint action and mutual support is part of the outcome of the dialogue.

The question, "What is the role of the church?" has been raised in different forms and at different stages of the project. The challenge, expressed in the words of the President of CLAI, Bishop Julio Murray: "Can we create a strategic alliance between CEC and CLAI? Can we define together programmes empowering civil society, to think anew the role of the church in civil society?" resonated intensively in the ears of the participants and is a challenge for the follow-up work of both ecumenical organisations.







Poverty Hurts Your Soul

1 t the CEC General Assembly in July 2009 the delegates from CEC Member Churches and Associated Organisations described poverty and social exclusion as a major challenge for the churches in Europe. They reported from their experience at home: Families who do not know how to pay back their debts, single mothers in the daily struggle to find the necessary resources for their children, homeless people coming to the vicarage asking for shelter, unemployed workers queuing up in front of the soup kitchens in the parishes, because the social benefits only last until the middle of the month.

Europe is a very rich continent, but at the same time a place where more than 10 million people do not have enough to eat every day and where every fifth child grows up under the threat of poverty, often inherited from one generation to another. Poverty does not only mean a deprivation of basic human needs. It also means deprivation in participating in social life. And it has an important ethical dimension. One reason for poverty is the lack of responsibility for others. It is the consequence of putting the self-interest before the common good. To put it with the words of an early Church father: "The bread of the greedy is not coming from God." (Gregory of Nyssa)

In the year 2009, the financial and economic crisis drastically increased the risk of poverty for the people in Europe. And it has called into question a number of assumptions which have underpinned European economic policies in recent

decades, such as deregulation, the primacy of economic criteria in all areas of life as well as an overemphasis on profit and growth. In a conference on "Shaping European economic and social policies in times of uncertainty", organised by CSC in the European Parliament in April 2009, representatives of CEC member churches met with Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the EU Presidency and of the European Commission. As a result of these discussions, they addressed the three Presidents of the European institutions in an open letter: "The current crisis has an important ethical dimension: Our societies are suffering from a lifestyle which is focusing on individual profit, consumption and greed rather than taking responsibility for the common good, the well-being and the future for all people and for the world we are living in. ... To meet the challenges of the crisis it will be necessary to come to significant changes in the economic and social policies of the European Union and its Member States. Change would mean to translate EU's values more strongly into economic as well as social and environmental policies. Change would mean to significantly reduce the level of unemployment in the European Union. Change would mean to ensure all people in Europe are enabled to live a dignified life ..."

The churches were glad to see that Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, in his political guidelines for the new Commission, picked up the importance of ethical values for EU policies: "The crisis that we face is not just a financial or an economic crisis. It is also a crisis for the values of our societies. ... Europe has to answer a decisive question. Do we want to lead, shaping globalisation on the basis of our values and our interests — or will we leave the initiative to others and accept an outcome shaped by them?"







Climate Change — an Agenda for the Churches



he meeting in Copenhagen was the culmination of a long negotiation process that aimed to prepare the way for the commitments through which industrialised countries in particular are expected to address the need for a dramatic decrease in their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

The meeting demonstrated one of the rare occasions when people from different nations, continents, races and religions had come together, either through their presence in Copenhagen or through many supportive actions throughout the world, to raise their voice in demanding visible results from their elected representatives.

Climate change has been strongly present on the agenda of the EU throughout 2009, as well as on the agenda of the CSC, many churches and church-related ecumenical organisations. In a joint letter to the EU Presidency, prepared in cooperation with our Roman-Catholic partner organisation, COMECE, CSC urged EU leaders to play a proactive role on the way to Copenhagen. Together with COMECE, a Dialogue meeting between representatives of churches and the EU was also organised that gave an opportunity to address climate change in direct talks with high representatives of the political institutions in Brussels.

Climate change, as an expression of our relationship to the environment and of the need for Christian involvement in caring for creation, is increasingly becoming one of the areas of intensive work for the churches. This became clear during the Summit in Copenhagen. Christians from around the world demonstrated their support and hope for a just, equitable and binding outcome of the talks, with church services, marches and the ringing of bells. Many churches and churchrelated organisations, including CEC, were present in Copenhagen through their delegates. They actively stepped into the process through advocacy, by organising a number of events presenting the churches' perspective on climate change and the need for protection of the creation, as well as by organising prayers and worship services during the Summit.

The visible presence of recognised church leaders, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the ecumenical worship service in Copenhagen Cathedral with the participation of the Queen of Denmark, gave the meeting a special flavour.

In spite of disappointment, the outcome of Copenhagen for churches is an encouragement to pursue the work. Political aims, although important, are just steps on the way to the churches' agenda. Response to climate change is inherent to care for creation, which is part of the everyday life of millions of Christians in Europe and the world. This is the reason why churches' work in the area of climate change through ECEN as well as CSC, will continue in the years to come with at least the same intensity as in 2009. The ECEN Assembly in 2010 and

the ongoing dialogue on climate change with the European institutions, facilitated through the CSC, are significant elements in the churches' ecumenical work in the coming period of time. This has to be a joint work. This is also a reason why the CEC Central Committee in responding to the Copenhagen outcome underlined the invitation for CEC member churches, church communities at the grassroots level and individual Christians "to continue the efforts which are already visible in many places in Europe in reducing our ecological footprint, limiting energy consumption and in our efforts for climate justice. God's creation needs to be protected, cultivated and sustained for future generations. In following this aim the CEC is committed to intensify its work in this area".



The outcomes of the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen are disappointing for most of those linked to the negotiations in their various capacities: delegates, observers, civil society groups, as well as those who followed it at closer or greater distance.



Equipped for the Year(s) to Come

The 13th Assembly of CEC and Work Priorities for CSC

alled to One Hope in Christ» was the theme of the 13th CEC Assembly, under which about 300 delegates from the member churches of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), associated organisations, advisers, observers and guests gathered in Lyon (France) on 15-21 July 2009. The Assembly is the highest governing body of CEC and meets every six years. Besides addressing present day challenges under the main theme, a lot of housekeeping

work was in store for the delegates and the other participants from all over Europe.

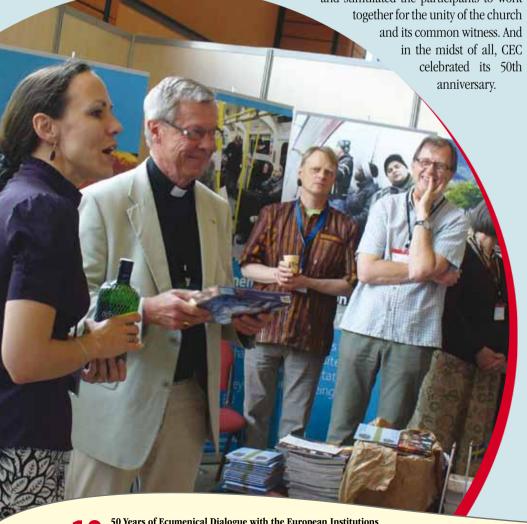
The days of the Assembly were devoted to special themes, taking the participants on a journey, starting with their hopes and visions for Europe, towards the adoption of work priorities for CEC. This journey took its impetus and its energy from the spiritual life of the Assembly. The working days were framed by worship services and prayers, which encouraged and stimulated the participants to work

> and its common witness. And in the midst of all, CEC celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The journey did not begin with the Assembly itself; it had been preceded by a participatory process. All preparatory documents as well as speeches during the Assembly and its results can be found on the Assembly website: www.assembly. ceceurope.org

It was interesting to hear so many people from different confessions and from so varied backgrounds expressing their hopes and visions for Europe and for ecumenical structures such as CEC. Their discussions were enriched by presentations and reflections personalities such as H.B. Daniel. Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, by speakers from other continents, and by Ms Anthea Cox, Co-Moderator of the Church and Society Commission, who addressed the audience with her vision.

A main concern of the Assembly was to equip CEC for the years to come. To that effect, the Assembly set up a Special Working Group with the mandate to review the vision, strategic goals and structures of CEC in the near future. In addition, the Report of the Policy Reference Committee of the Assembly outlines a policy framework, under which thematic priorities are to be addressed.



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The report emphasises that the longing for unity and the common witness of the churches belong together as two sides of the same coin. Besides mentioning several specific work areas, the report also highlights the importance of CEC being a coherent organisation which strengthens dialogue and ecumenical relations.

Present challenges were addressed in public statements on migration, the financial crisis, human rights and religious freedom, creation, nuclear weapons and on the solidarity with the Roma minority in Europe. Most of these issues have been carried forward in the work programmes of CEC Commissions, in particular in the framework of the "European Year of Churches Responding to Migration", announced by the Assembly for 2010, and in the framework of the Church and Society Commission of CEC.

Based on the deliberations of the Assembly, the Church and Society Commission proposed six thematic priorities for the year(s) to come for adoption by the newly elected Central Committee of CEC. Besides monitoring the European institutions in all areas of concern for the churches, the Commission intends to remain actively involved with the churches and the European Institutions in issues related to human rights, education, social justice, globalisation, science and technology and nuclear weapons.



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In Brief

Education – A European matter?

The EU developed a European education strategy (ET 2020) following the general strategic framework of the EU (EU 2020). While fully respecting the responsibility of its Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of the educational system (Lisbon Treaty, Art. 165), an increased cooperation of Member States in this field would help the EU "to achieve"

its ambition to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world".

A complex process of Europeanization is taking place which is influencing content, structure and perspectives of national and regional contexts of education. Activities on the European level have an impact at national level. This also affects the churches as important stakeholders in the field of education. The EU is currently focusing on learning mobility, lifelong learning and citizenship education. The Council of Europe is highlighting the importance of teaching about religions in public schools.

CSC recognised the need for churches to actively take part

in this discussion and in June 2009 convened a brainstorming group with experts from CEC member churches and associated organisations, in order to develop a strategy for CSC and reflect on the programmes of the European institutions. The brainstorming group will continue its work in May 2010.

Gender Training

In March 2009 all members of the CSC staff attended a Gender Training in Brussels. The two male and female trainers gave an introduction on Gender theory and stereotypes and the impact this has especially at the work place. A second part consisted of teambuilding measures, taking into account Gender elements as well as the intercultural situation of our team. The Gender training was perceived as a positive

experience and the newly raised gender awareness had a visible influence on all areas of CSC work. Gender equality is a priority issue for the whole of CEC. There is a strong wish for a follow-up training within the next working period.

Since the training, issues of diversity, communication, team work and staff management are regularly raised and discussed in staff meetings. To agree on common standards for communication was one of the main concerns and will remain a crucial issue in 2010





n the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the CoE, in a letter to the President of its Parliamentary Assembly and its Secretary General, CEC stated that "through its Church and Society Commission, CEC contributes to the core values of the CoE: human rights, democracy, rule of law, tolerance and social cohesion". CSC makes the voice of European churches heard within the CoE, and also that of civil society together with the INGO community enjoying participatory status. CSC has observer status in the CoE Steering Committee on Bioethics and is invited to

Working Groups related to its Steering Committee for Human Rights. CSC maintains good relations with the representations of Member States, with members of the Parliamentary Assembly, judges at the Human Rights Court and civil servants. The Strasbourg office, in particular, enables CSC to actively pursue its critical support to the CoE and its 47 member states, which are called upon "to strengthen their commitment to defend human rights against the constant temptation to infringe them and to strengthen the foundations of democracy throughout the continent".





CSC actively participates in the work of the Advisory Panel of the EU FRA

The second meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) took place on 5-6 May 2009 in Vienna. Ninety-three European Human Rights experts from civil society discussed the FRA's Work Programme for 2010 and 2011.

The themes "The impact of the economic crisis on human rights" and "Under-reporting by victims of human rights violations: lack of awareness on where and how to report: what Civil Society Organisations and the FRA can do?" were discussed in the plenary. An Advisory Panel/Contact Group

of the EU Fundamental Rights Platform was established. Ms Elizabeta Kitanovic, Human Rights Secretary of the CEC Church and Society Commission, was elected as one of its nine members. The task of the Panel is to facilitate the effective functioning of the Platform, suggesting, where necessary, adjustments and improvements to processes and procedures, thus facilitating a vibrant, healthy dialogue between the Platform and the Director of the FRA. The Advisory Panel will be independent, neither representing political opinions nor views of the Platform or of the FRA.

Czech and Swedish churches take the chance of the EU Presidencies



The EU Presidencies offer the churches of the Presidency country a special opportunity to take part in shaping Europe and making European cooperation relevant back home.

In January 2009, both the Czech Government and Czech churches issued presidency programmes entitled "Europe without barriers". Whereas the emphasis of the government was, for instance, on the promotion of free movement of goods, services and capital, the churches used those six months to promote open civil society, social cohesion and environmental protection. Several events were organised to that end in addition to the meetings with the government.

In July, it was Sweden's turn to take the lead of the Union. Acting jointly under

the auspices of the Christian Council of Sweden, the churches concentrated on four topics: climate change, migration and human trafficking, EU enlargement and arms trade. A number of events were organised both in Sweden and in Brussels. Also the Swedish churches put their vision of Europe on paper with separate publications aimed at the wider public ("Take part in Europe") and the decision-makers ("Take responsibility in Europe").



CSC will continue to support churches in their presidency activities and in enabling past experiences to be shared with those taking the chance in the future. Read more in Europe Updates N° 22 and 26-28 (http://csc.ceceurope.org/index.php?id=522).

Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) — The Leuenberg Church Fellowship



Almost all Protestant churches in Europe are member churches of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe. Its basic document is the Leuenberg Agreement of 1973, which marks the end of the more than 450-year church division between the Lutheran and Reformed churches.

On the basis of the common understanding of the Gospel, the signatory churches grant one another a pulpit and table fellowship and commit themselves "to strive for the fullest possible community in witness and service to the world".

CPCE understands this commitment as an obligation for close cooperation with those churches that have not yet been able to come to full church unity in sharing of the pulpit and the sacraments. Thus CPCE decided not to open its own representation towards the European institutions but to relate to the European institutions through the CSC of CEC. Since 2004, Rev. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann has been working as the representative of CPCE in the CSC office in Brussels, which has enabled all CEC member churches to benefit from his work. The last

CPCE General Assembly in Budapest 2006 confirmed this commitment to ecumenical cooperation: "Whenever possible, the churches in Europe should speak with a common voice. In so doing they fulfil the obligation that they entered into by signing the Charta Oecumenica".

Further information on CPCE: www.leuenberg.eu

European Integration – a Way Forward?



The CSC document — European integration - a way forward? — is the result of intensive work by the CSC Working Group on European Integration. The document offers an analysis of the historical and political framework of the process, as well as discussions of various contributions by churches to European integration. The document was presented to the 13th CEC Assembly in Lyon.

The text also offers a background for continuing discussion among churches and Christians in Europe and encourages readers to give particular attention in this discussion to themes such as:

• what elements can unify Europe vis-à-vis existing diversity? • what role does culture play in the integration process? • can churches present a unifying view on values in Europe? • what forms should solidarity take at European and national levels? CSC would welcome any comments and reactions to the text.



CSC Goes Public

• CSC Briefing Paper on Climate Change Policy

February

European Parliament Elections, 4-7 June 2009 - Guide for Churches and Christian organisations in the EU (jointly produced with Aprodev, CCME and Eurodiaconia)

European Parliament Elections 4-7 June 2009 Guide for Churches and Christian organisations in the European Union our Christian vision - our concerns - our questions

March

- CSC Briefing on the Commission Proposal for Post-Kyoto Negotiations
- CSC Report on the Treaty of Lisbon
- Statement: European Churches call the European Union and its Member States to protect Sunday as a weekly rest day
- Press Release: Ecumenical groups set priorities for June 2009 European elections
- Press Release: Churches in Europe encourage EU heads of States and Governments to play a leading role in tackling the climate change (Jointly issued with COMECE)



Release: The Church and Society Commission of CEC meets in Denmark



- Press Release: European Churches call upon the European Union and its Member States to protect Sunday as a weekly day of rest
- Press Release: Church and Society Commission of CEC discusses future work programme in light of CEC 50 Year Jubilee Assembly

April

- · CSC Briefing on the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Press Release: European Churches and EU Institutions discuss Economic Crisis
- Press Release: European Churches urge EU to give priority to people in the economic crisis

May

• Open letter to the Presidents of the EU institutions: "The economic crisis is a call for change"



- Press Release: Second meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Press Release: Annual meeting of religious leaders with the Presidents of the EU Institutions: the economic and financial crisis as a call for change

Press Release: Christians call for a new model of global integration (Jointly issued with CLAI)

June

Press Release: Climate change: Challenge for lifestyles, solidarity and global justice (Jointly issued with COMECE)

July

· CSC Briefing on EU Enlargement

October



Press Release: Church representatives meet the Swedish EU Presidency (Jointly issued with COMECE)

December

- Press Release: Churches urge Europe to back Obama's nuclear policy
- Press Release: Religious freedom for everyone
- Public statement responding to the outcomes of the UN climate meeting in Copenhagen



CSC Main Events 2009

January

 Visit of a delegation from the Czech Churches (Brussels)



February

- Post-2012 Climate Change Briefing Event (Brussels)
- Meeting with Swedish Evangelical Free Churches (Brussels)
- Visit of Bishops of the Church of Denmark (Brussels)



 Visit of the Faith in Europe group led by Philip Walters (Brussels)



 Visit of a delegation of the Serbian Orthodox Church to the EU Institutions (Brussels)



March

CSC Plenary Meeting 2009 (Nyborg, Denmark)



 Visit of a delegation from the Churches Along the Rhine (Brussels)



April

 Conference in the European Parliament on "Shaping European Economic and Social Policies in Times of Uncertainty" (Brussels)



May

 Meeting of religious leaders with Jose-Manuel Barroso, President of EU Commission (Brussels)



 Dialogue meeting between CSC and CLAI on globalisation (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

June

- Brainstorming Meeting on Education (Brussels)
- Meeting with Mr Ahmet Saçinti, Turkey Presidency of Religious Affairs (Brussels)
- Visit of the UK churches Joint Public Issues Team (Brussels)
- Dialogue Seminar on Climate Change (Brussels)
- CoE annual exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue – teaching of religious and conventional facts (Strasbourg)
- Meeting on the work of CEC with ACAT French National Committee (Paris)
- Conference on Bioethics for the Council of Christian Churches in France at the FPF (Paris)
- Visit of French-German Lutheran pastors led by André Lazerus (Strasbourg)

July

• CEC 13th Assembly (Lyon, France)



September

- Visit of the Council of the Cantonal Church of Glarus, Switzerland (Strasbourg)
- Visit to CEC Member Churches in Greece (Athens)
- Visit of a delegation from the Ecumenical Council of Churches of Slovakia (Brussels)
- Meeting with Swedish EU Presidency (Stockholm)

October

- ECEN Seminar «Churches responding to Climate Change» (Lund, Sweden)
- Meeting with representations of CEC Member Churches to the Institutions (Brussels)
- Visit of a group of pastors from the Church of Sweden (Brussels)

November

- Meeting of Press Officer's Network of European Churches (PONEC) (Brussels)
- CSC Annual Meeting of Europe Secretaries (Mechelen / Brussels)



- CEC-CLAI Dialogue on Globalisation (Oslo, Norway)
- Meeting on the Lisbon Treaty with the Agreement of Reuilly Group (Liebfrauenberg/Alsace)
- Visit of the Moderators of the United Reformed Church UK (Brussels)

December

- Visit of Bishop Riekkinen and group of Finns abroad in cooperation with Finnish embassy (Strasbourg)
- Meeting with representations of CEC Member Churches to the Institutions (Brussels)



Members and Staff of the Church and Society Commission of CEC

The Commission

Rev. Alfredo Abad Heras Spanish Protestant Church

Rev. Dr. Zoltan Bona

Reformed Church in Hungary

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Ms Anthea Cox* (co-moderator since April 2008) Methodist Church in Britain

OKR'in Dine Fecht

Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Karsten Fledelius

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

Rev. Serge Fornerod

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim

Romanian Orthodox Church

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French Protestant Federation

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Ms Lois Hough-Stewart Support Staff, Brussels Ms Elizabeta Kitanovic

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Marie-Madeleine Linck Support Staff, Strasbourg

Ms Carla Maurer

Executive Secretary, Strasbourg

Rev. John Murray

Associate Staff, Strasbourg (Anglican Chaplaincy)

Rev. Dr. Peter Pavlovic Study Secretary, Brussels

Rev. Matthew Ross (until July 2009)
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Charlotte Vander Borght

Accountant, Brussels

Canon Dr. Gary Wilton

Associate Staff, Brussels (Church of England)











fter working for six years with the CSC of CEC in Brussels, the Rev. Matthew Ross has now returned to Scotland. Matthew was seconded in a joint appointment by four UK and Irish Churches (Church of Scotland, British Methodist Church, Salvation Army and Presbyterian Church in Ireland) and served as Executive Secretary for peace, security and reconciliation from September 2003 until July 2009. He also worked on agricultural issues and corporate social responsibility. The CSC is grateful for all the work he has done, as well as to the churches which supported his appointment. We wish him and his wife Kristina every blessing for their life back in Scotland, where Matthew is now a minister of two Church of Scotland parishes near Edinburgh.





Membership of CSC Working Groups

Working Group on Bioethics and Biotechnology

Rev. Kirsti Aalto

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr. Svend Andersen

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

Prof. Dr. Stavros Baloyannis

Church of Greece

Dr. Donald Bruce

(co-opted member)

Dr. Andrea DörriesEvangelical Church in Germany

Rev. Dr. Anton Ilin

Russian Orthodox Church

Prof. Mireille Iemelin

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Prof. Karsten Lehmkühler

Church A.C. in Alsace and Lorraine

Prof. Dr. Elena Masarovicova

Evangelical Church A.C. in Slovakia

Prof. Anna Rollier

Italian Protestant Federation

Prof. Egbert Schroten (moderator) Council of Churches in the Netherlands

Dr. Stefan-Ioan Stratul

Romanian Orthodox Church

Working Group on EU Legislation

Prof. Dr. Lisbet Christoffersen

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

Dr. Altana Filos

Greek Evangelical Church

Rev. Gunnar Grönblom

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr. Gianni Long

Italian Protestant Federation

Ms Maria Lundqvist-Norling

Church of Sweden

Dr. Joanna Matuszewska

Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland

Prof. Dr. David McClean (moderator)

Church of England

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Robbers

Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stotz

Evangelical Church in Germany

Working Group on Human Rights and Religious Freedom

Rev. Peter Ciaccio

World Student Christian Federation

Mr Kirill Frolov

Russian Orthodox Church

Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim

Romanian Orthodox Church

Mr Ebbe Holm (co-moderator)

Baptist Union of Denmark

Dr. George Krippas

Church of Greece

Dr. Peter Krömer Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria Ms Anne Lagerstedt

Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women

Rev. Anthony Peck

European Baptist Federation

Dr. Daniel Spratek

Silesian Evangelical Church A.C. in the Czech Republic

Ms Ingvill Thorson Plesner (co-moderator)

Church of Norway

Dr. Anne-Ruth Wellert

Evangelical Church in Germany



Rev. Dr. Zoltán Bóna

Reformed Church in Hungary

Rev. Elfriede Dörr

Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania

Dr. David Gill

Evangelical Church in Germany

Mr William Jourdan

Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

Mr Vakhtang Kipshidze

Russian Orthodox Church

Ms Lena Kumlin LLM (co-moderator) Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis

Church of Greece

Rev. Peter Southcombe United Reformed Church in the UK

Rev. Dr. Georges Tsetsis (co-moderator)

Ecumenical Patriarchate

Working Group on Peace, Security and Reconciliation

Rev. Christine Busch

Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Paula Devejian

Armenian Apostolic Church

Ms Anette Månsson

Church of Sweden

Rev. Miklos Menessy

Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania

Rev. David Mumford

Church and Peace

Mr Georgy Roshchin Russian Orthodox Church

Dr. Karl-Reinhart Trauner

Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria

Rev. Dr. Donald Watts (moderator) Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Dr. Kostas Zorbas

Church of Greece

CSC Working Group on Social Issues

Ms Rita Bruvers

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia

OKR'in Cornelia Coenen-Marx

Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Alison Jackson (since 2008)

Methodist Church in Britain

Mag. Martin Schenk Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria

Prof. Christina Vavas

Church of Greece

Task Force on Globalisation 2008-2009

Mr Milos Calda

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Sister Fotinia

Russian Orthodox Church

Ms Anita Henslin

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia

Mr Jacob Houtman

United Protestant Church in Belgium

Dr. Tamas Kodacsy

Reformed Church in Hungary

OKR Dr. Ulrich Möller (moderator) Evangelical Church in Germany

Rev. Raag Rolfsen

Church of Norway

Mr Rob van Drimmelen

APRODEV













Our Resources

The 2009 accounts of the Church and Society Commission were closed at a total, income and expenditure, of 1.141.099,47 Euros. This is 136.110,53 € (10%) less than in 2008.

The Church and Society Commission wants to thank the member churches and all donors for their contribution. Though the Church and Society Commission needed to do fundraising for many specific projects, without the membership contributions much of the work would not have been possible.

Through its programme "Europe for Citizens", the EACEA (European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture, Executive Agency) has granted the exact amount of 19.511,52 € for the consultation organised in October 2008

(follow up in 2009) on "Christians and Muslims in Europe". The accounts for the consultation were closed in 2009.

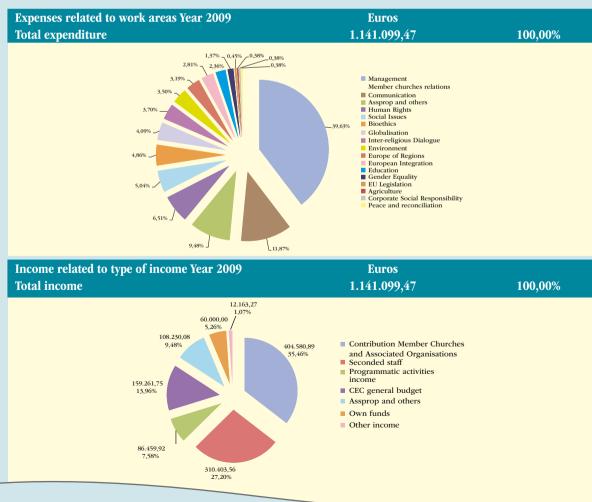


'Europe for Citizens' Programme

The Church and Society Commission would like to thank especially the member churches and partner organisations, which have contributed to the work by sending seconded staff to the Commission: the Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace/Lorraine and the Conference of the Churches Along the Rhine, the Swiss Protestant Federation, the Church in Württemberg and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, the Church

of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Unfortunately, the secondment of Matthew Ross to the Church and Society Commission by four churches from Britain and Ireland had to come to an end in June 2009.

2009 was to a certain extent an extraordinary year. Much effort was put in the organisation of the CEC Assembly, which took place in Lyon (France) 15-21 July 2009. However, the Church and Society Commission continued to monitor the European Institutions and to bring the common voice of its member churches to the Institutions. Particular highlights with regard to the programmatic activities are referred to in the articles of this Annual Report and in the overview of main events on page 15.



Plenary 2009



The last annual Plenary meeting of the Church and Society Commission before the 13th CEC Assembly, met from 11 to 15 March 2009 in Nyborg Strand, Denmark, the place where the European churches met for the first CEC Assembly in 1959. Issues discussed included the evaluation of the Commission's work over the previous six years and the strategic aims and the work programme for the period 2009–2015.

The Annual Review of the Commission's work was adopted, as well as the working plan for 2009-2010, which highlighted preparations for the 13th CEC Assembly in Lyon (France, 15-21 July 2009).

The Church and Society Commission addressed the Council of Europe on its 60th Anniversary and the European Union and its member states concerning the protection of Sunday as a weekly day of rest.

The representatives of the Danish churches, led by the Bishop of Funen, Kresten Drejergaard, and the Deputy Mayor of the City Council, Mr Alex Ahrendtsen welcomed the 24 members of the CSC Commission and staff in St. Knud's Hall at the Cathedral in Odense. A presentation on freedom of religion, interchurch affairs and ecumenical life in Denmark was given by Mr Paul Verner Skaerved, the Chair of the Council of International Relations of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark and by Rev. Holger Lam, from the Baptist Church in Denmark. Many of the church representatives present at the meeting, who have been involved in the life of CEC in the last 50 years. shared their testimonies and anecdotes including accounts from the pre-meeting at Slagelse in 1957 and from the ship MS

Representatives of the Church of Denmark affirmed their long-standing commitment to the ecumenical movement and their willingness to respond to future challenges from the Danish context.

A worship service was held in Copenhagen Cathedral on Sunday, followed by a public event on the theme "The role of religion in the public sphere".

During the plenary, Commission members thanked all the staff for the valuable work they have carried out in the previous six years.

The Church and Society Commission of CEC is grateful to the Danish Churches for hosting the event.





CEC Member Churches & Associated Organisations

CEC Member Churches



Albania

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania



Armenia

Armenian Apostolic Church



Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in

Evangelical Church of the Helvetic Confession in Austria

Old-Catholic Church in Austria United Methodist Church in Austria



Belgium

United Protestant Church in Belgium



Baptist Union of Bulgaria Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria United Methodist Church in Bulgaria

Croatia

Baptist Union of Croatia Church of God in Croatia Evangelical Church in Croatia (Lutheran) Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia Reformed Christian Church in Croatia



E Cyprus

Church of Cyprus



Czech Republic

Baptist Union in the Czech Republic Czechoslovak Hussite Church Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren Moravian Church in the Czech Republic Old-Catholic Church in the Czech Republic Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic



Denmark

Baptist Union of Denmark Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark



Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad Estonian Methodist Church Orthodox Church in Estonia



Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland Orthodox Church in Finland



France

Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of France Federation of Evangelical Christian Baptists of France French Reformed Church Malagasy Protestant Church in France Reformed Church of Alsace-Lorraine



Georgia

Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia



Germany

Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany Evangelical Church in Germany Methodist Church in Germany Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany

Great Britain

Baptist Union of Great Britain Church in Wales Church of England Church of Scotland Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom Council of African and Carribean Churches Lutheran Council of Great-Britain Methodist Church of Great Britain Presbyterian Church of Wales Salvation Army - UK Territory/Ireland Scottish Episcopal Church Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worlwide United Reformed Church



Church of Greece Greek Evangelical Church



Hungary

Baptist Union of Hungary Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Hungary Reformed Church in Hungary United Methodist Church in Hungary



---- Iceland

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Iceland



Ireland

Church of Ireland Methodist Church in Ireland Presbyterian Church in Ireland



Baptist Union of Italy Lutheran Church in Italy Methodist Church in Italy Waldensian Church in Italy



Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad



Liechtenstein

Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein



Lithuania

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Lithuania Lithuanian Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany



Luxembourg

Alliance of Protestant Churches of Luxembourg

Netherlands Mennonite Church in the Netherlands Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands

Protestant Church in the Netherlands Remonstrant Brotherhood



Church of Norway

Poland

Baptist Union of Poland Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland Lutheran Church in Poland Old-Catholic Mariavite Church in Poland Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church Polish Catholic Church (Old-Catholic) United Methodist Church in Poland

Portugal

Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church Methodist Church of Portugal Presbyterian Church of Portugal

Romania

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania

Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Romania Reformed Church in Romania - Oradea District Reformed Church in Romania - Transylvanian District Romanian Orthodox Church

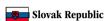


Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia Russian Orthodox Church Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptists of Russia



Serbia/Montenegro

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and Montenegro Serbian Orthodox Church Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia United Methodist Church in Macedonia United Methodist Church in Serbia



Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia

Evangelical Free Church in Slovakia Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia



Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia



Spanish Protestant Church Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church



Baptist Union of Sweden Church of Sweden Mission Covenant Church of Sweden United Methodist Church of Sweden Annual Conference



Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland Old-Catholic Church of Switzerland United Methodist Church in Switzerland/France



Ukraine

Transcarpathian Reformed Church

International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople European Continental Province of the Moravian Church Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States Salvation Army International Headquarters Europe Zone

United Methodist Church - Central and

Southern Europe United Methodist Church - Nordic and Baltic Area



CEC Associated Organisations

Action of Churches Together in Scotland

Christian Council of Norway
Christian Council of Sweden
Church and Peace
Church Mission Society
Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Churches Together in England
Churches Together in Wales
Conference of European Pastors' Association
Conference of European University Chaplains
Council of Churches in the Netherlands
Ecumenical Association for Adult Education in Europe
Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres
in Europe

Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania / AIDROM

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
Ecumenical Institute for the Nordic Region
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
Estonian Council of Churches
Eurodiaconia / European Federation for Diaconia
European Alliance of YMCAs
European Baptist Federation
European Contact Group
European Forum of Christian Men
European YWCAs
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in
Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
Finnish Ecumenical Council

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary

French Protestant Federation
Gustav Adolf Foundation
InterEuropean Commission on Church and School
International Association for Christian Education
International Prison Chaplains' Association/Europe
Irish Council of Churches
Portuguese Council of Christian Churches
Spanish Committee on Cooperation between the
Churches
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany

World Student Christian Federation (Europe)



Who We Are

The Church and Society Commission is one of the commissions of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The CSC links CEC's 125 Member Churches from all over Europe and its 40 Associated Organisations with the European Union's institutions, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, NATO and the UN (on European matters). It engages its Member Churches and Associated Organisations in studies and projects relevant to church and society and thus supports and strengthens the common witness of European churches vis-à-vis the European institutions and in the respective European societies.

The CSC was established in 1999 as a result of an

integration process between CEC and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS), both of which had a long-standing record of working in the field of church and society.

CEC was founded in 1959 as a bridge-building organisation between the churches in Eastern and Western Europe.

1984 can be regarded as the founding date for EECCS, which was established as a representation of churches vis-à-vis the European institutions.

Following this integration process, the CSC received

a special status within CEC. Its work programme as well as its working mechanisms and methods are determined by a 24-person Commission in agreement with CEC's Central Committee.

The Commission Plenary meets once a year and elects the CSC Executive Committee. In consultation with the General Secretary of CEC, it can make public statements on issues within its remit. The CSC has secretariats in Brussels and Strasbourg and maintains strong links with the CEC headquarters in Geneva. The Directorate of the CSC is based in Brussels.

Mandate and Methods

Our mandate

- Study and examination of Church and Society questions in a socio-ethical perspective such as EECCS and CEC have undertaken up to now (for example: peace, justice and the integrity of creation, reconciliation, churches and governments);
- Monitor the European institutions: European Union, Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in relation to themes such as the European integration process, democratisation, establishment of the rule of law, human rights and minority questions, European security, economic and social questions, the environment;
- Deal with the specific responsibility of the churches in the Member States of the European Union for the internal policies of the EU.

How we work

- The Church and Society Commission (CSC) monitors developments in the European institutions and makes inputs to the institutions on behalf of its Member Churches.
- CSC acts through its working groups which study church and society issues and engage Member Churches in consultations and projects on specific topics.
- CSC closely cooperates with other churchrelated organisations and NGOs such as CCME, Eurodiaconia, APRODEV and COMECE.
- CSC bases its actions on its work programme through flexible and ad-hoc working mechanisms and methods. More information on http://www. ceceurope.org.
- In the implementation of its agenda, regular communication between CSC and its Member Churches and the institutions is of crucial importance.

Long-term working groups have been established for the following priority areas of the 2004-2009 work programme:

- European Integration
- EU Legislation
- Peace, Security and Reconciliation
- · Bioethics and Biotechnology
- Human Rights and Religious Freedom
- · Social Issues

CSC also addresses the following themes with appropriate working mechanisms:

- Globalisation
- · Sustainable Development
- · Environmental Issues
- · Agriculture and Rural Life
- Gender Equality
- Education
- Inter-religious Dialogue.

Acronyms

ACAT	Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture	ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network
APRODEV	Association of WCC-related Development Agencies	EECCS	European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society
ASSPROP	Association des Propriétaires	EP	European Parliament
CALL	Church Action on Labour and Life	FPF	Fédération Protestante de France
CCME	Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe	FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
CLAI	Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias	GHG	Green House Gas
CoE	Council of Europe	ICD	Intercultural Dialogue
COMECE	Commission of Bishops' Conferences in the	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
	European Community	KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
CPCE	Community of Protestant Churches in Europe	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ECG	European Contact Group	PONEC	Press Officers' Network of European Churches
ED	Eurodiaconia	TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
		UN	United Nations

50 Years of Ecumenical Dialogue with the European Institutions
Annual Report of the Church
and Society Commission 2009

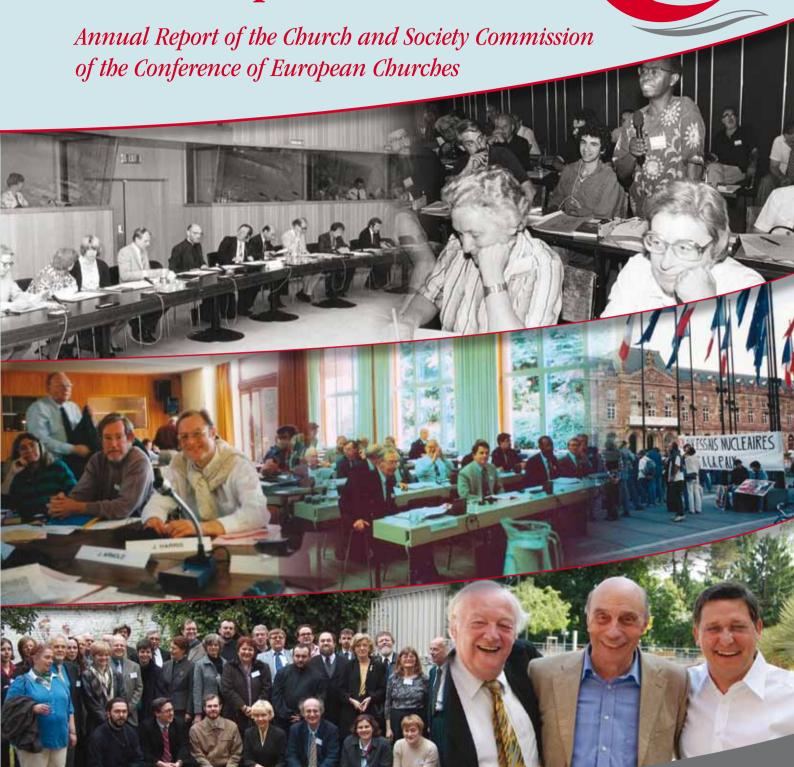
On the basis of our Christian faith, we work towards a humane, socially conscious Europe, in which human rights and the basic values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance and solidarity prevail.

(Charta Oecumenica)

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Annual Report 2009



50 Years of Ecumenical Dialogue with the European Institutions

Equipped for the Years to Come



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Various photos of the CSC and CEC history found in CSC photo archives: Photo no.1 "Dialogue Seminar with European Commission in DG Agriculture" (1974), no.2 "One of the earliest CEC Assemblies", no.3 "EECCS Assembly in 1975 British delegation", no.4 "EECCS Assembly Plenary session" (1974), no.5 "Strasbourg Protest on Nuclear weapons" (1995), no.6 "Church and Society Commission members" (2004), no.7 "Three directors in the history of EECCS/CSC".

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