



For the European Union Institutions 2006 is probably best described as a year of transition. The time of reflection on the future of the European project continues. Meanwhile, the European Commission operates and wants to show the relevance of the European project on the basis of the existing Treaties. For the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) the year 2006 was much more than just a year of transition. In response to present challenges, CEC and its CSC have launched several new projects and initiatives. This Annual Report will provide readers with a glimpse of the initiatives taken.

Reflecting on the future of the European project was very much at the centre of the CSC's work. On Europe Day (9 May), the CSC published a first statement on the future of Europe, based on discussions at the CSC Plenary meeting. Later in the year, in December, church leaders and participants from 50 churches and 28 European countries met for one of the largest and most exciting meetings in the history of the CSC. They issued an "Open

Letter" addressed to political leaders, which emphasises Europe as "a continent united in diversity" based on "shared values". The text then continues in applying common values to present challenges.

In January 2006, CEC and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) launched the process towards the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) to take place in Sibiu (Romania), 4-9 September 2007. Within the overall framework for the EEA3, set by various preparatory committees and the General Secretariats of CEC and CCEE, the CSC is closely involved in the preparations. At least three out of nine fora of the EEA3 will draw on the expertise and the resources of the Commission. Several leading representatives of the European Institutions will attend the EEA3. The Assembly will provide a further focal point for dialogue.

"The Light of Christ shines upon all. Hope for Renewal and Unity in Europe" is the theme of the EEA3. It is in the promise and the hope expressed in this theme that we commend this 2006 Annual Report to you.

Visit our website www.cec-kek.org

Introduction

OKRin Antje Heider-Rottwilm

Fr Georges (Ryabykh)

CSC Co-moderators



With our churches we prepare for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania, in September 2007. There, women and men from almost every church in Europe will be reflecting on what it means to be a church in Europe today. We believe that faith, through Jesus Christ, puts trust in God as an active agent in everyday reality.

The spiritual heritage of Christianity constitutes an empowering source of inspiration and enrichment for Europe. Religion is a living and constructive factor of public life.

"An Open Letter from Church Leaders to Political Leaders in Europe", December 2006



Rev. Rüdiger Noll CSC Director and Associated General Secretary of CEC

*We want to share with you,
the political leaders of Europe,
our concerns and hopes
for the future of Europe
and our role within it.
In particular, our conviction
is that the European integration
process must continue,
based on shared values
and common vision*

"An Open Letter from Church Leaders to Political
Leaders in Europe", December 2006.

The work of the CSC in 2006 culminated in a meeting for European church leaders, who met in Brussels in December for a two days meeting under the heading: "Values – Religion – Identity". Church leaders' meetings are quite infrequent in the history of CEC and the CSC.

Of course, church leaders together with other church representatives, experts and representatives of associated organisations participate on almost every level of the work and in particular in the governing bodies, but meetings especially designed for them remain an exception.

They are scheduled at particular turning points in the developments in Europe or in the organisation.

The year 2006 as such did not prove to be a turning point with regard to the debate on the future of Europe, but

many initiatives were launched throughout the year to make a difference. There are now more positive signs on the horizon. Much hope is being placed on the EU Presidencies in 2007 to draw the right conclusions from the time of reflection.

The church leaders' meeting was meant to be one important input of the churches to the debate on the common foundations of Europe in order to address present day challenges. Commitment and Compassion were two of the key words at the meeting introduced by the Finnish Archbishop Jukka Paarma in his keynote speech.

More commitment to and more compassion for Europe are needed, if the success of the European project is to regain momentum and if the European integration process is to bear fruits for the people.

What began as a peace and reconcili-



liation process in the aftermath of the Second World War and brought prosperity for many on the European continent now has to stand the test with regard to a just, participatory and sustainable Europe for all people in the context of globalisation.

The meeting in December reflected on common values and a common vision for Europe in relation to present challenges. In their open letter to political leaders in Europe the church leaders concluded: "We are committed to defend basic values against infringement of every kind and to resist any attempt to misuse religion for political purposes. Further, we are committed, as far as possible together, to communicating our concerns and visions to the secular European institutions.

In this way, we seek to make our contribution to the future of Europe and

so to make it a continent of hope." The future of Europe and the role of the churches as well as of the European institutions in the Europe of today will also be addressed in the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3), which will provide a focal point for European churches in 2007.

Preparations are underway and, within the framework set by CEC and the Roman-Catholic Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE), the CSC is trying to support the EEA3. The CSC together with COMECE facilitated visits in order to introduce the EEA3 to high-level representatives of the European Union, including the President of the European Commission and the now President of the European Parliament. Both indicated their interest to attend.

In discussions at the European Commission and the European Parliament, the following issues of common interest were mentioned to figure high on the EEA3: the future of Europe, the European integration process, social justice, migration, inter-cultural dialogue, the environment and sustainable development, civil society and the role of the churches, globalisation.

Besides making several contributions to the overall debate on the future of Europe, the CSC continued to monitor and to make contributions to the developments in the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The 2006 Commission Plenary as well as the consultation on "The Role of Religion in Conflict Situations" highlighted issues in relation to peace, security and reconciliation.

Many CSC submissions to the Institutions in 2006 dealt with social issues. Globalisation and sustainable development remained high on the agenda of the CSC. 2006 also saw a re-emerging discussion on the universality and indivisibility of human rights, the main theme at the annual meeting of Europe Secretaries of European churches.

In relation to initiatives in the Council of Europe and looking ahead to 2008 EU Year for Intercultural Dialogue, intercultural dialogue is becoming an increasingly important issue for the CSC. Developments on these and other issues are reflected in this annual report.

As the Church and Society Commission, we want to express our thanks to all those who in the course of the year participated in and contributed to the work of the CSC and of CEC, in particular to member churches, the members of the CSC Executive Committee and the Commission Plenary, to the church leaders, the churches' Europe secretaries to members of the CSC Working Groups and Task Forces as well as to our partner organisations.

The CSC wants to continue to be an effective instrument to support the common witness of churches on matters related to church and society and to bring a common voice of the churches to the European institutions.

In order to increase its effectiveness and in order to involve member churches more in European issues, the 2006 Plenary meeting of the CSC recommended the establishment of a more frequent and up-to-date information service. In response, the CSC with the help of our new staff colleague Elina Eloranta has started to develop an "early warning system", which is to inform member churches, associated organisations and interested individuals as early as possible about up-coming events and developments.

A new CSC electronic news bulletin called "Update" is published every month to a growing list of subscribers. It is also posted on the CEC website. It contains short summaries of issues and developments. It reflects the role of the churches and the CSC on these issues and gives references for further information. The Updates are complemented by short-term news flashes and occasional briefing papers. In order to subscribe, please contact: csc@cec-kek.be.

"Church for

A church is only a church if it is a church for the others, explains Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in one of his letters from prison. Bonhoeffer's 100th birthday was celebrated in 2006. He points out that a church that is only concerned about its own self-interest is not pursuing its proper task anymore. "You cannot sing Gregorian chant if you are not crying out for your Jewish neighbours at the same time", Bonhoeffer explained. During the last year, the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of CEC has been challenged with the same question on a number of occasions: "What are you lobbying for? Is it for the self-interest of the churches as institutions or for the interest of the people in need, the marginalised and excluded?"

In 2006, the question of social and health services continued to engage political debates in the European Union. In November the final decision on a Directive on services in the internal market was taken in the European Parliament. The CSC was very actively involved in this debate, asking for an exclusion of social and health services from the scope of the Directive.

One key argument was the special relationship between service providers and beneficiaries that cannot be assimilated with a supplier/consumer relationship under market conditions, because the recipient of social or healthcare services is very often a person in need, who is not in a situation to defend his or her interests. The special role of churches and diaconal organisations was debat-



the others”

ed in the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament, with strong backing for the churches’ position by the European Parliament’s rapporteur, Evelyn Gebhardt MEP.

In a dialogue meeting with the European Commission, CSC and COMECE had a discussion on “social and health-care services: a contribution of the Churches and diaconal organisations to the European Social model.” A result of this meeting was a declaration by Commissioner McGreevy on the application of the Services Directive to services provided by churches and diaconal organisations.

During the whole period, the CSC found itself in a discussion process on the objectives of its activities vis-à-vis the Services Directive: Is it the main task of the CSC to defend the self-interests of churches and church-related service providers, taking into account the responsibility for more than half a million jobs of people employed by member churches and diaconal organisations in the field of social services and healthcare? Or are the churches and Diaconia wedded to a “privileged option for the poor”, committed to advocate for the excluded, the marginalised people? So far, the different options did not turn out for us to be alternatives. We are convinced that churches and diaconal organisations may only have an interest to defend their structures as long as these structures serve the excluded and the marginalised: “A church for others”.

The reason why Churches are involved in the discussions about the legal framework on services in the European Union is further-reaching than only reflecting our own position as service providers. Social and health services are pillars in the different European social models and the question is which values dominate these services and the policies of the service providers. Answering this question should not be left to competition, the market or the state, especially as so many vulnerable people are dependent on these services and don't have any purchasing power.

Rev. Jacob Franken from Kerkinactie, The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the churches in a dialogue meeting with the European Commission on 18 October 2006

Churches' global responsibility

The different facets of globalisation provide new challenges for the churches. These pose new questions about the role of churches in society, both within the continent of Europe as well as beyond its borders.

The outcomes of the Church and Society Commission (CSC) Task Force on globalisation and, in particular, the document Churches living their faith in the context of globalisation¹ were offered to the global ecumenical debate on globalisation not only as a summary of experiences of globalisation as accumulated by the churches in Europe, but also as an indication of the way the CSC of CEC wants to explore the theme of globalisation in the near future.

Differing experiences from both Western and Eastern Europe were considered. The specific historic context of the social market economy in Western Europe contrasts with the legacy of the eastern part of the continent, which led to an artificial division of the continent by an Iron Curtain. Particular attention is given to the specific experience of totalitarian regimes from Central and Eastern Europe.

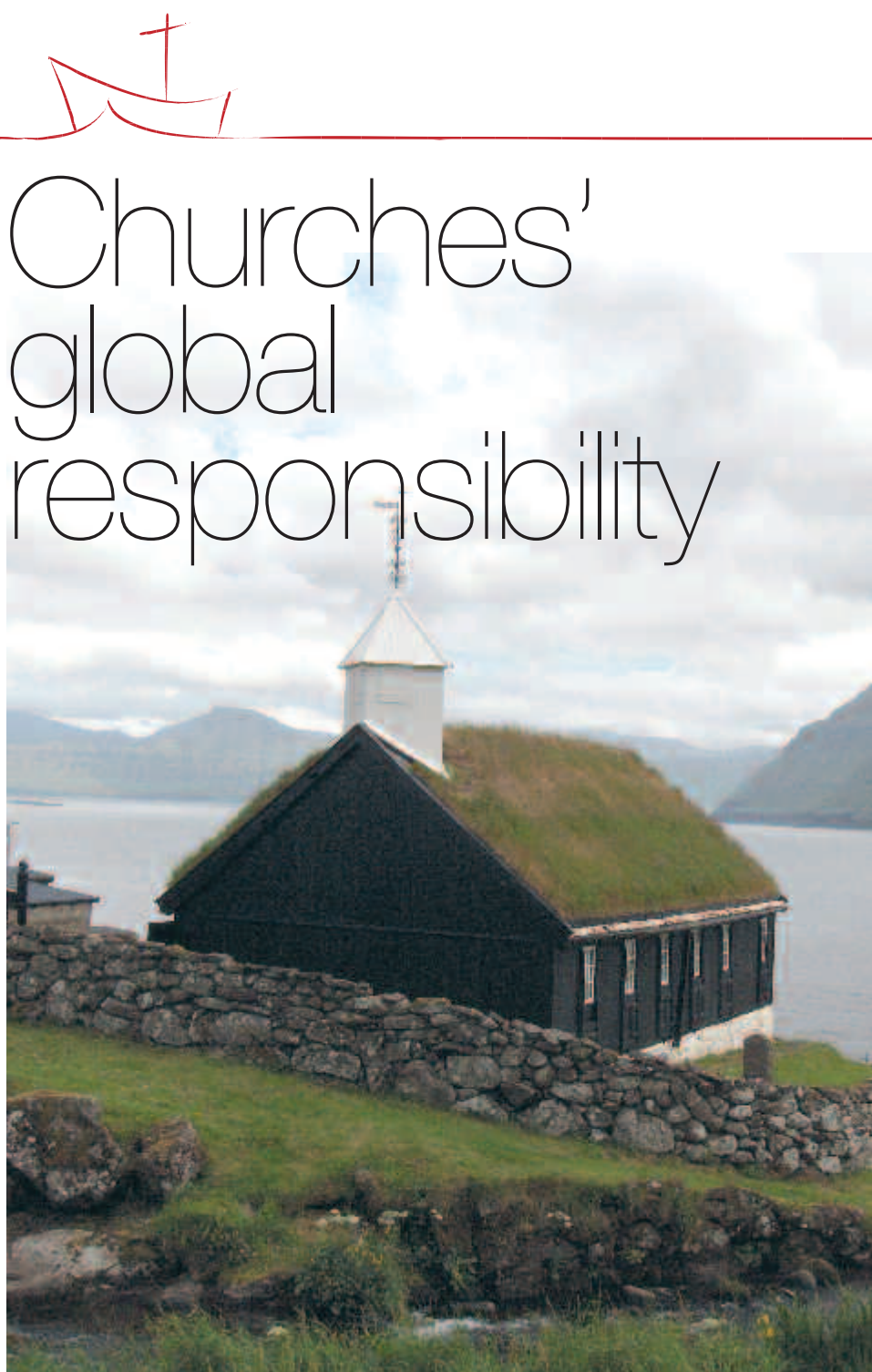
For churches in Europe, the eastern experience of scarcity and the suffering of millions of people is a vital factor in an analysis of globalisation and to making a considered response to current challenges. The process of European integration is a part of the specific response to the globalisation at the continent. The active role of the churches in the process is therefore at the same

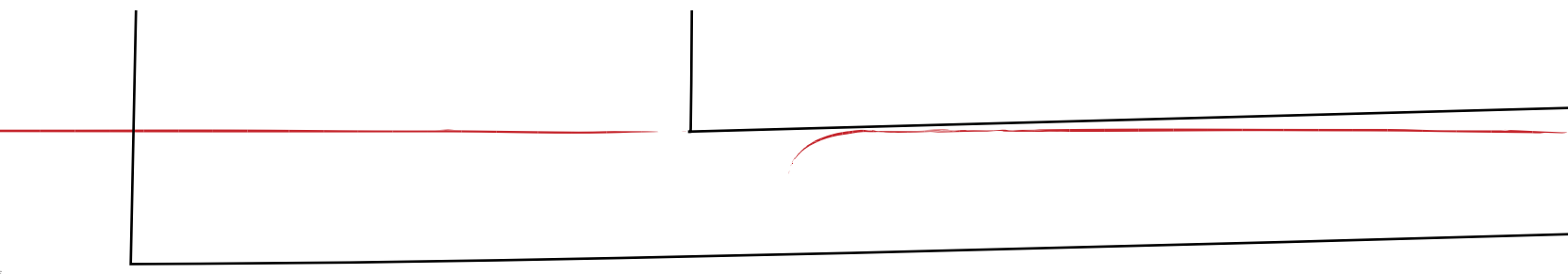
time a part of their contribution to the challenge of globalisation.

The CSC document takes into concern those facets of globalisation, for global governance, that go beyond a limited focus on economy. The document thus offers a distinctive contribution to the global ecumenical debate, which has been missing until now.

The document was also a contribution of the European churches to the discussion on globalisation within the WCC Assembly held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2006.

Published in four languages, it offers a basis for continuing work of the CSC in this area. The deepening of links with partners in other continents and coop-







Peace, Security

Pace, Security and Reconciliation were the main themes at the annual CSC/CEC plenary meeting held in Sigtuna, Sweden, 29 April - 3 May 2006. The meeting reaffirmed commitment to the primacy of non-violent means of conflict resolution, as well as urging the European Union to place a greater emphasis on developing non-military forms of intervention in emerging crisis situations as an integral part of its European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Major issues in 2006. Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Palestine and fear of terrorism continued to dominate the headlines in 2006. Under the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies of the EU, the ESDP was further developed with the creation of military battlegroups and the launch of new international missions (for example in Aceh, Congo and Palestine). On the civilian dimension of the ESDP, the EU focused on improving its human rights work, civilian response teams and involvement by non-governmental organisations in planning.

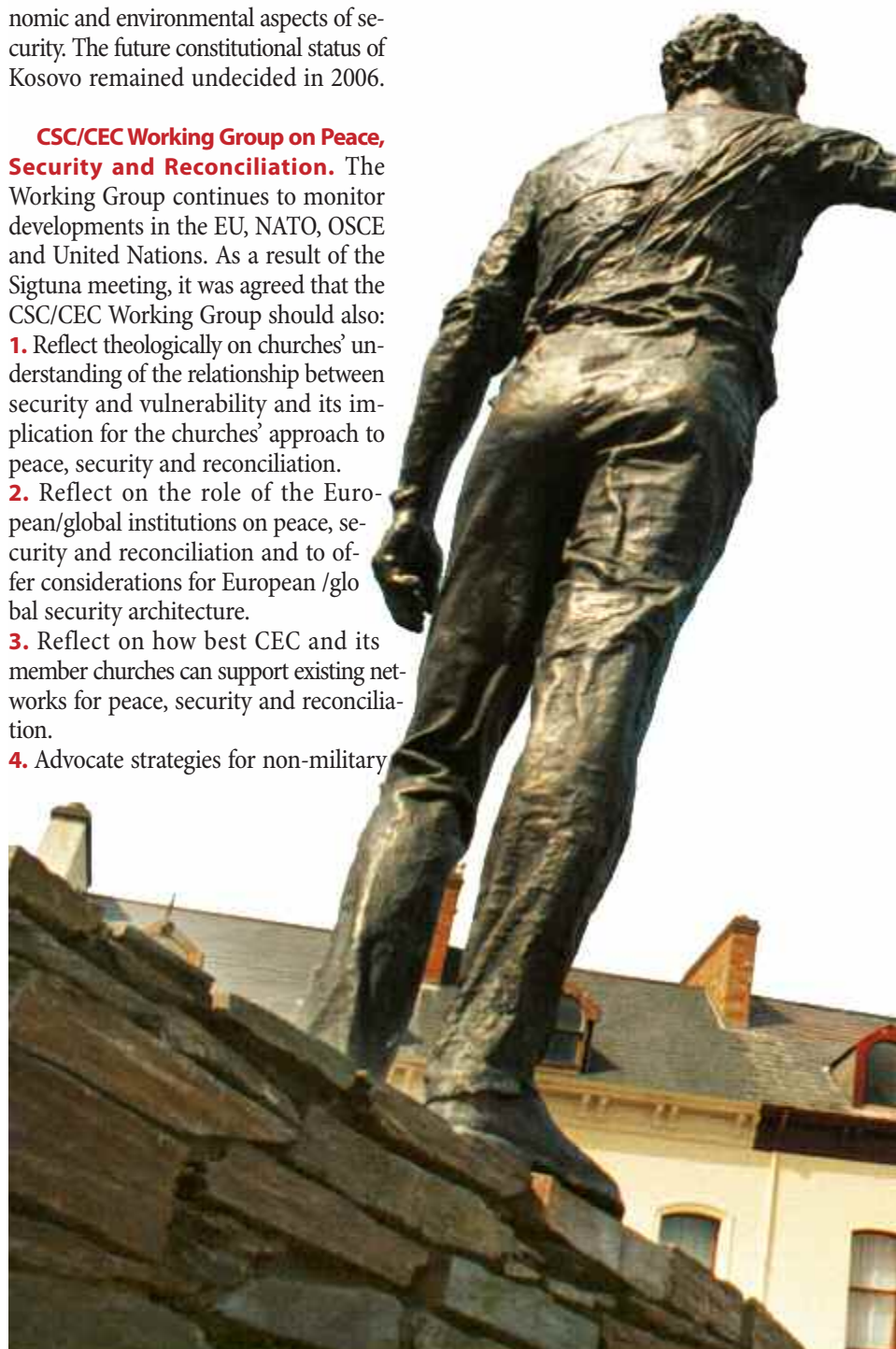
The 2006 Belgian Presidency of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) sought to highlight the need to address “frozen conflicts” (particularly in the Southern Caucasus), judicial and police training in South-East Europe and to address eco-

nomic and environmental aspects of security. The future constitutional status of Kosovo remained undecided in 2006.

CSC/CEC Working Group on Peace, Security and Reconciliation.

The Working Group continues to monitor developments in the EU, NATO, OSCE and United Nations. As a result of the Sigtuna meeting, it was agreed that the CSC/CEC Working Group should also:

- 1.** Reflect theologically on churches’ understanding of the relationship between security and vulnerability and its implication for the churches’ approach to peace, security and reconciliation.
- 2.** Reflect on the role of the European/global institutions on peace, security and reconciliation and to offer considerations for European /global security architecture.
- 3.** Reflect on how best CEC and its member churches can support existing networks for peace, security and reconciliation.
- 4.** Advocate strategies for non-military



Further information is available on the CEC website:
www.cec-kek.org/pdf/corrymeelastmtoctober2006.pdf

and Reconciliation

crisis intervention and peace work within the European Union, as an integral part of the ESDP.

These issues form the basis of the Working Group's ap-

proach until the next CEC Assembly in 2009.

Currently, the Working Group (together with the Roman Catholic organisation Justitia et Pax) is preparing its contribution for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly. During the Working Group meeting on 12-14 July 2006 in Brussels, members also participated in a dialogue seminar at the European Parliament on the EU's relationship with the UN Peacebuilding Commission. The meeting was organised by Saferworld and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and chaired by Ana Gomes MEP, the vice-chair of the European Parliament's Sub-Committee for Security and Defence.

The Role of Religion in Conflict Situations. In October 2006, the CSC organised a consultation on the role of religion in conflict situations.

The event, held at Corrymeela in Northern Ireland, brought together church representatives from Northern Ireland and the nations of the Western Balkans. The

meeting discussed a practical Christian response to conflicts attempting to look objectively at areas of similarity and dissimilarity at the recent conflicts in both locations.

Study visits were also made to Belfast, including to a church which had been burnt down by extremists and subsequently rebuilt with cross-community support. The importance of the pastoral dimension to peace-building was evident from the discussions.

The pastoral work of churches can play a crucial role in building reconciliation. A full report will be presented to the Third European Ecumenical Assembly.





Religion in the

Over the last year, discussions and reflections among sociologists, political scientists, politicians, lawyers and churches in Europe on religion in the public sphere regained momentum. In view of media coverage and public debate it seems that “religion is coming back”. And many seem to imply, that religion is not coming back only as an individual phenomenon of people having an increased interest in religious issues and longing for spirituality. Religion is coming back as a feature of society and in the public sphere, as a factor which makes a difference.

At a time, when many Europeans are looking for a value base and for orientation, this picture might be true in specific regions in Europe. But is it also true for the whole of Europe and with regard to the European Institutions? Relations and contacts with the European Institutions might serve as an indicator. CSC contacts with the institutions increased considerably during recent years and months.

When the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel (EU Presidency) invited religious leaders for the second time for a top-level encounter on May 30, they underlined the “open, transparent and regular dialogue” between the European Institutions and the religious communities. Discussions at the 2006 encounter centred on the relationship between fundamental rights and mutual respect,

a topic prompted by the publication of cartoons in several European newspapers depicting the Prophet Mohammed and reactions thereto.

2006 also saw a revitalisation of the long dormant Dialogue Seminars between the Brussels-based European Institutions on the one hand and CEC and COMECE on the other. Close to 50 church representatives participated in the Seminar on 17-18 October on “Social and Health Care Services”.

The meeting proved to be very timely as it addressed outstanding issues with regard to formulations of the “Services Directive” just prior to its adoption.

Following initial meetings with the Austrian and the Finnish Foreign Ministers, the CSC had, throughout the year good contacts with the Austrian and the Finnish EU Presidencies through their member churches in the countries. The Austrian EU Presidency even designated a Secretary of State as a permanent contact person for the churches.

Contacts also increased with the Union’s Advisory Bodies, the Economic and Social Committee (EECS) and the Committee of the Regions. Discussions on closer relations with the EECS’s European Liaison Group are still under way. The Committee of the Regions invited the CSC to participate in a panel discussion on the internal market.

Though the CSC was not granted observer status with the Council of Europe’s Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) in 2005, the CDDH agreed to invite CSC to meetings it



considers particularly relevant for the churches.

In the year 2006, thus the CDDH invited CEC to participate in its Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights and in particular to its two working parties on hate speech and religious symbols in the public areas. In addition, close cooperation be-

public sphere



tween the Council of Europe and the CSC on issues relating to inter-cultural learning are on the horizon.

In his keynote address at the Church Leaders' meeting in December EU Commissioner Figel emphasized the role of the churches and religious organisations: "Political Leaders are in

worryingly short supply of ideas, at least in the West. It seems to me that modern politics has borrowed too much from marketing...

Constant dialogue across ideological and other divides is a precondition to serve the public good. And I think this is a task for which Christian organisations and individuals are ideally suited.

I am convinced that Christians can bring their testimony to European societies." Does all this indicate, that religion is coming back as factor in the public sphere? The many contacts of the CSC has had with the European Institutions prove that, the churches are seen as an important factor and their voice is heard. But it remains striking that ever so often, when the Institutions themselves address issues related to religion, religion is associated with its fundamentalist forms and as an element in a conflict. For some politicians and civil servants this image of religion serves as an argument for trying to restrict religion to the private sphere. This poses a challenge to the churches.

A new debate is launched on the role of religion in the public sphere. How do we understand the "open, transparent and regular dialogue", to which the Constitutional Treaty refers? Which space and which instruments and mechanisms are needed for churches and religious communities to be able to make their contribution to the common good? How do we as churches deal with religious pluralism and religious fundamentalism? The CSC together with the CEC member churches will take up these challenges in the coming months.

The preparations for the EU "Year for Intercultural Dialogue" (2008) provides an important public forum. The churches certainly have an important role to play in what the German Philosopher Jürgen Habermas calls a "post-secular society".



The Church and Society Commission is challenged to address a broad range of issues, ensuring a continuous presence and monitoring vis-à-vis the European institutions. A substantial part of the policy work of the CSC is done through



Early Warning System. At the end of 2006 CSC began to develop an “early warning system”. Monitoring the European institutions, it aims at providing churches with information on developments in European affairs at as early a stage as possible in order to facilitate a timely discussion within the churches as well as to enable an effective and common response of European churches on matters of common concern. If you wish to receive the monthly Europe Update, please, send an email to csc@cec-kek.be. In case you are also interested in more

frequent flow of information write to elo@cec-kek.be.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development.

The concepts of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Economic Development are gaining prominence. Emphasising the theological concept of Christian stewardship, CSC seeks to cooperate with others working in these areas. CSC participated in a consultation on churches and corporate social responsibility in Central and Eastern Europe, held in

Prague in October 2006.

European Family Funday.

“We do not really know each other...” This sentence was the starting point for a very special project. In Brussels, some 40 international parishes of CEC member churches exist, but most of them have little contact with each other. To change this, CSC together with the ecumenical Chapel of the Resurrection in Brussels invited these Brussels-based congregations to join together for a “European Family Funday”. On 13 May 2006, some 150 people from the

Intercultural Dialogue in Europe

The role intercultural dialogue plays in European integration as well as a means of conflict prevention has been supported by the Council of Europe (CoE) since the 1980s. In order to formulate a coherent and long-term policy of intercultural dialogue within Europe and between Europe and its neighbouring regions, the Committee of Ministers have decided to prepare a White Paper. As the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue is increasingly perceived, CoE stated that it was especially interested in CEC's contribution to the consultation process that started early 2006, not only as an international NGO at the CoE, but as an ecumenical organisation, which consists of churches of various denominations and from various European contexts. Alongside the CoE, the European Union also continues to foster inter-cultural

dialogue, for instance, in the framework of the "Europe for Citizens" Programme of DG Education and Culture. "Europe for Citizens" is a new EU programme and budget line, to which pro-



grammes of the former "Soul for Europe" initiative could apply for financial support. http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm In addition, talks between the CSC and DG Education and Culture have begun as to how to involve churches in the 2008 Year of Inter-Cultural Dialogue.

Co-operation in the Ecumenical Centre Brussels – Eurodiaconia

Eurodiaconia carries out advocacy, facilitates a diaconal network and is a political voice in Brussels for diaconia in Europe in its broadest sense. Members range from churches, diaconal institutions and organizations to training institutes and national diaconal umbrella organizations.

Eurodiaconia members are united to serve for solidarity and justice in a social Europe. The aims are met through a number of working groups in the areas of social policy, theology, communication and volunteering, through cooperation in regional platforms and through the work of the Brussels based secretariat.

The secretariat informs members of relevant social policy issues and raises the concerns of diaconia vis a vis the EU on the future of our social Europe and the particular role of church-related social service providers in the social economy. Eurodiaconia facilitates dialogue between our members and

policy makers through direct contacts, working forums and through the intermediary communication of the secretariat.

How the EU can reconcile social protection facing the challenges of demographic change and globalization; how we can ensure dignity and solidarity in Europe as economic integration grows are some of the questions Eurodiaconia is currently concerned with.

Eurodiaconia also works with ecumenical partners such as CSC of CEC – for example through the joint policy working group of Eurodiaconia and CSC – to develop a better understanding among both members and

also of policy makers on the values, responsibilities and opportunities of church and diaconia on questions of social inclusion, dignity, poverty and an ethically responsible economy in Europe.

Heidi Paakjaer Martinussen
General Secretary, Eurodiaconia



EURODIACONIA
European Federation for Diaconia
Europäischer Verband für Diakonie
Fédération Européenne de la Diaconie

its Working Groups (WGs) on issues such as European Integration, EU legislation, Peace, Security and Reconciliation, Bioethics and Biotechnology, Human Rights and Religious Freedom and Social Issues.

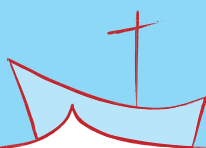
different congregations met in the Chapel, in the midst of the European Institutions, for an open air children's service, hymn singing from the different traditions, sharing gastronomic specialties and a common evening prayer.

Agriculture and rural affairs. CSC is working with OIKOS Nederland on a research project. Its findings will help inform Europe's churches about practical concerns affecting rural communities where parish churches often play a vital role in communal life. CSC also

continues to work closely with the Churches European Rural Network (CERN).

Human Rights. 2006 saw the re-emergence of the debate among CEC member churches in the framework of the CSC on universality and indivisibility of human rights. The debate was triggered by the announcement of the Russian Orthodox Church of the forthcoming issuing of an official statement on their approach to human rights. Preparations have already begun with the World Russian People's Council and the

World Religious Leaders' Meeting in Moscow. CEC and its Church and Society Commission, which have always been advocates for strengthening and implementing international human rights standards, facilitated the human rights debate among member churches at the 2006 meeting of Europe Secretaries. An experts' dialogue meeting with the Russian Orthodox Church is planned for 2007. Meanwhile, the CSC is working on developing a human rights training manual.



The Church and Society Commission goes public

January

Launch of the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Rome

Common View regarding the first reading of the Services Directive in the European Parliament. Joint statement issued by CSC of CEC, Caritas, COMECE and Eurodiaconia

February

"European Churches living their faith in the context of globalisation". Position Paper published for the WCC general assembly in Porto Alegre

Statement at the Seminar organised by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe on "Dialogue, tolerance, education: the concerted action of the Council of Europe and Religious Communities" in Kazan, Russian Federation

April

"More Space for Creation in the Christian Calendar". Message from a consultation on Creation Spirituality held in Geneva in April 2006 by ECEN and the International Reformed John Knox Centre

Churches call for a European Peace Agency. CSC of CEC meets in Sweden

May

"European Churches support 'Plan D'". Letter to EU Commission on the Future of Europe

European Religious Leaders meet with President Barroso and Schüssel

"European Churches on the move". Recommendations of Central Committee of CEC in Derry on the reconciliation and peace-building process

Political agreement on the Services Directive in the Council of the European Union. First CSC Electronic Bulletin

June

"Against a tyranny of normality". Joint response of CSC of CEC and Eurodiaconia to European Union's Green Paper on Mental Health

July

"Church delegation finds dialogue and a certain pragmatism are key concepts for the Finnish EU Presidency". Visit to Erkki Tuomioja, Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs

August

Joint Position Paper of CEC and COMECE in consultation with CCME and APRODEV to the Green Paper European Transparency initiative

September

"Living in a new Energy Era". European Christian Environment Network meet in Sweden

CSC of CEC Response to the White Paper on a European communication policy

October

Letter from CSC to CEC Member Churches on European Funding for Stemcell Research

"Use of Energy : Christians witness through changed lifestyles" Statement from the 6th Assembly of European Christian Environmental Network

"The role of Religion in conflict situations - Churches must work for reconciliation and peace building". Consultation in Corrymeela, Northern Ireland

"Shaping a framework for future social and healthcare services: A contribution of Churches and Church organisations to the European social model". Dialogue Seminar with the European Commission

CSC jointly with COMECE: Contribution to the European Commission Consultation on the Mid-Term Review of the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Strategy 2002-2010



Meetings organised by CSC

November

European Parliament adopts Services Directive after second hearing. CSC Electronic Bulletin

December

“Towards quality of life for all”: A common vision for a social Europe. Joint CSC of CEC and Eurodiaconia Conference Reader

“For a Europe Based on Shared Values and a Common Hope”. An Open Letter from Church Leaders to Political Leaders in Europe from the Church leader’s meeting on “Values – Identity – Religion”.

February

Visit of the Protestant Churches of Austria (Brussels)

March

Visit of Archbishop Jukka Paarma of Finland (Brussels)

April

Visit of the Inter-Religious Council of Bosnia (Brussels)

Annual Plenary Meeting of CSC Commission (Sigtuna, Sweden)

May

Visit of the Europe Panel of the Church of England (Brussels)

June

Meeting with the Finnish EU Presidency (Helsinki)

August

ECEN/IBTS Conference: The Theology of Creation Care (Prague)

September

Annual Consultation of Church and Society Secretaries (Brussels)

6th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (Flämslätt, Sweden)

October

Consultation on agriculture and rural development with the Churches European Rural Network (Celakowice, Czech Republic)

Conference on the Role of Religion in Conflict Situations (Corrymeela, Northern Ireland)

Dialogue Seminar with the European Commission on Social and Health Services (Brussels)

CEC/CCEE Meeting with EU Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso (Brussels)

Visit of Prof. Dr. Michael Bünker, General Secretary of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (Brussels)

November

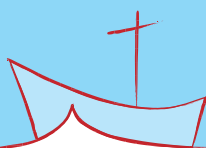
Visit of the Rt. Revd. Alan McDonald, Moderator of General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Brussels)

Visit of English Free Church leaders (Strasbourg)

December

Church Leaders’ conference on Values – Identity – Religion (Brussels)





The Church and Society

The Commission

Rev. Alfredo Abad Heras
Spanish Evangelical Church

Rev. Dr. Zoltan Bona
Reformed Church in Hungary

Kirchenrat Joachim Brandt
Strasbourg Beirat

Ms Anthea Cox*
British Methodist Church

Prof. Karsten Fledelius
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark

Rev. Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim
Romanian Orthodox Church

Rev. Gunnar Grönblom*
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. OKR'in Antje Heider-Rottwilm*
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Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Anita Jakobson*
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Archimandrite Arsenios Kardamakis
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba*
Church of Greece

Prof. Dr Ulrich Körtner
Evangelical Church HC in Austria

Rev. Fr Hovakim Manukyan Vardges
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr Lennart Molin
Mission Covenant Church of
Sweden/Christian Council of Sweden

Rev. Evert Overeem
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Ms Lidia Palac
Evangelical Church AC in Poland

Rev. Tony Peck
European Baptist Federation

Ms Françoise Prager-Bouyala
French Protestant Federation

Dr Charles Reed
Church of England

Fr Georges (Ryabykh)*
(co-moderator)
Russian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr David Sinclair
Church of Scotland

Rev. Hana Tonzarova
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

LKR Hermann Wischmann
Evangelical Church in Germany

Strasbourg Beirat

President Claudia Bandixen
Reformed Church of Aargau

Rev. Joachim Brandt
Evangelical Church in the Rhineland

President Jean-François Collange
Church of the Augsburg Confession in
Alsace and Lorraine

Dean Rudolf Ehrmantraut
Church of Palatinate

Rev. Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Mr Jean-Jacques Fritz
European Parliament

* Members of the Executive Committee



Commission of CEC

Mr Mario Heinrich
Council of Europe

Dr J.-G. Hentz
Church of the Augsburg Confession in
Alsace and Lorraine

Rev. KR'in Susanne Labsch
Church of Baden

Mr Halvor Lervik
Council of Europe

Rev. Enno Strobel
(moderator)
Reformed Church of Alsace-Lorraine

Staff

Rev. Rüdiger Noll
Director, Brussels

Ms Véronique Dessart
Administrative Staff, Brussels

Ms Elina Eloranta
(as of November)
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Véronique Engels
Administrative Staff, Brussels

Rev. Richard Fischer
Executive Secretary, Strasbourg

Ms Andrea Häuser
Intern, Strasbourg

Rev. Dr Dieter Heidtmann
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Lois Hough-Stewart
Administrative Staff, Brussels

Ms Marie-Madeleine Linck
Administrative Staff, Strasbourg

Rev. John Murray
Associated Staff, Anglican Chaplaincy,
Strasbourg

Rev. Dr Peter Pavlovic
Study Secretary, Brussels

Rev. Matthew Ross
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Donatella Rostagno
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Charlotte Vander Borcht
Accountant, Brussels

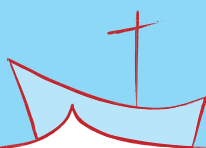
OKR'in Sabine von Zanthier
Associated Staff, EKD Office Brussels

Farewell Donatella, welcome Elina and John

After almost four years as Executive Secretary (for Human Rights and Communication) in the CSC of CEC, **Donatella Rostagno** decided to move on. As from the beginning of 2007, Donatella works for "European Network for Central Africa" as a Policy Officer. An important reason for her change was the opportunity to better combine her expertise on human rights with her recent studies on development issues. There were several occasions where CEC staff as well as the CSC Executive Committee expressed their thanks and wished her well. The vacancy, which arose due to Donatella's departure, will be filled as soon as possible. In December, CEC and its Church and Society Commission expressed a warm welcome to **Elina Eloranta**, who joined the staff of the CSC seconded by the Church of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Her appointment is an important feature of an agreement between the two Nordic churches and the CSC for closer cooperation on issues related to Europe and the European Institutions. Elina is from Finland. A graduate in Political Science at the University of Tampere, she has also studied and lived in France, Germany, Lithuania and the United States. For a few years, Elina has been living in Brussels and some may remember her as the Social Policy Officer for Eurodiaconia. Elina's main task in the CSC will be to strengthen the cooperation between the partners in the agreement and to make the CSC "early warning system" work (cf. foreword).

The CSC also welcomes **John Murray** as the new associate Executive staff in the Strasbourg office. John, who was ordained as an Anglican priest during his career with the Council of Europe, is the Chaplain of the Anglican congregation in Strasbourg. For many years, John worked as a senior member of staff in the Council of Europe on issues related to migration, the Roma community in Europe and social policy before he was appointed as a full-time Chaplain to the congregation. As with previous Chaplains of the Strasbourg congregation, John, after consultation with the Church of England and its Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, kindly offered to support the work of the CSC in as much as his congregational commitments allow. During his first months as associated staff, John has monitored developments in the Council of Europe with regard to human rights and religious freedom, social issues and intercultural dialogue. The CSC has already profited extensively from John's knowledge of the Council of Europe.





Working Groups and

Working Group on Bioethics

Rev. Kirsti Aalto

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Prof. Svend Andersen

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark

Prof. Stavros Baloyannis

Church of Greece

Dr Donald Bruce

Church of Scotland

Dr Andrea Dörries

Evangelical Church in Germany

Rev. Anton Ilin

Russian Orthodox Church

Dr Mireille Jemelin

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Prof. Karsten Lehmkuhler

Church of the Augsburg Confession
in Alsace and Lorraine

Prof. Dr Elena Masarovicova

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in the Slovak Republic

Prof. Anna Rollier

Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

Prof. Egbert Schrotten (*moderator*)

Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Dr Stefan-Ioan Stratul

Romanian Orthodox Church

Working Group on EC legislation

Dr Lisbet Christoffersen

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark

Dr Altana Filos

Greek Evangelical Church

Archdeacon Gunnar Grönbloom

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Prof. Dr Peter Kresak

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in the Slovak Republic

Prof. Gianni Long

Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

Ms Maria Lundqvist-Norling

Church of Sweden

Prof. David McClean (*moderator*)

Church of England

Dr Joanna Mizgala

Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland

Prof. Dr Gerhard Robbers

Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr Rüdiger Stotz

Evangelical Church in Germany

Dr Sophie Van Bijsterveld

Protestant Church in the Netherlands



Working Group on Human Rights and Religious Freedom

Rev. Peter Ciaccio (*from June*)

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

Prof. George Krippas

Church of Greece

Dr Peter Krömer

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Austria

working group members



Working Group on European Integration

Rev. Dr Zoltan Bona
Reformed Church in Hungary

Rev. Elfriede Dörr
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Romania

Rev. Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant
Churches

OKR Dr David Gill
Evangelical Church in Germany

Mr William Jourdan
Ecumenical Youth Council
in Europe

Mr Vakhtang Kipshidze
Russian Orthodox Church

Mrs Jitka Klubalova
Ecumenical Council
of Churches in
the Czech Republic

Ms Lena Kumlin LL.M
(co-moderator)
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Finland

**Archimandrite Ignatios
Sotiriadis**
Church of Greece

Rev. Peter Southcombe
United Reformed Church in the
United Kingdom

Fr Dr George Tsetsis (co-moderator)
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Andrzej Wojtowicz
Ecumenical Council of Churches
in Poland

Ms Anne Lagerstedt
Ecumenical Forum of
European Christian Women

Rev. Anthony Peck
European Baptist Federation

Ms Ingvill Thorson Plesner
(co-moderator)
Church of Norway

Dr Daniel Spratek
Silesian Evangelical Church
of the Augsburg Confession
in the Czech Republic

Working Group on Peace and Security

Rev Christine Busch
Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Paula Devejian
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

Rev. Miklos Menessy
Ecumenical Association of Churches
in Romania

The Rev. David Mumford
Church and Peace

Dr Anette Månsson
Church of Sweden

Mr Georgy Roshchin
Russian Orthodox Church

Dr Karl-Reinhart Trauner
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Austria

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

Dr Kostas Zorbas
Church of Greece

CSC - Eurodiaconia Joint Working Group on Social Issues

Ms Rita Bruvers
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Rev. Jac Franken
Kerkinactie, the Netherlands

Rev. OKR Dr Jens Kreuter
Evangelical Church in Germany

Major Göran Larsson
Salvation Army, Europe Zone

Mr Ole Meldgaard
Kofoeds Skole, Denmark

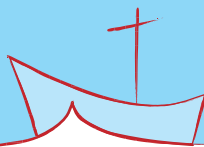
Mag. Martin Schenk
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Austria

Dr. Stephanie Scholz
Diakonisches Werk der EKD, Germany

Rev. Dr. David Sinclair
Church of Scotland

Prof. Christina Vayas
Church of Greece

Rektor Einar Vetvik
Diakonhjemmet University College,
Norway



Our resources

The accounts of the Church and Society Commission for 2006 closed at an amount of 959'626,78 Euros. Compared to the previous year, this is an increase in income and expenditure of about 7,9%. The financial contributions from member churches increased only slightly, however their contributions in form of seconded staff and contributions for programme activities increased again in 2006.

In December 2006, the Church and Society Commission welcomed Ms Elina Eloranta as Executive Secretary for European Affairs. We give special thanks to the Church of Sweden and the Evan-

gelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, which have seconded Elina to the CSC.

In terms of expenditures, in 2006 the overhead costs were again kept stable for the sake of more resources being made available for programmatic activities. About 33% of the income was spent on management (including meetings of governing bodies), relations with member churches and communications.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all member churches and associated organisations of CEC, which contribute to the work of the CSC. It is their contributions which allow the CSC to respond to the increasing demands to make the common voice of the churches heard in Europe and to involve representatives from the different regions of Europe equally in its work.. Many member churches do not only express their commitment by their direct financial support, but also by in-kind contributions, such as invitations for consultations or travel costs of their representatives.

The chart dividing costs according to working areas gives an approximation on which issues the income was spent. It does, however, not necessarily indicate the priorities of the Commission's work in 2006 in detail. Some working areas were more cost intensive than others.

Church & Society Commission **Income** (total euros 959.627)

42% Remunerations
euros 409.553

18% Programmatic Activities
euros 172.991

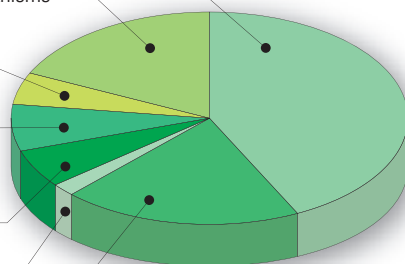
5% Working Mechanisms & Governing Bodies
euros 45.506

7% Rent
euros 68.150

6% Office supplies & Equipment
euros 58.441

2% Travel
euros 17.208

20% Seconded staff
euros 187.778



Church & Society Commission **Expenses** (total euros 959.627)

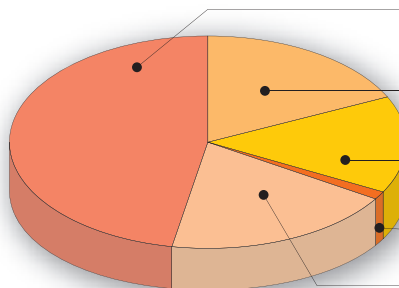
47% Contributions Members & Associated members
euros 454.351

18% Programmatic activities incomes
euros 172.991

15% CEC General Budget
euros 142.652

1% Other incomes
euros 8.496

19% Seconded staff
euros 181.137



Expenses related to work areas (approxim in %)

2% Interreligious Dialogue

2% Education

9% Peace Reconciliation

7% Bioethic

9% Human Rights

3% Agriculture

5% Communication

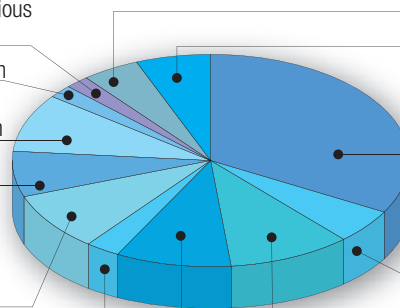
6% European Integration

33% Management / Member Churches relations

5% Globalisation

10% Environment

9% Employment / Social Issues



For a Europe based on shared values



“The spiritual heritage of Christianity constitutes an empowering source of inspiration and enrichment for Europe.

Religion is a living and constructive factor of public life”. So said the European church leaders in their “Open Letter from Church Leaders to Political Leaders in Europe”. The letter was approved at the close of the meeting on 13 December 2006 in Brussels.

The meeting took place at the eve of the German Presidency of the G8 and the EU. It was a contribution to the “Berlin Declaration”, which the Heads of State and Government of EU Member States have adopted on 25 March 2007, as well as to the debate on the future of the EU Constitutional Treaty. The church leaders, on

the way to the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (Sibiu, Romania, 4-9 September 2007) stated: “We believe that faith, through Jesus Christ, puts trust in God as an active agent in everyday reality... We want to share with you, the political leaders of Europe, our concerns and hopes for the future of Europe and our role within it. In particular, our conviction is that the European integration process must continue, based on shared values and common vision”.

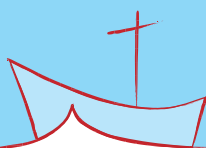
The open letter underlines three points. The first point is the vision of Europe as a “continent united in diversity”. The diversity of cultures, traditions and religious identities “remains characteristic of the continent’s identity” and “must be respected”. This implies keeping in mind that “Europe is not synonymous with the

European Union”. The second point, “Europe – A Continent of Shared Values”, deals with the following issues: peace and reconciliation; European integration seen as “developing relationships” beyond the political and economic dimensions; Europe and globalisation and struggle against poverty both in Europe and beyond; and “Europe for people”, with a call for a “more effective and transparent decision-making process” and for the approval, in the EU, of a “binding agreement based on a vision of a just, sustainable and participatory Europe”.

With the last point, “Europe – Hope and Commitment”, the church leaders express their commitment “to defend basic values against infringement of every kind and to resist any attempt to misuse religion for political purposes” and to make their contribution to the future of Europe.

The full text of the open letter is available at: <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/open-letter13.shtml>

The project received partial funding from the European Commission, DG Culture and Education



CEC Member Churches

CEC Member Churches

Albania

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

Armenia

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

Austria

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria

Evangelical Church of the Helvetic Confession in Austria

Evangelical Methodist Church in Austria

Old Catholic Church in Austria

Belgium

United Protestant Church in Belgium

Bulgaria

Baptist Union of Bulgaria

Evangelical Methodist Church in Bulgaria

Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria

Canada

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada)

Croatia

Baptist Union of Croatia

Church of God in Croatia

Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia

Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia

Reformed Christian Church in Croatia

Cyprus

Church of Cyprus

Czech Republic

Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Evangelical Methodist United Church in the Czech Republic

Moravian Church in the Czech Republic

Old Catholic Church in the Czech Republic

Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovak Republic

Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic

Denmark

Baptist Union of Denmark

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark

Estonia

Estonian Evangelical

Lutheran Church

Estonian Methodist Church

Finland

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Orthodox Church in Finland

France

Church of the Augsburg Confession in Alsace and Lorraine

Evangelical Lutheran Church of France

Federation of Evangelical Baptist

Churches of France

French Reformed Church

Malagasy Protestant Church in France

Reformed Church of Alsace-Lorraine

Georgia

Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptists of Georgia

Germany

Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany

Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptists)

United Methodist Church in Germany

Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad

Lutheran Evangelical Church of Lithuania in Germany

Great Britain

Baptist Union of Great Britain

British Methodist Church

Church in Wales

Church of England

Church of Scotland

Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom

Council of African and Caribbean Churches

Presbyterian Church of Wales

Salvation Army - UK Territory/Ireland

Scottish Episcopal Church

Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide

United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom

Greece

Greek Evangelical Church

Church of Greece

Hungary

Baptist Union of Hungary

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary

Evangelical Methodist Church in Hungary

Reformed Church in Hungary

Iceland

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland

Ireland

Church of Ireland

Methodist Church in Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Italy

Baptist Union of Italy

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy

Evangelical Methodist Church in Italy

Evangelical Waldensian Church

Latvia

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Liechtenstein

Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania

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

Norway

Church of Norway

& Associated Organisations

Poland

Baptist Union of Poland
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Poland
Evangelical Reformed Church
in Poland
Mariavite Church in Poland
Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church
Polish Catholic Church
United Methodist Church in Poland

Portugal

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

Romania

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Romania
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Romania
Reformed Church in Romania
(Királyhagomelléki District)
Reformed Church in Romania
(Transylvanian District)
Romanian Orthodox Church

Russia

Euro-Asiatic Federation
of the Unions of Evangelical
Christian-Baptists
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in
Russia
Russian Orthodox Church

Serbia/Montenegro

Evangelical Methodist Church in
Serbia/Montenegro
Reformed Christian Church in
Serbia/Montenegro
Serbian Orthodox Church
Slovak Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in Yugoslavia

Slovak Republic

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia
Reformed Christian Church in the Slovak
Republic

Slovenia

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg
Confession in the Republic of
Slovenia

Spain

Spanish Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

Sweden

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

Switzerland

Federation of the Swiss Protestant
Churches
Old Catholic Church of Switzerland
United Methodist Church in Switzerland

Ukraine

Trans-Carpathian Reformed Church

International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople
European Continental Province
of the Moravian Church – Brüder
Unität
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia
and Other States ELKRAS
Salvation Army International
Headquarters Europe Zone
United Methodist Church - Nordic and
Baltic Area

CEC Associated members

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 (Cytûn)
Conference of European Pastors'
Association

Conference of European University
Chaplains
Council of Churches in the Netherlands
Ecumenical Association of Academies
and Laity Centres in Europe
Ecumenical Association of Churches in
Romania/AIDROM
Ecumenical Council of Churches in
Hungary
Ecumenical Council of Churches in the
Slovak Republic
Ecumenical Council of Finland
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 on Urban
Industrial Mission
European Forum of Christian Men
European YWCA's
Federation of Protestant Churches
in Italy
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
Protestant Working Group on Adult
Education in Europe
Society for Ecumenical Studies
and Inter-Orthodox Relations
Spanish Committee on Cooperation
between the Churches
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in
Germany
World Student Christian Federation
(Europe)



Who we are

Click the Church and Society Section on the CEC's website: www.cec-kek.org
click on what we do – church and society

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 associated organisations with the European Union 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. 1979 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 with-

in 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

- To foster greater ecumenical dialogue, co-operation and fellowship between CEC member churches on Church and Society issues
- To create a space for member churches to meet and find ways to act together for the common good in Europe
- To encourage and sustain a Christian contribution to political, social and economic life in Europe
- As a strong partner of the European institutions, to advocate and promote a Europe of solidarity, reconciliation and human dignity

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 engages member churches in consultations and projects on specific topics
- The CSC closely cooperates with other church-related organizations and NGOs such as CCME, Eurodiaconia, APRODEV and COMECE
- The CSC bases its actions on its work programme through flexible and ad hoc working mechanisms and methods more information on <http://www.cec-kek.org>
- In the implementation of its agenda, regular communication between CSC and its member churches and the Institutions are 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 (a joint Working Group with Eurodiaconia)

The CSC does also address the following themes with appropriate working mechanisms:

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

Acronyms

AGAPE	Alternative Globalisation Addressing People and Earth	EEA3	Third European Ecumenical Assembly
APRODEV	Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe	EECCS	European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society
CCEE	Council of European Bishops' Conferences	ENAR	European Network Against Racism
CCME	Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe	ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
CEC	Conference of European Churches	EURODIACONIA	European Federation for Diaconia
CERN	Churches Environmental Rural Network	LWF	Lutheran World Federation
CoE	Council of Europe	MEP	Member of European Parliament
COMECE	Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community	OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CSC	Church and Society Commission	PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
DG	Directorate General	WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network	WCC	World Council of Churches
		WG	Working Group