

ANNUAL REPORT **2015** ENGLISH



CHARTING THE
ECUMENICAL
COURSE

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WHO WE ARE

CEC was founded in 1959 as a bridge-building organisation between churches in Eastern and Western Europe. Today the Conference has grown to 114 Member Churches from all corners of Europe, and also includes many National Councils of Churches and Organisations in Partnership.

HOW WE WORK

We establish fora for programmatic development, research, and dialogue. This is achieved through a number of participatory working mechanisms that bring together the expertise found in our Member Churches, Organisations in Partnership, and National Councils of Churches. These include Thematic Reference Groups (TRGs), consultations, collaboration with partners, and more.

VISION

In its commitment to Europe as a whole, the vision of the Conference is to promote a community of Churches sharing their spiritual life, seeking reconciliation, strengthening their common witness and service and fostering the unity of the Church. In providing an authentic, credible and socially responsible Christian witness, it will work towards building a humane, social and sustainable Europe at peace with itself and its neighbours in which human rights and solidarity prevail.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rt Rev.
Christopher
Hill KCVO, DD



Not since the days of the Cold War has the vision of Europe been under such threat than last year. Nor will the pressure on European identity lessen in the coming months. While in the 1990s there were questions for the European Union (EU) on 'deepening' and 'widening', now the whole enterprise is in serious jeopardy as Member States revert to new nationalisms and protection against the admittedly overwhelming pressure—especially on the southern borders of Europe—from the piteous tide of refugees from Syria and elsewhere.

At the December meeting of the governing board of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), in Armenia by hospitality of the Armenian Apostolic Church, we began to think again about the churches' contribution to what Jacques Delors famously called the 'heart and soul' of Europe. This is no quick-fix task but it may be that this will need to be the grand theme for our next Assembly in 2018.

In the meantime CEC is settling down well in Brussels and Strasbourg, on the good foundations of the Church and Society Commission. Particularly gratifying was Member Churches' enthusiastic response for names for our Thematic Reference Groups. And these are now working well. CEC is also working well and most urgently with the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME).

At the end of last year we bade farewell to Rev. Dr Guy Liagre who saw us through the move from Geneva and the merger with the CSC and we now most warmly welcome Fr Heikki Huttunen, our first Orthodox General Secretary.

I commend this report to the Churches.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Fr
Heikki
Huttunen



It is not a simple task to realise what it means to "be church" in Europe now. Our churches need each other in this task, despite and because of their differences in doctrinal and spiritual approach, cultural background and political situation. The Conference of European Churches has the unique possibility to serve them in rediscovering the authentic meaning of Christian mission and service – the unity of the sacrament of the altar and the sacrament of the neighbour.

European churches are reminded of the core of their identity and their ecumenical calling. In the spirit of the Divine commandments and promises of the Bible, they are called to dismantle walls of division, to teach respect and love of the neighbour and to spread a culture of solidarity, welcome and selflessness.

By God's providence, CEC faces this challenge having gone through a thorough process of reform. It has resulted in a streamlined and focused structure. Now it is the time to concentrate our confined resources to this timely task—to discern the signs of the times in an awakened dialogue with partners, to enhance the existing high-standard work, and to deepen communication and cooperation with the churches. Preparations for the 15th General Assembly in 2018 provide a useful frame of reference for this refocusing of our goals and our work.

One more step along the world we go: Pilgrimage for Climate Justice

In 2013 at its assembly in Busan the World Council of Churches issued a call to join in a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. The Pilgrimage celebrates fellowship in community, and works for healing and reconciliation in a world filled with conflict, violence, and pain. This call resonated throughout the churches in Europe, especially as they prepared for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.

From the outset, CEC enthusiastically supported the European Pilgrimage for Climate Justice. We raised awareness of issues relating to the COP21 proceedings, identified and connected contributors to this pilgrimage, and supported the activities of minority churches, especially in central and eastern Europe. A highlight of our efforts was an ecumenical consultation in Schwerte (Germany) in October. Here pilgrims, representatives of churches, and church leaders from across Europe gathered to encourage each other and mobilise a Christian voice in response to catastrophic climate change. Through local, regional, and national events, CEC Member Churches joined the pilgrimage in dozens

of creative ways. Churches shared, discussed, and supported each other's engagement. Climate pilgrims cycled through Hungary and filled a baton with soil from the communities they visited. Another baton was used as a symbol in raising public engagement through organising a variety of events in Scotland. A number of pilgrims hiked from northern Scandinavia all the way to Paris for COP21. Numerous and worthwhile activities took place across the whole continent.

A significant feature of the Paris conference was the strong participation of civil society, churches, and faith-based organisations. Political negotiations in Paris were accompanied by parallel events, including prayer, dialogue, and other actions. Representatives from churches and other faith communities underscored the urgency of the problem, and its interconnectedness with other justice issues including the migration and refugee crisis. At the conclusion of COP21, CEC welcomed the Paris Agreement and encouraged churches to receive it as an invitation to further action for climate justice.



The risky quest for human rights: Refugee crisis escalates

Refugee and migrant arrivals in southern Europe swelled to new proportions in 2015, bringing challenges for churches in Europe and many European societies. The arrival of more than 1 million migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers at Europe's external borders prompted CEC and CCME to work together for a coordinated and humane response.

Solidarity with members and partners was at the forefront of our work. CCME organised and initiated several visits of churches to Greece, Italy and countries along the Balkan route. Face-to-face contact with refugees underscored their dire situation. "I want to find a country with human rights," an Eritrean fleeing her homeland remarked in Rome. CEC, together with CCME and the World Council of Churches (WCC), encouraged Member Churches to address national governments with their concerns and to urge them to put human beings above all else in EU asylum and migration policies.

At the European level, CCME advocated for safe and legal access to the EU, through such means as humanitarian visas, resettlement, and family reunification. Together with Eurodiaconia, ACT Alliance EU, and EU-CORD, CEC and CCME appealed to the ministers of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council and the heads of government meeting in the European Council for a unified, ambitious, and rights-based refugee and migration policy.

Among those most in need of international protection are minorities persecuted for their religious beliefs in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere. These countless thousands were a focus of CEC human



rights work in 2015. We hosted a conference at the theological school of Halki (Turkey) on advancing freedom of religion or belief in September, and learned more about the migrant experience in Sweden during our second Summer School on Human Rights in May. In June, CCME co-presented an academic study, "Defining and Identifying Middle Eastern Christian Communities in Europe." The study shed further light on the troubling situation of Christians in the Middle East and their diverse experiences as migrants in Europe.

As the scale of the crisis grew, so did hostility toward those arriving in the EU. Borders were closed and debates escalated within the EU about quotas and limitations to processing asylum requests. In the face of these tensions, CCME underlined that asylum is a human right, enshrined in the UN Refugee Convention, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Looking toward 2016, CEC and CCME will continue collaboration on this front as the refugee crisis- and its responses- continue to develop.

Ecumenical relations: Solidarity, advocacy, friendship



Our work in 2015 was amplified through strong collaboration with our ecumenical partners.

Together with CCEE, we issued a joint message on International Roma Day (8 April), calling for reconciliation and solidarity with Roma people. The CEC-CCEE Joint Committee met in Rome in May and enjoyed theological exchange on human freedom and an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis.

Employment and Social Affairs: The European Sunday Alliance and the European Parliament

CEC is a founding member of the European Sunday Alliance (ESA), which came into existence in 2011 and includes trade unions, employer organisations, national Sunday Alliances, churches and church-related organisations, and civil society organisations. In cooperation with the ESA, CEC advocates for a common weekly day of rest and decent work in dialogue with the European Parliament (EP). After the 2014 European Parliament elections, the ESA started an EP Interest Group on Work-Life Balance, hosted by Evelyn Regner MEP (S&D) and Thomas Mann MEP (EPP). In 2015, the ESA

In partnership with COMECE and CCME, CEC organised a dialogue seminar with the European Commission. It focused on the long-term integration of migrants and refugees into European labour markets and society as whole. Rt Rev. Christopher Hill, president of CEC, and Cardinal Reinhard Marx, president of COMECE, issued a joint statement of concern for the humanitarian crisis arising from conflict in Syria. Regular meetings with the presidency of the Council of the EU also took place in Latvia and Luxembourg.

We also collaborated with the WCC and other Regional Ecumenical Organisations. European churches answered the call of the WCC through a Pilgrimage for Climate Justice leading to COP21 in Paris. CEC was also represented on a WCC solidarity visit to Ukraine and at the general assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia.

organised three Interest Group meetings at the European Parliament, with 20 to 30 participants gathered at each from the Parliament and the ESA. The meetings included a debate with Prof. Dr Harmut Rosa, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (Germany) on the so-called acceleration society, as well as an exchange on the EP report on the "EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020." The final meeting for 2015 focussed on the significance of healthy work places in Europe and the need to prevent psychosocial risks.

Economic and Ecological Justice: Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy

For churches being a good neighbourhood is more than a matter of policy. Our vision of a good neighbour goes back to our biblical understandings and the parable of the Good Samaritan. This story gives us a model of behaviour that respects the other and their needs, while sharing resources and support. This is still relevant today and is the image of a good neighbour set out in a joint CEC-CCME contribution to a public consultation on the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The consultation was organised by the European Commission in early 2015 with the hope of updating and revising the current ENP. The joint contribution was developed through consultation with CEC Member Churches. We supported a vision

of cooperation, trusting partnerships, and mutual dependence among countries belonging to the Union and just beyond its

external borders. From the point of view of the churches, the ENP advances a vision for the whole continent, and this vision can enable fairness and good relationships between the EU and its neighbours.



Human Rights: Standing together, fighting discrimination

Human rights work at CEC in 2015 focussed on freedom of religion or belief, and accompanying efforts to fight discrimination. In May, the second annual Summer School on Human Rights took place in Hagaberg (Sweden). In collaboration with

hosts Church of Sweden and Uniting Church in Sweden, CEC brought together 40 participants to discuss theological and political approaches to discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, race, gender, and other grounds. They also gained knowledge of anti-discrimination legislation at the European and international level, and learned more about the local situation in Södertälje (Sweden) in combatting Islamophobia and antisemitism. In September, human rights experts gathered at the theological school in Halki (Turkey) to discuss the role of religion in the public sphere, freedom of religion or belief inside and outside the EU, as well as the crisis in Iraq and Syria that has led to the persecution of Christians and other minorities. The situation in Turkey informed discussions, and contributed to the final statement on themes addressed at Halki.



Education for Democratic Citizenship: Promoting participation and peace

As an observer, CEC participated in meetings of the CDPPE of the Council of Europe (Intergovernmental Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice). Our commitment to Education for Democratic Citizenship was also expressed through our membership in the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe (CoE) and participation in several working groups on EDC. CEC was also similarly represented within the CINGO, a group of Christian INGOs active within and vis-à-vis the CoE. In October, CEC was included in a meeting of education managers and experts on "Focal Points for Protestant Education in Europe," which was held by Community of



Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) at the Academy of Tutzing (Germany). The new Thematic Reference Group (TRG) started work monitoring and participating in CoE and EU activities in the education field, interacting with partners among Member Churches, awareness raising activities and interfaith dialogue.

Bioethics: Individual choice, societal impact



In 2015, CEC work in bioethics examined important and current issues including genetic testing and insurance, research on biological material of human origin, human rights and the dignity of people with mental disorders, gene editing, and more. There was active participation in the meetings of the DH-BIO of the Council of Europe (Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Bioethics). The new TRG has started work on a report

on new developments in assisted procreation, including gamete and embryo donation, surrogacy, and intervention in the genome. The group also decided to launch, if possible, another report on developments in predictive medicine. This work will be carried out in the context of the increasing scarcity of resources, which is leading to tragic choices having to be made about life and death. Both of these broader developments only directly involve a small group of people, but they influence whole societies with their impact on family building, biological and social parenthood, and future generations.

EU Policy and Legislation: Concerns for the whole continent

The Working Group on EU Policy and Legislation, facilitated and led by OKRin Katrin Hatzinger, head of the Evangelical Church in German (EKD) office in Brussels, met in March 2015 and again under its new mandate as a TRG in November 2015 in Brussels.

The Working Group monitored European legislation with relevance for churches and concerning church-state relations. Besides discussing developments in Member Churches and learning about national state-church relationships, the group focused on the following issues: EU data protection regulation, judgements of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on free-movement of EU citizens, the state

of play on EU anti-discrimination legislation, the jurisprudence of the ECJ on the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and on the safe harbour decision of the European Commission, and the development of the dialogue according to Article 17 (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) under the new Commission.

In November the group met for the first time under its new mandate and welcomed newcomers from Greece, the UK, Ireland and Latvia. The meeting served as a great opportunity to get to know each other and to identify areas of common interest.

Migration and Asylum

For CCME, 2015 was an important year for promoting alternatives to the current migration regime in Europe, including resettlement, humanitarian visa, relaxing of visa regimes, and family reunification. The "safe passage" project, in particular, argued for safe and legal pathways for refugees and migrants into and through Europe. Such legal avenues would save lives in the Mediterranean and also reduce irregular movement of refugees and migrants.

CCME also continued to advocate for a fairer distribution of responsibility for the reception of asylum seekers between EU Member States. A high-level conference from 22 to 24 February 2015

in Rome highlighted such demands in view of the results of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

CCME members engaged in continued monitoring of the external border of the EU in Greece, Italy, and Spain. In view of the arrival of larger groups of refugees via the Mediterranean, in particular the Aegean, CCME facilitated expressions of solidarity among churches across Europe. These included public declarations of support, financial assistance as well as team visits to churches in countries experiencing an exceptionally high number of refugee arrivals.

In Brief



- CEC wrote to Greek Member Churches in July expressing solidarity and support as Greece faced a serious economic crisis and worsening social situation. The letter also expressed concern for the European project and urged political leaders to find common ground for the future of Greece both inside the Eurozone and the Union.
- In May, the general secretaries of European National Councils of Churches met in Berlin (Germany). Their annual gathering brought together 25 participants from 15 European countries. Together they learned more about the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, visited the German Bundestag, and discussed the church-state relationships.
- As part of its Governing Board meeting in June in Strasbourg (France), CEC had exchanges with several senior staff of the CoE in areas where our cooperation is particularly strong, including civil society and the INGO Conference, the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, bioethics, human rights, the European Social Charter, EDC and human rights education.

- The Annual meeting of secretaries responsible for European affairs took place in Strasbourg (France) in November. The theme was "Conflicts and Reconciliation: The Role of the Council of Europe" and included dialogue and visits, particularly with the Human Rights Commissioner. Participants enjoyed discovering the importance of CoE for bringing together 47 European member States on a range of issues, including human rights and democracy.
- CEC took an active part in drafting the Council of Europe "Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection and promotion of Human rights in culturally diverse societies" and also the "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and business."
- In April, the Committee of Ministers of the CoE acknowledged a report in which the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) found a violation of the European Social Charter by the Netherlands regarding the right of undocumented migrants to 'bread, bed and bath'. CEC was later invited to take part in training on collective complaints.
- From 26 to 28 October the Church Action on Labour and Life (CALL) network held a conference on EU labour mobility in Brussels in cooperation with CCME and Eurodiaconia. It was organised in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), a consultative body of the European Union, representing social partners and civil society organisations.



- CEC commemorated the centenary of the start of the Armenian genocide in April and attended events throughout Europe and abroad. We also held our November Governing Board meeting in Armenia where the group continued commemorations at the genocide memorial complex in Yerevan.
- In November religious and political representatives gathered at the European Parliament to discuss religious freedom in the Republic of Cyprus. Religious contributions at the seminar stressed the unity of the Cypriot people, and emphasised the political, rather than religious, nature of the conflict.
- EU guidelines on freedom of religion or belief are due for evaluation in 2016. CEC has begun consulting its Member Churches to collect input for our evaluation of these guidelines.
- We partnered with Globethics.net on the successful publication and launch of four books this year, including The European Vision and the Churches: The Legacy of Marc Lenders by Win Burton and Europe's Heart and Soul: Jacques Delors' Appeal to the Churches by Laurens Hogebrink.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Each year CEC participates in and organizes many meetings, consultations, and visits. We also organise workshops, dialogues, and conferences. Here are just a few more of our activities from 2015.

JANUARY

Meeting of CEC and COMECE with the Latvian EU Presidency in Riga (Latvia).
Meeting with CCME, COMECE, and Eurodiaconia on Roma solidarity.

FEBRUARY

CEC-UEPAL meeting in Strasbourg.
European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) leadership team meeting in Brussels (Belgium)

MARCH

Launch of the EP Interest Group on work-life balance of the European Sunday Alliance in Brussels.
CEC Governing Board meeting in Brussels.
CALL Network conference on youth unemployment takes place in Brussels.

JULY

CEC publishes Forging our Future, a roadmap of its activities leading to the 2018 Assembly.
Press Release: Greece Crisis - CEC expresses solidarity with Greek churches

AUGUST

EPRID meeting in Brussels.
Press Release: Christians unite in prayers for the healing of creation

SEPTEMBER

Ecumenical celebration of Time for Creation in Brussels.
Ecumenical conference on climate change at the European Parliament in Brussels.
Meeting of the Thematic Reference Group on Peacebuilding and Reconciliation.

APRIL

ECEN meetings on eco-management and nuclear safety in Heidelberg (Germany).
Meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on European Economic Governance

MAY

Meeting of the European Sunday Alliance.

JUNE

Meeting of the CEC Governing Board in Strasbourg (France).
High-level religious leaders meeting takes place at the European Commission.
Book launch for The European Vision and the Churches: The Legacy of Marc Lenders

OCTOBER

Pilgrimage for Climate Justice conference in Schwerte (Germany).
EU Labour Mobility – A gift or a burden?: CALL Network conference in Brussels.

NOVEMBER

Annual meeting of secretaries responsible for European affairs in Strasbourg.
Meeting of the CEC Governing Board at Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin in Armenia.

DECEMBER

Integration of Migrants into Society and Labour Market: Dialogue seminar with COMECE and CCME at the European Commission.
Book launch for Europe's Heart and Soul: Jacques Delors' Appeal to the Churches.

Governing Board

PRESIDENCY

President
Rt. Rev Christopher Hill D. D. KCVO (Church of England)

Vice-President
Very Rev Karin Burstrand (Church of Sweden)

Vice-President
H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (Ecumenical Patriarchate)

MEMBERS AND PROXIES

Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot (Church of Norway)
Proxy: Mr Christian Roar Pedersen (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark)

Rev. Gwynn ap Gwilym (Church in Wales)
Proxy: Rev. Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel (Church of England)

Rev. Michael Bubik (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria)
Proxy: Rev. Mag Thomas Hennefeld (Reformed Church of Austria)

LKRin Christine Busch (Evangelical Church in Germany)
Proxy: OKR Rainer Kiefer (Evangelical Church in Germany)

Dr Katerina Dekanovska (Czechoslovak Hussite Church)
Proxy: Rev. Martina Kopecka (Czechoslovak Hussite Church)

Rev. Adriana Florea (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania)
Proxy: Rev. Elfriede Dörr (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania)

Ms Emma Johnson (Methodist Church in Britain)
Proxy: Ms Sarah Bach (United Methodist Church in Switzerland)

H.E. Metropolitan Joseph of Central and Southern Europe (Romanian Orthodox Church)
Proxy: Rev Prof. Viorel Ionita (Romanian Orthodox Church)

Mr Edouard Kibongui Kanza (Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy)
Proxy: Ms Dunia Magherini (Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy)

Rev. Christian Krieger (Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine)
Proxy: Rev. Marc Seiwert (Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine)

Prof. Dr Aila Lauha (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)
Proxy: Mr Tapani Rantala (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)

Rev. Alison McDonald (Church of Scotland)
Proxy: Rev. Dr Donald Watts (Presbyterian Church in Ireland)

H.E. Archbishop Dr Yeznik Petrosyan (Armenian Apostolic Church)
Proxy: Bishop Hovakim Manukyan (Armenian Apostolic Church)

H.G. Bishop Porfyrios of Neapolis (Church of Cyprus)
Proxy: Ms Sonila Dedja-Rembeci (Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania)

Very Rev Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis (Church of Greece)
Proxy: Rev Dr Andrzej Kuzma (Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church)

Rev. Silke Tosch (Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany (Baptists))
Proxy: Rev. Stephan von Twardowski (United Methodist Church in Germany)

Ms Julija Vidovic (Serbian Orthodox Church)
Proxy: Dr Aleksandra Pistalo (Serbian Orthodox Church)

Thematic Reference Group Members

BIOETHICS

Rev. Dr Jean Boboc
Romanian Orthodox Church

Dr Andrea Dörries
Evangelical Church in Germany

H.G. Bishop Makarios Griniezakis of Christopolis
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Dr Murdo Macdonald
Church of Scotland

Rev. Dr Brendan McCarthy
Church of England

Dr Ulrich Becker Nissen
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Rev. Dr Miriam Prasilova
Silesian Evangelical Church A.C. in the Czech Republic

Mr Meego Remmel
Estonian Council of Churches

Prof. Luca Savarino
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

Ms Julija Vidovic
Serbian Orthodox Church

ECCLESIOLOGY AND THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

Rev. Maria Agustsdottir
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland

Rev. Branimir Bucanovic
Reformed Christian (Calvinist) Church in Croatia

Rev. Eva Guldanova
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
Most Rev. Dr Michael Jackson
Church of Ireland

Rev. Dr Tomi Karttunen
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. Hilde Marie Movafagh
Church of Norway / Christian Council of Norway

Dr Friederike Nüssel
Evangelical Church in Germany

Dr Emmanouil Papamikroulis
Church of Greece

Rev. Dr Mattijs Ploeger
Old-Catholic Church in the Netherlands

Rev. Dr Sorin Selaru
Romanian Orthodox Church

Archimandrite Agathangelos Siskos
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Daniel Topalski
United Methodist Church in Bulgaria

ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Rev. Dr Tamas Kodacsy
Reformed Church in Hungary

Ir Kees Nieuwerth MPhil
Church and Peace

Rev. Dr Panu Pihkala
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. Hans Martin Renno
United Methodist Church in Germany

Rev. Dr Raag Rolfsen
Church of Norway / Christian Council of Norway

Mr Adrian Shaw
Church of Scotland

Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis
Church of Greece

Rev. Sabine Udodesku
Evangelical Church in Germany

Mr Rob van Drimmelen
United Protestant Church of Belgium

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Ms Hanna Broadbridge
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Mr Vincent Dubois
United Protestant Church of Belgium

Archpriest Christos Filiotis
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Dr Vasile Iorgulescu
Romanian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr Ioannis Karamouzis
Church of Greece

Ms Hana Moualla
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Mr Jan Schinkelshoek
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Dr Peter Schreiner
Evangelical Church in Germany / InterEuropean
Commission on Church and School

Rev. Tuula Helena Vinko
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Ms Maria Wingård
Church of Sweden / Christian Council of Sweden /
Uniting Church in Sweden

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ISSUES

OKR Dr Ralph Charbonnier
Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr Konstantinos Delikostantis
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Mr Vladimir Gerka
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia

Rev. Juha Mattila
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr Vasileios Meichanetsidis
Church of Greece

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

Ms Eva Ungvari
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

Fr George Valcu
Romanian Orthodox Church

EU POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms Adéla Denkova
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Dr Altana Filos
Evangelical Church of Greece

Ms Lena Kumlin LLM
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Prof. Nikolaos Maghioros
Church of Greece

Dr Joanna Matuszewska
Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland

Prof. Dr David McClean
Church of England

Dr Kenneth Milne
Church of Ireland

Prof. Dr Rüdiger Stotz
Evangelical Church in Germany

Mr Reinis Vanags
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Mr Pantel Vingas
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Ms Louise Wilkins
Methodist Church in Britain

HUMAN RIGHTS

Archimandrite Aimilianos Bogiannou
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Ms Fiona Buchanan
Church of Scotland

Ms Marta Cecha
Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church

Rev. Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Rev. Dr Göran Gunner
Church of Sweden

Dr Peter Krömer
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in
Austria

Rev. Attila Palcso
Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia

Dr Aleksandra Pistalo
Serbian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr Patrick Roger Schnabel
Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Lisa Schneider
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

Dr. Pamela Slotte
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Ms Natallia Vasilevich
World Student Christian Federation-Europe

Ms Geesje Werkman
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

PEACEBUILDING AND RECONCILIATION

Mr Tor Kristian Birkeland
Church of Norway / Christian Council of Norway

Rev. Dr Björn Cedersjö
Christian Council of Sweden

Rev. Dr Vilmos Fischl
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary

OKRin Antje Heider-Rottwilm
Church and Peace

Archimandrite Maximos Pafilis
Church of Greece

Dr Johnston McMaster
Methodist Church in Ireland / Irish Council of Churches

Rev. Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel
Church of England

Rev. Joost Röselaers
Remonstrant Church in the Netherlands

Rev. Aaro Rytönen
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Ms Catherine Tsavdaridou
Ecumenical Patriarchate

AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON EUROPEAN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Prof. Dr Hans Diefenbacher
Evangelical Church in Germany

Mr Szabolcs Lörincz
Reformed Church of Hungary

Prof. Dr Gerhard Wegner
Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr Chris Lefebvre
United Protestant Church in Belgium

Mr Arttu Makipaa
Church of England

Mr Vladimir Gerka
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia

Prof Dr Heikki Hiilamo
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr Pandora Dimanopoulou-Cohen
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Member Churches

- Albania**
Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania
- Armenia**
Armenian Apostolic Church
- Austria**
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria
Old-Catholic Church of Austria
Reformed Church of Austria
United Methodist Church in Austria
- Belgium**
United Protestant Church in Belgium
- Bulgaria**
Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria
Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Bulgaria
United Methodist Church in Bulgaria
- Croatia**
Baptist Union of Croatia
Church of God in Croatia
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Croatia
Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia
Reformed Christian (Calvinist) Church in Croatia
- Cyprus**
Church of Cyprus
- Czech Republic**
Czechoslovak Hussite Church
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
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
- Estonia**
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada)
Estonian (Apostolic) Orthodox Church
- Finland**
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Orthodox Church of Finland
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
United Methodist Church in the FYR of Macedonia
- France**
Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France
Malagasy Protestant Church in France
Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine
United Protestant Church of France

- Georgia**
Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia
- Germany**
Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany
Evangelical Church in Germany
Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany (Baptist Union)
United Methodist Church in Germany
- Greece**
Church of Greece
Evangelical Church of Greece
- Hungary**
Baptist Union of Hungary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in 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
- Italy**
Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy
Evangelical Methodist Church in Italy
Waldensian Church in Italy
- Latvia**
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Germany)
- Liechtenstein**
Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein
- Lithuania**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany
- Luxembourg**
Protestant Churches in Luxembourg
- Netherlands**
Mennonite Church in the Netherlands
Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands
Protestant Church in the Netherlands
Remonstrant Church
- Norway**
Church of Norway

- Poland**
Baptist Union of Poland
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland
Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland
Old-Catholic Mariavite Church in Poland
Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church
Polish Catholic Church (Old-Catholic)
United Methodist Church in Poland
- Portugal**
Evangelical Methodist Church in Portugal
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal
Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church
- Romania**
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (Sibiu)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (Cluj-Napoca)
Reformed Church in Romania (Kiralyhagomellek district)
Romanian Orthodox Church
Transylvanian Reformed Church
- Russia**
Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
Russian Orthodox Church (suspended its membership in 2008)
- Serbia**
Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and Montenegro
Serbian Orthodox Church
Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia
United Methodist Church in Serbia
- Slovak Republic**
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia
Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
- Slovenia**
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Slovenia
- Spain**
Spanish Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

- Sweden**
Church of Sweden
Uniting Church in Sweden
- Switzerland**
United Methodist Church in Switzerland
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches
Old-Catholic Church of Switzerland
- Ukraine**
Reformed Church in Transcarpathia
- United Kingdom**
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom
Council of African and Caribbean Churches in the UK
Methodist Church in Britain
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Salvation Army UK Territory/Ireland
Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide
United Reformed Church
- International Areas**
Ecumenical Patriarchate
European Baptist Federation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States
Moravian Church - European Continental Province
Salvation Army - International Headquarters
United Methodist Church - Nordic & Baltic Area

NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Christian Council of Norway
Christian Council of Sweden
Christian Interconfessional Consultative Committee
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Churches Together in England
Churches Together in Wales
Consultation of Christian Churches in Belgium
Council of Christian Churches in Germany
Council of Christian Churches in Slovenia
Council of Churches in the Netherlands
Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia
Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Lithuania
Estonian Council of Churches
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
French Protestant Federation
Finnish Ecumenical Council
Irish Council of Churches
Malta Ecumenical Council (Christians Together in Malta)
National Council of Churches in Denmark
Polish Ecumenical Council
Portuguese Council of Christian Churches
Spanish Committee on Cooperation between the Churches
Swedish Free Church Council
Swiss National Ecumenical Council

ORGANISATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

Church and Peace
Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
Conference of European Clergy
Conference of European University Chaplains
Ecumenical Association for Adult Education in Europe
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
Eurodiaconia
European Alliance of Young Men Christian Associations
European Forum of Christian Men
InterEuropean Commission on Church and School
International Association for Christian Education
International Prison Chaplains' Association - Europe
Oikosnet Europe
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany
World Student Christian Federation - Europe
Young Women Christian Association - Europe

RESOURCES

The audited accounts (income and expenditure) of the Conference of European Churches for 2015 closed with a total of €1 707 743. Membership fees were collected from 78 of our 114 Member Churches. Thanks to additional earmarked contributions from Member Churches, church-related organisations, foundations, and others, CEC was able to implement many projects that would have been otherwise financially impossible. The Armenian Apostolic Church hosted the November 2015 governing board meetings, and many Member Churches also made in-kind contributions by hosting meetings or covering the costs of their participants.

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STAFF

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Associated Staff
Rev. John Murray

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|--|
| ASSPROP | Association of Owners |
| CCEE | Council of European Bishops’ Conferences |
| CCME | Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe |
| CDPPE | Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice |
| CEC | Conference of European Churches |
| CoE | Council of Europe |
| COMECE | Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union |
| COP21 | Twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties |
| CPCE | Community of Protestant Churches in Europe |
| DH-BIO | Committee on Bioethics – Council of Europe |
| ECEN | European Christian Environmental Network |
| ECHR | European Court of Human Rights |
| ECJ | European Court of Justice |
| ECSR | European Committee of Social Rights |
| EDC | Education for Democratic Citizenship |
| EESC | European Economic and Social Committee |
| EKD | Evangelical Church in Germany |
| ENCC | European National Councils of Churches |
| ENP | European Neighbourhood Policy |
| EP | European Parliament |
| EPP | European People’s Party |
| ESA | European Sunday Alliance |
| EU | European Union |
| EU-CORD | European Christian Organisations for Relief and Development |
| INGO | International Non-governmental Organisations |
| MEP | Member of the European Parliament |
| S&D | Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats |
| TFEU | Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union |
| TRG | Thematic Reference Group |
| UEPAL | Union of Protestant Churches of Alsace and Lorraine |
| WCC | World Council of Churches |