



**O**n the basis of our Christian faith, we work towards a humane, socially conscious Europe, in which human rights and the basic values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance, participation and solidarity prevail. (Charta Oecumenica, Guidelines for the Growing Cooperation among the Churches in Europe)

With this mission in mind, the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) carries on its work through its secretariat based in both Brus-

sels and Strasbourg and everywhere in Europe through the witness and commitment of men and women in the member churches.

It is our conviction

that churches today should actively participate in shaping Europe and European society. The Church and Society Commission does this by encouraging a Christian contribution to the political, social and economic life of the continent.

Our witness in Europe is also expressed by engaging member churches in acting together for the common good in Europe and by fostering greater ecumenical dialogue, co-operation and fellowship among member churches of CEC. We are grateful for the support and the encouragement we constantly receive from our member churches and for their extensive co-operation.

These are the messages we want to send out with this annual report, as well as giving an account of our activities in 2004.

The Church and Society Commission is a strong partner of the European Institutions. In co-operation with these institutions and other partners, including non-Christian religious communities and NGOs, the CSC aims at promoting and advocating a Europe of solidarity, reconciliation and human dignity.

We are pleased to present this annual report. We hope that you find it makes interesting reading.

# Introduction

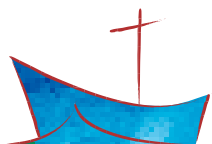
OKRin Antje Heider-Rottwilm

Mr Yury Ryabykh

Co-moderators



Visit our website [www.cec-kek.org](http://www.cec-kek.org)



# WORK IN PROGRESS

## Foreword

Rev. Rüdiger Noll Director

*European integration means much more than just enlarging and deepening the European Union*

**A**s far as the process of European Integration is concerned, 2004 was an exciting and important year. On 1<sup>st</sup> May ten new member states joined the European Union – the biggest wave of enlargement ever. For the first time, states from beyond the dividing “Iron Curtain” became members of the Union.

For many, 1<sup>st</sup> May symbolizes the new Europe and the end of Cold War divisions. In June, the 25 Heads of State and Government of the enlarged Union adopted the Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. The “EU Constitutional Treaty”, as it has become known, stands for a deepening of the Union. It makes evident that the Union is more than just an economic space; it is driven by values and objectives.

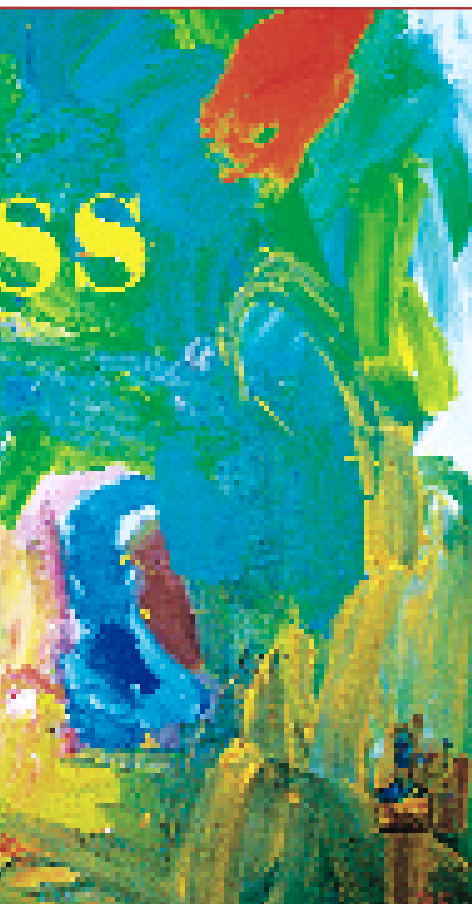
After the Heads of States and Governments signed the Constitution on 29 Oc-

tober 2004, it is now being submitted to the Member States for ratification.

In several member states referenda will be held in the course of 2005 and 2006.

Finally, the European Council in December 2004 decided to start accession negotiations with Turkey. Prior to the decision, the European Commission concluded that Turkey had “sufficiently” progressed to fulfil the Copenhagen criteria for accession.

**The Church and Society** Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), as an interlocutor between its 125 (Anglican, Old Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) member churches and the European Institutions, was heavily involved in these developments. Though all of the above-mentioned events relate to the EU, Europe is bigger than the European Union. CEC always had a pan-



European vision and a substantial number of member churches from beyond the EU. Therefore, the CSC does not only relate to the European Union, but also to the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UN and NATO. In its dialogue with the EU the CSC always reflects its pan-European constituency and vision.

**European integration**, however, could be the headline under which many, if not all, of the activities of the CSC could be summarised.

As terminology, European integration means much more than just enlarging and deepening the European Union. It raised issues such as: How can the social standards in Europe be kept and strengthened? How can fundamental rights be protected? How do security, peace and reconciliation in Europe relate to each other?

This first annual report of the CSC of CEC can only elucidate some of the important European developments that the CSC addressed in the course of the year. The selected topics are to be seen just as highlights of a much broader scope of work.

2004 was not only an important year for the European integration process, but also for the CSC itself. The newly elected Church and Society Commission of CEC met for its first plenary meeting in Wavre, near Brussels. It adopted a 6-year work programme, which covers 15 priority areas (cf. [www.cec-kek.org](http://www.cec-kek.org)). The work programme was developed through an unprecedented and highly participatory consultation process with member churches. The Commission also applied the new set of working mechanisms and methods in order to address the priority issues of the work programme.

In parallel, the capacity of the CSC rose by increasing the staff to currently eight Executive staff (including two co-opted staff members) and five assistants. It is especially notable that the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (Leuenberg fellowship) seconded the Rev. Dr Dieter Heidtmann to the CSC staff team. He will have a special responsibility to report back through the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe to Protestant member churches. An important new feature of the CSC is the increased communication and cooperation with member churches. In 2004 the meeting of Secretaries of European churches with responsibility for Church and Society issues became an annual feature. In most of the working areas networks were established using modern means of technology for

more direct and quicker communication. On numerous occasions, staff and Commission members visited member churches or organised meetings in Brussels, Strasbourg or elsewhere, which linked representatives, most often church leaders, from member churches with representatives from the political institutions.

**We are grateful** for the close cooperation with our member churches and partner organisations. We are also grateful for the support which we receive from the members of the Church and Society Commission, its Executive Committee and Moderators as well as from the many representatives, who offer their time, resources and ideas in our working groups and meetings.

Religion is not just private; it is also a public matter. As the Barmen Declaration from 1934 states: "As Jesus Christ is God's comforting pronouncement of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, with equal seriousness, he is also God's vigorous announcement of his claim upon our whole life... We reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ..." This is why churches engage themselves in their societies and this is why they gave the CSC the mandate to support their own efforts as well as to engage in the European integration process.

The draft of the EU Constitutional Treaty recognises this public role and the contribution of churches and religious communities explicitly in article I-52(3): "Recognising their identity and their specific contributions, the Union shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with these churches and organisations."



**T**he progress of European integration marked 2004 with several significant moments. The EU enlargement by ten new countries and the adoption of the EU Constitutional Treaty were two of the most significant events. On these occasions European churches and CEC took the opportunity to communicate to the wider public their position on the deep changes occurring in the development of European society and perspectives of further continuation.

**The EU enlargement** was welcomed by the Church and Society Commission on the occasion of its annual meeting, which coincided with the day of enlargement – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004. “For many years European integration has been an important part of the agenda of the churches across the continent”, states the document adopted at the meeting. The history of Christianity and developments in Europe are deeply linked. The worship service marking the EU enlargement, organised

by the CSC together with other ecumenical partners in Brussels, was an event which enabled the churches to make their active involvement and their contribution to development in Europe visible.

We are grateful to the Reformed Church in Hungary for the excellent co-operation in organising the conference focusing on the consequences of EU enlargement and the response of the churches, which took place in April 2004. Church leaders from the EU new member states and candidate countries underlined that economic prosperity and economic growth must not be the only aims of European integration.

The process of European integration needs to be a process with a human face, taking into account the social consequences

of the economic processes. Solidarity between people, countries and regions needs to play a shaping role in the future Union.

The concrete study of some impacts of EU enlargement is the aim of the project which has been launched in 2004 jointly between CSC, Theobalt (Network of the churches around the Baltic Sea) and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME).

Free movement of persons as a challenge and an opportunity in the Baltic Sea region is central to the project, continuing also into 2005. To look at the EU enlargement as it affects rural areas is also an important concern



*"Since reconciliation is  
at the heart of the Gospel,  
the overcoming  
of geographical  
and psychological  
borders between peoples  
and nations is central  
to Christian  
responsibility"*

for the churches as they have a special role to play in the development of rural regions in Europe.

The conference organised in May 2004 in Strasbourg by CSC, the Churches' European Rural Network (CERN) and the Evangelical Rural Youth Academy of Altenkirchen (Germany) underlined that churches fulfil not only diaconal and pastoral tasks in services they provide in rural regions, but also carry out additional tasks: they have a particular role to play in protecting and preserving the values and identities of the

respective regions and are able to raise the concerns of the communities and people living in rural regions.


**The relationship** of the European Union to Turkey is an issue of immense importance for future development in Europe. The possible accession of Turkey to the EU will not only influence the politi-

cal set-up in the Union and in Europe as a whole, but also the living conditions of the many EU citizens and people who live on the continent.

Therefore, the CSC started an extensive process of consultation on this issue amongst the CEC member churches in 2004. The process resulted in a final statement in which was expressed the position regarding this substantial theme. Through the statement, a contribution of the churches was made to the debate about the relationship of the EU and Turkey, which culminated in the closing months of 2004.







# The EU Constitution a major step in the European Integration Process

**O**n 29 October 2004, the 25 Heads of State and Government of the EU member states signed the Draft Treaty Establishing A Constitution for Europe (often referred to as the Constitutional Treaty). This was the first major stage in a long and still-ongoing process.

At a time when the further development of the European Union and the European integration process seemed to stall, the Heads of State and Government meeting in Laeken in December 2002 called for a reform towards a better division and definition of competences in the European Union, a simplification of the Union's instruments, more democracy, transparency and efficiency. "In short, citizens are calling for a clear, open, effective, democratically controlled Community approach, developing a Europe which points the way ahead for the world. An approach that provides concrete results in terms of more jobs, better quality of life, less crime, decent education and better health care. There is no doubt that this will require Europe to undergo renewal and reform."

**Addressing these challenges** in the EU framework culminated in drafting the Constitutional Treaty by a 105-member Convention on the Future of Europe between February 2002 and July 2003. Members of the Convention represented the governments of member states and of candidate countries, national Parliaments, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Convention was an experiment of a new form and a new participatory style of working.

When the Convention had finished its work, the governments continued to negotiate amendments under the Italian and Irish Presidencies for much of 2003 and 2004.

Looking at the list of challenges and expectations established at Laeken, it is evident that the churches had to be involved in the process. Many of the challenges addressed issues which for long have been of concern for the churches and on which churches have gained substantial experience.

On behalf of its member churches, the CSC invested many of its resources and much of its capacity in monitoring and accompanying the development of the Constitutional Treaty and its adoption process. The most sophisticated monitor-

ing and lobbying system in the history of the CSC was set up, which was to guarantee that the CSC was in touch with major decision-makers throughout the process.

**Together with** other Brussels-based offices of churches, the CSC monitored every session of the Convention. After each session of the Convention, CSC and COMECE organised oral and written briefings for member churches and partner organisations. CSC staff also maintained permanent contact with the Presidium, Secretariat and members of the Convention.

In the course of the process, CSC prepared several submissions to the Convention and the EU Presidencies, separately or together with other organisations, covering issues such as the values and objectives of the EU, the social dimension, the inclusion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into

the Constitutional Treaty, the participation of civil society, the role of the churches and a reference to God and/or Christianity in the Preamble. Submissions of CEC can be found at the CEC ([www.cec-kek.org](http://www.cec-kek.org)) or the EU forum website.

Altogether, the Convention and the EU member states were largely receptive to the concerns of the churches. Many values and objectives promoted by the churches found their way into the Constitutional Treaty.

Article I-52, after explicitly leaving church-state relations in the competence of the member states, recognises the identity and the special contribution of churches and organisations of faith and conviction in the European integration process. The European Union therefore legally commits itself to an "open, transparent and regular dialogue" with the churches and the communities of faith and conviction.

**The Constitutional Treaty** is now subject to testing by member states, as to whether appropriate responses have been made to the challenge set down in Laeken. Since October 2004, the member states have been invited to affirm the Constitutional Treaty through a process of ratification. In several European countries referenda will be held in the course of 2005 and 2006. The CSC is in the process of publishing a briefing paper in order to support the churches' involvement in national debates and to support them with an assessment of the contents of the Constitutional Treaty.



# Relations with the

**T**he Conference of European Churches is a recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Committee of the United Nations and in participatory status with the Council of Europe. It enjoys a similar recognition with the Institutions of the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) which both do not yet have an "official" status for NGOs, but which are receptive to and even invite contributions from certain NGOs. With the arrival of Rev Matthew Ross on the CSC staff, more intensive relations were also developed with the NATO.

**The European Union** as an institution has do be clearly distinguished from other inter-governmental organisations, in that it does not just function as an inter-governmental body. Member States have passed certain competences to the Union, which in these areas sets law superior to member state law. It is, therefore, unsurprising that the Church and Society Commission devotes much of its energy and resources to monitor and lobby the Institutions of the European Union, i.e. the **European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council**, on behalf of its member churches. The Strasbourg office monitors sessions of the European Parliament and circulates briefing papers and important documents to an ever-growing distribution list. There are various ways in which the Brussels-based CSC staff are in touch with the Institutions. These range from public statements and letters to the institutions to the participation in hearings and consultation processes.

One permanent feature of the contacts





# Political Institutions

between CEC, COMECE and the European Institutions are the “dialogue meetings”, which take place once or twice a year. In 2004, a dialogue meeting was organised in co-operation with CCME, which centred around issues of migration.

**The other permanent** feature is the CEC/COMECE meetings with the respective EU Presidency, which (until now) changes every six months. In the latest of this series, 2004 saw meetings with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern from Ireland and Vice Prime Minister Gerrit Zalm from the Netherlands. The agenda of such meetings is always developed along the priorities of the churches and the respective Presidencies for that year.

Most often, direct contact with civil servants and decision makers are the most important points of entry. At the 2004 CSC meeting of Church and Society Secretaries from European churches, several prominent members of the newly elected European Parliament presented their and their parties’ priorities. In preparation for the elections to the European Parliament, the CSC, together with other Brussels-based organisations, published a briefing paper for churches.

Although the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union has not yet been ratified, discussions have already begun as to how to implement article I-52(3), in which the Union commits itself to an “open, transparent and regular dialogue” with the religious communities. After long discussions, the Council of Europe has boosted the status of NGOs from a “consultative” to a “participatory” status. The CSC, through its Strasbourg office

actively participates in the NGO communities and enjoys direct contacts with many departments of the Council of Europe. Of special importance is CEC’s permanent observer status with the Council’s Steering Committee on Bioethics.

**In June 2004**, a CEC delegation headed by the President Rev Jean-Arnold de Clermont paid a high level visit to the **Council of Europe**. The delegation was received by several heads of departments and by the Deputy General Secretary, Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio. During this visit, CEC was encouraged to apply for an observer status on the Steering Committee for Human Rights – a long-standing request on the part of CEC. After the application was filed, the Steering Committee expressed some hesitations to accept a “religious organisation” as observer. In the meantime, however, the application has been reconsidered and there are signs of a positive response.

The Council of Europe also suggested more regular contacts between CEC and the Committee of Ministers, which is presently under examination. Themes for an annual meeting on this level around themes of common interest are discussed.

In the framework of the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**, CEC participated in the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (Warsaw) and the Conference on “Tolerance, and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination” (Brussels). Such meetings, notwithstanding their intrinsic value, provide excellent opportunities for direct discussions with delegations of Participating States.

In addition to participation in meetings, the Director of the Church and Society Commission also serves as moderator of the OSCE’s Advisory Panel on Free-

dom of Religion and Belief. The Panel tries to promote freedom of religion and belief according to OSCE standards and reviews situations in European countries.



**In relation to the United Nations**, CEC cooperates with the World Council of Churches and the Geneva and New York-based confessional bodies. Though many CEC member churches participated in the 2004 Advocacy week in New York, which is organised by the World Council of Churches, a staff participation proved to be impossible this year.

CEC participates also in the UN NGO community and is member of the NGO Committees on Human Rights, Freedom of Religion and Belief and Disarmament.

2004 finally saw a joint visit of a World Council of Churches and CEC delegation to **NATO** in order to discuss NATO policies, in particular in view of the renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2005.

# Social

**In March 2000**, the EU Heads of State and Government agreed to make the EU “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.”

However, at the end of 2004, the EU Commission had to state the failure of its project known as the “Lisbon-strategy”: “Europe’s citizens are concerned about jobs, growth, the environment and a proper social net.”

The existing lack of economic growth affects all of us, our pensions, salaries and our standard of living.”

**Europe is facing** a huge difference of living standards ranging from Norway, the leading country in UNDP’s Human Development Index to very poor countries in South Eastern Europe. At the end of 2004, more than 19 million men and women in the EU were unemployed, bringing the rate of unemployed people close to 9% in the entire Union. The situation in the neighbouring countries is often even worse. The result is increasing poverty for those who remain excluded from economic growth, education and social security systems. Families are in particular affected by the risk of social exclusion. According to an UNICEF report, even in rich countries 5% of children are growing up in poverty; in other European countries poverty affects every fifth child. (Innocenti: Child poverty in rich countries, 2005).

The intention of EU Commission President Barroso is to turn the Lisbon strat-



*“Solidarity within  
society and solidarity  
between societies*

*is humankind’s chance  
for survival”  
(Jürgen Moltmann)*

# Europe



egy around and concentrate on achieving the central aims of growth and employment. But many observers in Brussels are worried that the third pillar of the Lisbon Strategy, the social sector, might only be seen as an obstacle for economic growth in Europe.

President Barroso tried to tackle these critics by underlining that the renewed Lisbon strategy's overarching goal is sustainable development, comparing the three pillars of Lisbon priorities to children: "If one of my children is ill, I focus on that one, but that does not mean that I love the others less". We believe in equal responsibility for all our children. You cannot starve the social child, because the economic one is sick. Economic policies will not thrive without strong social policies.

**According to the Gospel,** it is an integral part of the calling of the Church to care for the well-being of all people, that they all may enjoy life in its fullness. Therefore, churches offer social services and seek to combat social exclusion. Churches are today the biggest provider of social services in the EU.

Therefore Church and Society Commission is working on Social Issues in close cooperation with Eurodiaconia, the European federation of diaconal institutions. In 2004 we established a Joint Social Policy Working Group, especially working on the development of services in the internal market. At the same time we have carefully monitored developments in economic and social policy in the EU and Council of Europe's work on the basis of the European Social Charter.



# Peace, security

**S**ixty years since the end of World War II, Europe is still not free from conflict. Many parts of the world are afflicted by warfare – the deployment of troops from some European nations in Iraq remains deeply controversial. This, along with the fear of terrorism (tragically realised in Madrid on 11th March 2004), the crisis in Darfur, Sudan

and continuing tensions between Israel and Palestine were the dominant peace and security issues in 2004.

**Popular, if simplistic,** perceptions of a clash of civilisations between an Islamic east and a secular West place a considerable onus on Europe's churches to work for peace and reconciliation. The erroneous impression that faith can be

misused as a basis for conflict must be a serious concern for all religions.

For the European Union, 2004 was dominated by the accession of ten new member states and the signing of the draft European Constitutional Treaty. The key security issues for the EU were reflected in the European Security Strategy (agreed in December 2003) and the security aspects of the draft European



*“He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”  
(Isaiah 2:4)*

# and reconciliation

Constitutional Treaty (notably articles I-16 and I-41). There is considerable unease in some of Europe's churches over a perceived greater military role for the EU. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the EU took over military peacekeeping duties (EUFOR – Operation Althea) from NATO (SFOR) on 2nd December 2004.

The recent growth in the role of the Organisation for Security and Co-opera-

tion in Europe (OSCE) has been considerable. The 1993 budget was 12m, by 2003 this had grown to 185.7m. It is active in arms control, preventive diplomacy, early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; in 2004 OSCE election monitors were active in countries as diverse as Ukraine and the USA.

The diverse 2004 programmes ranged

from police training in several south east European and central Asian states to addressing racial hatred on the internet. A major review of the OSCE will be undertaken in 2005.

**The United Nations** published a report "A more Secure World: our shared responsibility." This paper is a major study on the peacekeeping, peace making and the security role of the UN. In Kosovo, the United Nations and NATO remain heavily committed, through the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) respectively.

The need for non-violent conflict resolution is an important guiding principle underlying the CSC's work on peace, security and reconciliation. A response to the UN Secure World paper is being drafted. A network of church-related peace and reconciliation organisations is also envisaged.

Together with the World Council of Churches, CEC has been involved in ecumenical initiatives in the Balkan region, including the promotion of dialogue. The Brussels office is seeking to play a greater advocacy role in promoting peace and reconciliation; a meeting took place in July with Dr Erhard Busek, Special Co-ordinator of the EU's Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. A CEC delegation to Serbia (including Kosovo) was originally envisaged for mid-2004 but deferred until February 2005 (including a meeting with the head of UNMIK).

Addressing the injustices that cause resentment – sometimes expressed violently – remains critical to the mission of the church.

The message of Christ: "blessed are the peacemakers" and "life in all its fullness" remains the Church's model for reconciliation.







# What's more?

**T**he Church and Society Commission is challenged to address a wide range of issues stemming from the role it plays vis-à-vis the European Institutions. The 2003 CEC Assembly in Trondheim (Norway) adopted a new work programme for 2004-2009. 2004 represented a vital moment in the life of the Church and Society Commission as new issues were taken up and new working methods put in place.

Long-term Working Groups (WG) were established on issues related to (1) European Integration, (2) EU Legislation, (3) Peace, Security and Reconciliation, (4) Bioethics and Biotechnology, (5) Human Rights and Religious Freedom and (6) Social Issues.

The **WG on EU Legislation** continues to monitor developments in EU legislation in order to assess their effects on the churches.

Major issues in 2004 included the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Directive in the various EU member states, as well as the implementation of article I-52 (Status of churches and the open, transparent and regular dialogue with the EU Institutions).

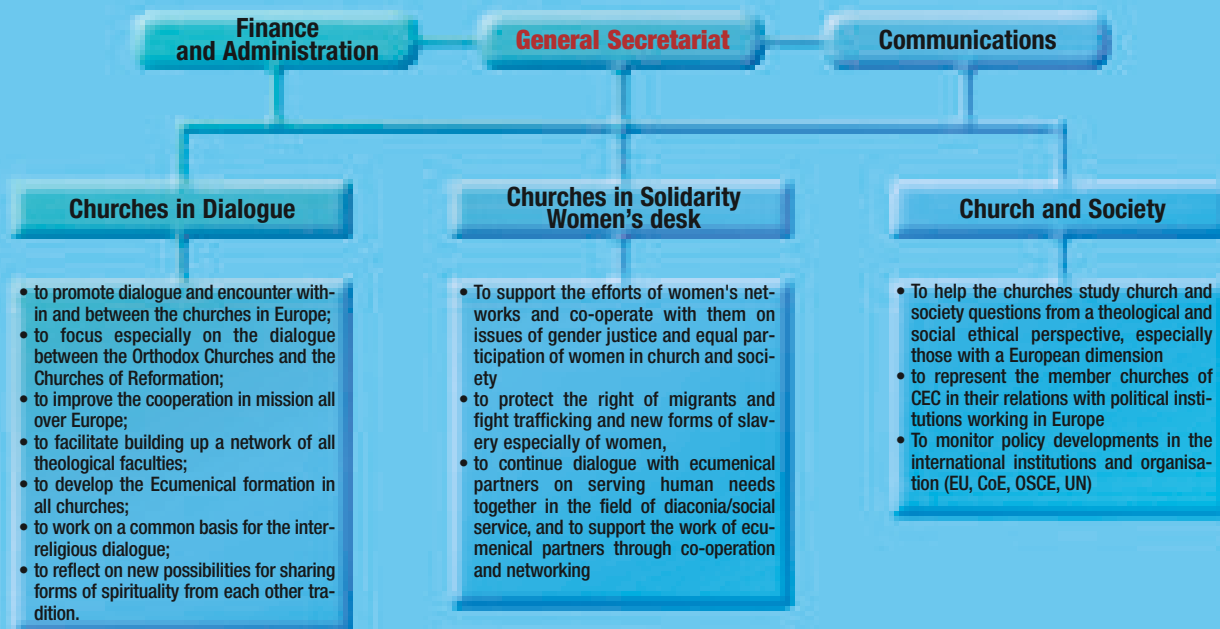
The **WG on Bioethics and Biotechnology** engaged in the follow-up to its 2003 consultation on "Human Life in Our Hands? The Churches and Bioethics", which brought together representatives from CEC member churches and politicians as well as representatives from the

pharmaceutical industry. A publication on the consultation, including major policy and discussion documents published by the Working Group, is in preparation. The Working Group's present plan includes work on issues such as ageing and the quality and dignity of life, human enhancement and human modification, cloning and stem cell research and reforms of health care systems.

The **WG on Human Rights and Religious Freedoms** continues to assist member churches in implementing religious freedom and appropriate state-church relations. The Working Group will also emphasize on ways and means to enhance social, economic and cultural rights.



# Conference of European Churches 2004



The **Group of CSC Partner Organisations involved in Education** also continued to meet under the umbrella of the Church and Society Commission.

Following the announcement of the EU programmes on “European Citizenship” and “Lifelong Learning” the group started a dialogue with the European Commission on the involvement of churches in the implementation of these programmes.

Beyond the European Commission the group also engages in a dialogue with the Council of Europe.

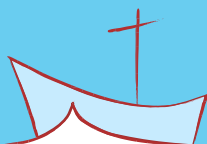
Other areas addressed by the CSC work programme include Globalisation, Sustainable Development, Environmental Issues, Agriculture and Rural Life, Gender Equality and Inter-Religious Dialogue.

On environmental issues, the Church and Society Commission co-operates

closely with the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN), for which it, inter alia, provides the secretariat.

For the inter-religious dialogue in view of the European Institutions, the CSC participates in several inter-religious initiatives; first and foremost in the CEC/CCEE Committee for relations with Muslims and the “Soul for Europe” Initiative, but also in the European Council of Religious Leaders.





# The Church and Society Commission goes public

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## February

Memorandum on Euthanasia as contribution to the debate at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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## March

Statement on the occasion of the meeting with the Irish Presidency of the EU on the need for European Union's support for dialogue with religious communities, Dublin

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## April

Briefing Document for Churches about the elections to the European Parliament

Message from the President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the Rev. Jean-Arnold de Clermont (France), during the ecumenical service held in Brussels to mark the enlargement of the EU with 10 new members on 1 May 2004

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## May

Statement on the occasion of the EU enlargement", May 1 2004, expressing "joy and gratitude to God for the achievement of the enlargement of the European Union (EU) by 10 new countries"

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## June

Statement to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Belfast on the European Constitutional Treaty and its impact on Churches

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## September

Statement to the Church and Nation Committee of the Church of Scotland, Perth, UK on European Affairs and the role of the Churches

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## October

Contribution to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw from Ms Corinna Schellnberg on behalf of CSC and EKD: Religious Freedom and the situation in Turkey

Speech to CEPPL Community of Southern European Protestants on the Church and Society contribution to European policy developments

Public Statement on the Accession of Turkey to the EU "Accession of Turkey to the EU is a matter of values, not religion"

Statement in cooperation with Eurodiaconia regarding the Proposal for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market and White Paper on services of General Interest

Statement on the occasion of the meeting with the EU Dutch Presidency, Den Haag on "Values as the basis for the European Project"

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## November

Contribution presented by the CSC on behalf of several Brussels-based church offices to the Hearing of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament on the Constitutional Treaty of the EU

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## December

Answer to the Questionnaire of the EU Commission DG Social (Social Protection Committee) on Social Services of General Interest



# Events (co-)organised

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## March

Human Rights Training for Central and Eastern Europe (in co-operation with LWF)  
Bratislava, Slovakia

Meeting with the Irish Presidency  
Dublin, Ireland

Visit of Rev. Jean-Arnold de Clermont and OKRin Antje Heider-Rottwilm to the European Economic and Social Committee and Group of Policy Advisors to the President of the European Commission.  
Brussels, Belgium

Soul for Europe General Assembly  
Brussels, Belgium

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## April

Consultation of churches from EU Accession countries (in co-operation with the reformed church in Hungary)  
Budapest, Hungary

Plenary meeting of the Church and Society Commission  
Wavre, Belgium

Worship service to mark the EU enlargement  
Brussels, Belgium

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## May

Consultation on Agriculture and EU enlargement (in co-operation with the Evangelical Rural Youth Academy of Altenkirchen and CERN)  
Strasbourg, France

Consultation on migration (ask Doris)  
Liebfrauenberg, France

Meeting of the Steering Group of the South-East Europe Ecumenical Partnership (co-organised with the WCC Europe Desk and SEEPP partner organizations)  
Durrës, Albania

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## June

Consultation on European Values (in co-operation with Theobald and CCME)  
Visby, Sweden

Dialogue meeting with the EU Institutions on matters related to migration and asylum (in co-operation with CCME and COMECE)  
Brussels, Belgium

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## July

Meeting with the Stability Pact for South East Europe  
Brussels, Belgium

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## September

Meeting of Church and Society Staff of European Churches  
Brussels, Belgium

Installation service and Reception for Matthew Ross and Dieter Heidtmann  
Brussels, Belgium

Dialogue meeting with the European Commission DG Education and Culture  
Brussels, Belgium

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## October

Meeting with EU Presidency  
Den Haag, The Netherlands

Ecumenical celebration at the European Parliament  
Strasbourg, France

Meeting with Ambassador Magheru – Council of Europe  
Strasbourg, France

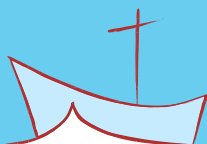
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## November

Ecumenical Service with EPP Group of European Parliament  
Strasbourg, France

South-East Europe Ecumenical Partnership  
Belgrade, Serbia





# The Church and Society Commission of CEC

## The Church and Society

**Rev. Alfredo Abad Heras**  
Spanish Protestant Church

**Rev. Dr. Zoltan Bona**  
Reformed Church in Hungary

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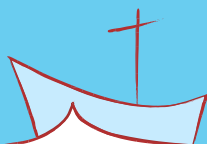
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Church and Peace

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**Georgy Roshchin**

Russian Orthodox Church

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Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
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**Costas Zorbas**

Church of Greece

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Salvation Army, Sweden

**Ian Manson**

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Church of Scotland

**Margaretha Svensson-Paras**

Ecumenical Centre, Sundbyberg, Sweden

**Christina Vayas**

Church of Greece

**Pavel Vychopen**

Diaconia of the Ev. Church  
of Czech Brethren



# Our resources

**The two tables** below summarize the expenses and the income of the Commission for 2004. The contributions made by the member Churches to the income must be stressed: this support represents more than 95% of the

budget if you add contributions of members, of the Rhine Churches, the staff made available by Churches and the part taken from the general budget.

As far as the annual expenses are concerned, the greatest portion by far is taken by salaries and social security contri-

butions for the Commissions' staff. Administrative expenses (printing, telephone, postage...) represent less than 10% of annual expenses.

The balance between expenses and income on an annual basis is ensured by a transfer from the general budget of CEC.

## Church & Society Commission Income

**41%** contributions member

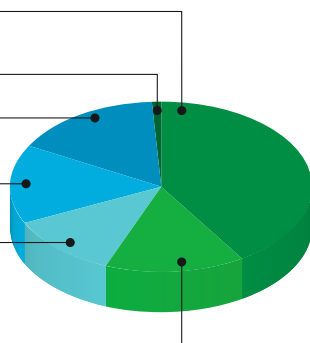
**1%** other

**16%** earmarked contributions

**15%** contribution CEC general budget

**12%** staff paid by member churches

**15%** contributions churches on the Rhine



## Church & Society Commission Expenses

**13%** meetings, conferences

**5%** government boards

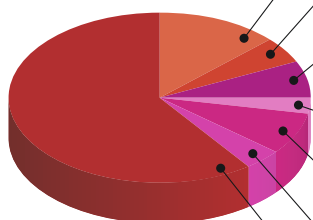
**7%** rent

**3%** equipment, computer costs

**8%** administration cost

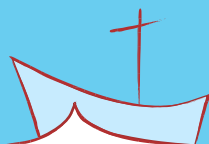
**7%** travel costs

**60%** salaries & social charges



## Final situation Church and Society Commission 2004

Income		Expenses	
Member churches Contributions	305.564,57	Meetings, conferences	97.232,95
Other income	8.419,71	Gov. Boards/consult	34.624,01
Earmarked contributions	116.619,68	Rent	54.615,42
Contribution CEC Geneva	111.965,03	Computer costs-Equipment	19.305,36
Staff paid by member churches	86.962,34	Administration costs	60.184,50
Contributions Churches on Rhine	109.353,66	Travel	27.865,29
		Salaries / Social Charges	445.057,46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>738.884,99</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>738.884,99</b>



# CEC Member Churches

## **Albania**

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

## **Armenia**

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

## **Austria**

Old-Catholic Church in Austria  
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria  
Evangelical Church of the Helvetic Confession in Austria  
Methodist Church in Austria  
Old-Catholic Church in Austria

## **Belgium**

United Protestant Church in Belgium

## **Bulgaria**

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

## **Croatia**

Baptist Union of Croatia  
Church of God in Croatia  
Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia  
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia  
Reformed Christian Church in Croatia

## **Cyprus**

Church of Cyprus

## **Czech Republic**

Baptist Union in the Czech Republic  
Church of the Brethren (Congregational)  
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren  
Evangelical-Methodist Church in the Czech Republic  
Moravian Church in the Czech Republic  
Old-Catholic Church in the Czech Republic  
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands & Slovakia  
Silesian Evangelical Church in the Czech Republic  
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

## **Denmark**

Baptist Union of Denmark  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

## **Estonia**

Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church  
Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad  
Estonian Methodist Church

## **Finland**

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland  
Orthodox Church in Finland

## **France**

Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of France  
French Reformed Church  
Malagasy Protestant Church in France  
Reformed Church of Alsace and Lorraine  
Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France

## **Georgia**

Evangelical-Baptist Church of Georgia

## **Germany**

Catholic Diocese of the Old Catholics in Germany  
Evangelical Church in Germany  
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany  
United Methodist Church in Germany  
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptists)

## **Great-Britain**

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

## **Greece**

Greek Evangelical Church  
Orthodox 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  
Methodist Church in Italy  
Waldensian Church

## **Latvia**

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

## **Liechtenstein**

Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein

## **Lithuania**

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Lithuania

## **Luxembourg**

Alliance of Protestant Churches in Luxembourg

## **Netherlands**

Mennonite Church in the Netherlands  
Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands  
Protestant Church in the Netherlands  
Remonstrant Brotherhood

## **Norway**

Church of Norway

## **Poland**

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

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**Portugal**

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

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**Romania**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Romania  
Reformed Church in Romania Oradea District  
Reformed Church in Romania Transylvania District  
Romanian Orthodox Church

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**Russia**

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

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**Serbia/Montenegro**

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

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**Slovak Republic**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic  
Evangelical Free Church in the Slovak Republic  
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands & Slovakia  
Reformed Christian Church in the Slovak Republic

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**Slovenia**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Slovenia

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**Spain**

Spanish Evangelical Church  
Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

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**Sweden**

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

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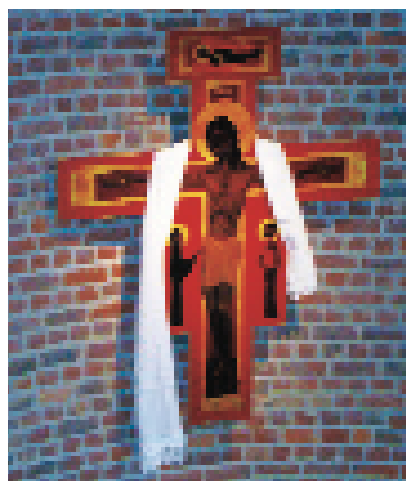
**Switzerland**

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

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**Ukraine**

Trans-Carpathian Reformed Church

**International Areas**

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

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**CEC Associated Organisations**

Action of Churches Together in Scotland  
Christian Council of Norway  
Christian Council of Sweden  
Church and Peace

Church Mission Society  
Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe  
Churches Together in Britain & Ireland  
Churches Together in England  
Churches Together in Wales  
Conference of European Pastors' Associations  
Council of Churches in the Netherlands  
Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe  
Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania  
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  
European Alliance of YMCAs  
European Baptist Federation  
European Contact Group on Urban Industrial Mission  
European Federation for Diaconia  
European Forum of Christian Men  
European YWCAs  
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 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  
World Student Christian Federation (Europe)





# Who we are

**T**he 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.

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 within CEC. Its work programme as well as its working mechanisms and methods are determined by a 24-erson 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 will 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

<b>APRODEV</b>	Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe	<b>ECEN</b>	European Christian Environmental Network
<b>CCME</b>	Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe	<b>EURODIACONIA</b>	European Federation for Diaconia
<b>CEC</b>	Conference of European Churches	<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>CERN</b>	Churches' European Rural Network	<b>NGOs</b>	Non Governmental Organisations
<b>COMECE</b>	Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community	<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
<b>CPCE</b>	Community of Protestant Churches in Europe	<b>THEOBALT</b>	Network of the Churches around the Baltic Sea
<b>CSC</b>	Church and Society Commission	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
		<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
		<b>WCC</b>	World Council of Churches