



A **very challenging** and intense year! With these few words we can summarise the events of the past twelve months. For everyone involved, and therefore for the Church and Society Commission as well, it has been a year touched by enthusiasm and disappointment, of commitment and evaluation, and of retrospection and looking forward. The outcome of the referenda in France and the Netherlands have had a major impact, but churches have demonstrated a willingness to further strengthen their commitment to the development of a democratic Europe: a Europe based on human

rights, peace, justice, freedom and participation. All this has therefore challenged the Church and Society Commission to continue to reflect on the type of Europe we desire, and upon the importance we

attach to the struggle for a Europe of values – a socially conscious Europe which promotes solidarity and participation.

The European political developments of 2005 have also given us the chance to foster ecumenical dialogue and co-operation between member churches of CEC. At the European level and beyond, 2005 has also been a year of dialogue and cooperation with our partner organisations including the worldwide community of Christian women and men.

After a meeting held in November with the President of the European Commission, President Barroso expressed his appreciation of the role of the churches as advocates for the weak, in particular for refugees and minorities. He showed his conviction that CEC will continue to commit itself against social tendencies towards exclusion and xenophobia. It is with this positive image that we commend the 2005 annual report to you; we hope that you enjoy reading it.

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

# Introduction

OKRin Antje Heider-Rottwilm

Fr Georges Ryabykh

Co-moderators



I'm so glad to be here...

## The churches commit themselves

- *to seek agreement with one another on the substance and goals of our social responsibility, and to represent in concert, as far as possible, the concerns and visions of the churches vis-à-vis the secular European Institutions;*
  - *to defend basic values against infringements of every kind;*
  - *to resist any attempt to misuse religion and the church for ethnic or nationalist purposes*
- (Charta Oecumenica, Guidelines for the Growing Cooperation among the Churches in Europe)



# Foreword

Rev. Rüdiger Noll Director

*The European project  
seems to stutter.  
Is a common vision  
of Europe about  
to fade away?*

**E**urope on the Move was the title of the CSC Annual Report for 2004. **Europe at a Crossroads** was chosen as the title for this report covering major developments in the European integration process and in the Church and Society Commission in 2005. These two titles clearly indicate the state of play with regard to the European project.

**2004** created some excitement and, to a certain extent, even some “Europhoria”. Ten new states became members of the European Union, preparations for further states to join seemed well advanced, and Heads of State and Government of old and new Member States together adopted the Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe.

**2005**, however, saw some disillusion. The majority of people participating in referenda in France and in the Nether-

lands said “No” to the Draft Treaty. The financial framework of the EU for the years 2006-2012 could not be adopted. What’s next? The European project seems to stutter. Is a common vision of Europe about to fade away?

**In September 2005**, the President of the European Commission declared that the “Constitution is not going to be ratified in the near future”. Therefore the European Commission decided to continue to work on the basis of the existing EU treaties and to show its relevance to the life of the people of Europe. One of the main emphases of the European Commission is the re-launch of the “Lisbon Strategy” and in particular to foster economic growth and employment. In parallel, however, the European Commission developed its “Plan D”, D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate. “Plan D” is meant to lead to a broad discussion within member states and on the Euro-



pean level about the future of the European Union.

**The Church and Society Commission** tried to cope with the new situations and to address the new challenges. While a public statement of the CEC Central Committee emphasised that the concerns of the people in Europe as expressed in the French and Dutch referenda must be taken seriously, CEC and CSC also expressed repeatedly their strong conviction that, despite justified critique, “a European Union with a Constitution would be better than a Union without a Constitution”. The CSC therefore welcomed the response of the present (Austrian) and future (Finnish) EU Presidencies in stating that they wish to review possibilities on reopening the debate on the Draft Treaty.

The Church and Society Commission has continued to participate in the de-

bate about the future of Europe, encouraging CEC member churches to actively participate in national discussion processes. The CSC also addressed the re-launched Lisbon Strategy. It emphasised that economic growth and employment must be kept in balance with social cohesion and sustainability – as envisaged by the original aims of Lisbon. The issue of employment and sustainable development will be a major item on the CSC agenda in the coming months. “A Sustainable Europe” was also the title of the largest-ever Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) in 2005, for which the CSC serves as the Secretariat.

**Not only the EU**, but also other political institutions, with which the CEC and the CSC are in consultative status, launched major reflection and reform processes. Most prominently the UN and the OSCE, which established High-Level Panels in order to recommend institutional reforms to make the institutions fit to meet the challenges of a present day Europe and today’s world. The CSC also monitored these developments closely.

Many of the challenges, however, are not just European. They are of a global nature. As Christians and churches in Europe, we are challenged by our sisters and brothers in the Southern hemisphere to respond to the negative effects of globalisation and to also represent their voice vis-à-vis the European institutions. Globalisation and a European response to the AGAPE call of the World Council of Churches, therefore, were the main themes of the Plenary Meeting of the Church and Society Commission, which held its annual meeting in Dunblane (Scotland) in June 2005 just a few days and a few miles away from the meeting of the G8 Summit, the annual forum of the world’s economically most powerful states. The Plenary issued an open letter to the G8 Summit. It also discussed the agenda and preliminary results of the newly established CSC Task Force on Globalisation, which then finalised a CSC policy paper and a

contribution to the WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre.

As far the developments within CEC and the CSC are concerned, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3), whose final event is scheduled to take place in Sibiu, Romania (September 2007), serves as an important focal point. The EEA3 is organised jointly with the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences (CCEE). 2500-3000 participants from all over Europe are expected to attend the Assembly. It will address many issues related to the Church and Society agenda. Romania will provide an important context for the EEA3. Romania – according to the Treaty of Accession – will join the European Union together with Bulgaria on 1st January 2007. But there is also a possibility of accession being postponed until the end of 2007. Whichever scenario applies, the EEA3 and its context will provide an extraordinary opportunity for churches and Christians to discuss and to experience the effects of the European integration process as well as for reinforcing the churches’ contribution. The EEA3, though, will not just be a one-off event. It is a process with stages in Rome, Wittenberg and in various European countries. Planning has gained momentum in 2005 and many of the CSC working groups have started to plan their contribution and involvement.

We want to thank again all member churches and partner organisations for their support and cooperation throughout the year. We are grateful for the support which we receive from the Central Committee, the Presidium and staff colleagues of CEC, from members of the Church and Society Commission, its Executive Committee and Moderators, as well as from the many church representatives and experts, who offer their time, expertise and ideas to our ongoing work. It is largely through their engagement and commitment that the CSC can serve the member churches of CEC and make a contribution to a just, participatory and sustainable Europe in a global context.

**G**lobalisation was a major item on the CSC agenda in 2005. This involvement built on the heritage of the former CSC Working Group on North-South Relations as well as on the closer cooperation with global ecumenical organisations, such as WCC, WARC and LWF. Together with them, member churches of CEC and other associated organisations, the CSC had organised, for instance, the two conferences on globalisation in Budapest (2001) and in Soesterberg (2002). The WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre (February 2006) served as one of the focal points for the globalisation agenda in 2005. CSC organised a Preparatory Meeting for European delegates to Porto Alegre.

A CSC Task-Force on Globalisation drafted the document "European churches living their faith in the context of globalisation," drawing on the attitudes and experiences of European churches in the process of globalisation. The document was adopted by the Executive Committee of the CSC as a Policy Document and as a contribution to the Porto Alegre Assembly.

**European Churches recognise** both, challenges and opportunities in the process of globalisation. Therefore, neither a total rejection nor an uncritical endorsement of globalisation seems to be appropriate, although some economic effects make it difficult to keep the balance.

Despite some positive elements, the increasingly negative effects of globalisation on particularly vulnerable groups



# Globalisation a challenge for the churches



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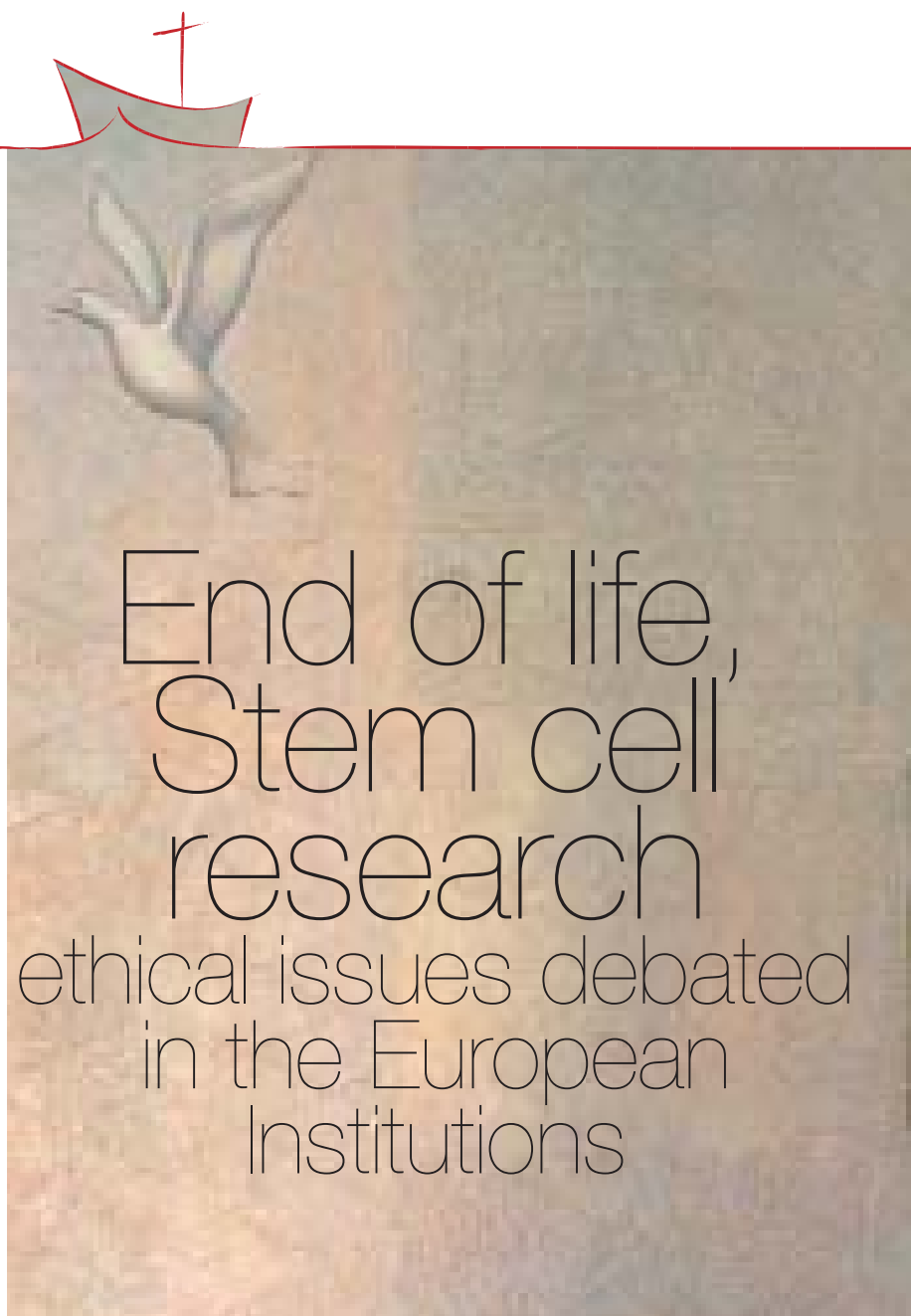
such as the poor, the unemployed, socially marginalised, migrants and minorities have to be highlighted. Special attention must be paid to the effects in developing countries and to the relations between countries and economic players from the northern and southern hemisphere. The CSC document strongly opposes developments and actions, which play against the most vulnerable, which neglect natural limits and which turn markets and totalitarian ideologies into idols. In the present form of globalisation, it is especially the idolatry of the market and the laws of a “market society” that have harmful consequences on God’s creation, human relationships as well as on preserv-

ing the culture and identity of humankind around the globe.

**The fact,** that so many churches in Europe address the issue of globalisation, may serve as an indicator for the urgency of the issue and the willingness of the churches to assume their responsibility. Churches in Europe draw on their experiences from different ideological and economic systems in western as well as central and eastern Europe, which existed in Europe since World War II. Churches from central and eastern Europe with their particular experience under totalitarian regimes emphasize the value. This correlates with the attempts in western Europe

of establishing a social market economy under-girded by values such as social justice, solidarity and the protection of creation.

**The CSC Policy Paper on Globalisation** seeks to provide a theological and ethical orientation and explores underlying values and principles. On the basis of the European experiences it enumerates the challenges for the churches and organisations such as the Conference of European Churches. The document wants to offer a starting point for the dialogue with churches from other continents and for the ongoing reflection and actions of European churches.



In 2005, two major issues were debated on European institutional level, namely end of life issues and stem cell research. The Church and Society Commission (CSC) of CEC contributed to the debates through its Working Group on Bioethics and Biotechnology.

**End of life issues.** This debate culminated in a debate at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg trying to adopt a draft Recommendation. It sought to reopen the debate following Recommendation 1418 (1999), which rejected euthanasia but strongly supported palliative care. The proponents aimed to ask the 46 Council of Europe member states to consider a possible liberalisation of euthanasia following current practice in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The CSC through the contributions from its member churches developed its position and participated in the parliamentary debate stating: "All the churches agree that the deliberate killing of suffering and dying human beings is a grave sin. All churches underline the need for the maintenance of good terminal care, including offering of pastoral care. The problem of euthanasia normally comes up in a situation where, at least, two main principles of medical ethics collide or at least are at odds: protection of human life and the alleviation of pain and distress. Restricting oneself to alleviation of pain and distress may result in a shortening of the process of dying. In that case we enter into a "grey area" where good terminal care may imply the abbreviation

# End of life, Stem cell research

ethical issues debated  
in the European  
Institutions

of life." It concluded: "The question is, if on the basis of the Recommendation 1418 (1999) of the Parliamentary Assembly further regulations can be found which do not imply a right to euthanasia but help to protect the above values, giving assistance to suffering human beings and those who are responsible for their support."

Following failure to reach agreement in PACE in January 2004 a new text was then developed over the following 1? years. The CSC Working Groups on Bioethics and on Human Rights and Re-

ligious Freedom made comments based on the new draft. Finally, the revised Recommendation was submitted to PACE in April 2005 and decisively rejected (138 against, 26 in favour, 5 abstentions). It appears that the work of the CSC actively contributed to this result.

**Stem cell research.** The debate about the use of stem cells for research and therapy remains controversial in Europe, in particular at EU level in the context of the adoption of the 7th Framework Programme for Research 2007-



2013. There is a range of potential therapies using stem cells to regenerate cells destroyed by serious diseases. In one type of therapy, adult stem cells are used directly to regenerate cells, for example blood cells in bone marrow transplants. A future possibility is that embryonic stem cells (and possibly adult stem cells) may be used to generate specific types of replacement body cells (e.g. nerve cells for Parkinson's, pancreas cells for diabetes). Those in the institutions and in society who oppose the use of embryonic stem cells for ethical reasons reject the

funding by EU money of any project involving them. The only way to avoid the ethical controversy would be to use only adult stem cells.

In July we issued a reflection paper on "New Issues in Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine" presenting an ethical discussion on recent developments in research, such as embryos from pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, cloned embryos for therapy, parthenogenesis and animal-human hybrid cells. While encouraging the use of adult stem cells, the paper states: "Human stem cell research is still a very young science. No one knows how effective either adult or embryo cells may prove. A priori, the case for adult and cord blood stem cells as a general source of replacement cells for degenerative diseases is weaker. By definition embryonic stem cells must be capable of producing all cell types of the human body, whereas adult stem cells are not designed to do this. If only adult cells were researched the risk is that less conditions might be treatable than if both routes were researched. Some of us would advocate pursuing embryo and adult cell research in parallel, with a cross-fertilisation of knowledge, but others of us consider that ethically, only adult cells can be researched, and any limitations duly accepted."

**It concludes** on opportunity costs: "As churches we draw attention to concerns that expensive stem cell research may be a luxury of "Northern" lifestyle which expects to live in good health to a good old age. For many of the world's population, living even a full span of life

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would be a welcome change to their normal expectations. We ask how far stem cell research is justified while European countries promoting it still have not fulfilled their promises of the percent of the GDP they dedicate to aid and support for healthcare in the developing world". The paper was welcomed in the circles of the Steering Committee on Bioethics of the Council of Europe and the European Group on Ethics in science and new technologies of the European Commission.



# The European social

**T**he uncertainty about the sustainability of social protection systems under the pressure of globalisation was a major reason for the failure of the referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands. The heated debate on the Directive on Services in the Internal Market reflected the concerns among European people about the decrease of social standards and employment conditions. At the same time, the demographic changes in the population urge all European governments to come to substantial changes in their social protection systems.

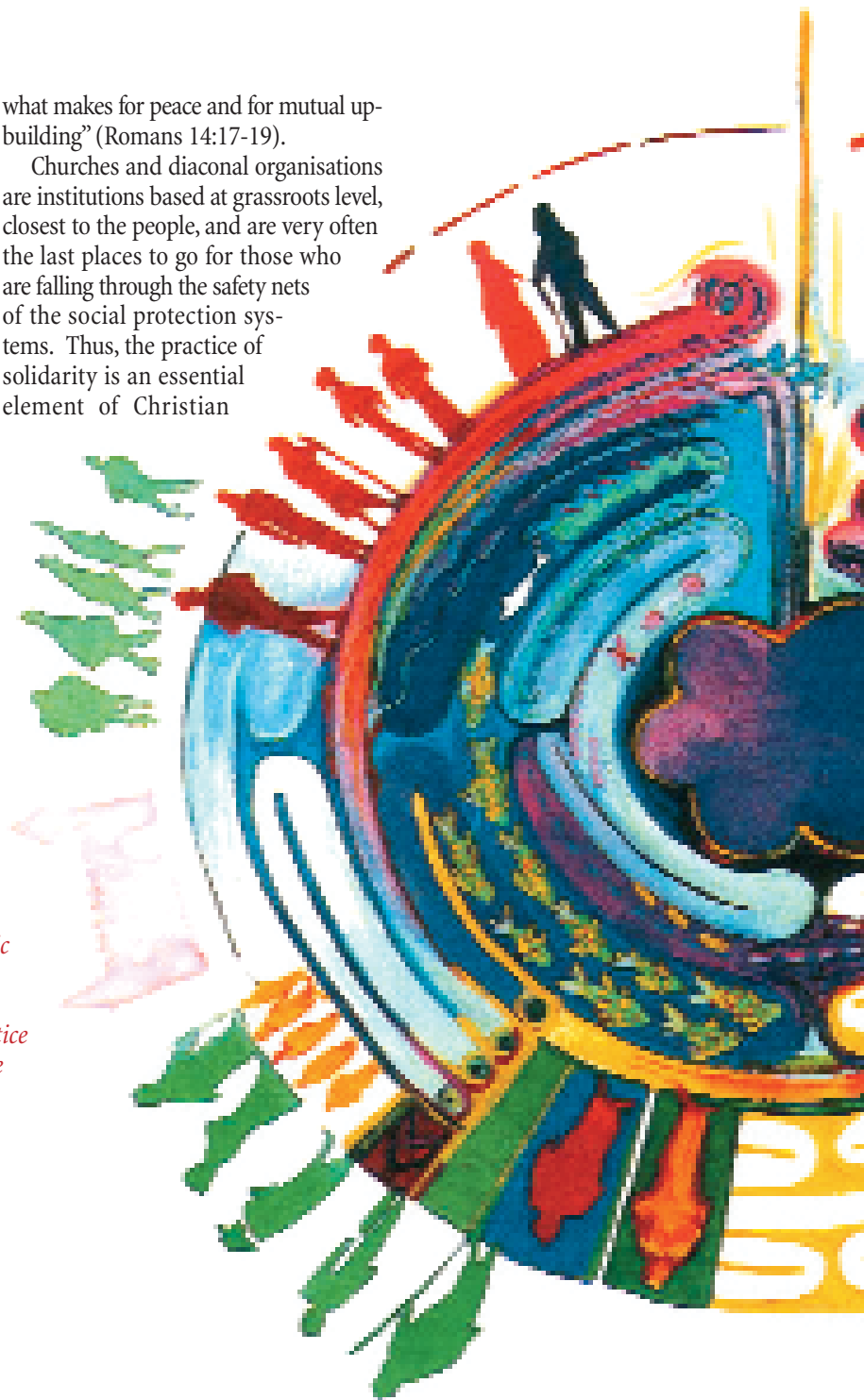
**Community building** and participation are an essential part of the Christian understanding of social inclusion. As the apostle Paul wrote to the European capital of his time, the kingdom of God is "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit... So then let us pursue

what makes for peace and for mutual up-building" (Romans 14:17-19).

Churches and diaconal organisations are institutions based at grassroots level, closest to the people, and are very often the last places to go for those who are falling through the safety nets of the social protection systems. Thus, the practice of solidarity is an essential element of Christian

*"As churches we must move beyond comparison and competition, the win-lose race in the economic world, and emphasise what unites human beings, a basic value that is given and not won in competition, a common longing for peace and justice that is our only security and a willingness to share in order to grow together."*

Archbishop Karl Gustav Hammar, Church of Sweden, at the opening of the Conference on "A common vision for a social Europe" in November 2005 in Brussels.



# model: out of fashion?



faith, also with regard to European policies.

The CSC engaged very actively in the various debates on European values and the relevance of social policies. In a joint letter with Eurodiaconia to the Luxembourg Presidency and in a meeting with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker in March 2005, CSC stressed the importance of an overall coherence of EU policies. "We believe that any revision of the Lisbon Strategy (i.e.

EU's economic framework strategy) should reassert the balance of economic, social and environmental values." We were glad to see that the following European Summit reintroduced social cohesion and environmental policies as priorities to the Lisbon Strategy.

**During the whole** year, CSC monitored closely the debate on the Services Directive in the European Parliament and the prearrangements for a communication of the EU Commission on social and healthcare services. On numerous occasions, we addressed the Parliament asking for an exemption of social and healthcare services from the

scope of the Directive. On 16 February 2006, the European Parliament finally adopted the proposal for the Services Directive by a large majority at first reading. The Parliament's decision improved the original proposal of the EU Commission. Social services and healthcare services, for instance, are now excluded from the scope of the Directive. The Parliament's decision, however, does not conclude the legislative process. The CSC will have to monitor the ongoing legislative procedure in the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

**Besides monitoring** legal acts on the European level, there is a need for the churches to advocate a much broader understanding of the common good in European societies. In November 2005, CSC, together with Eurodiaconia, gathered more than sixty representatives from European churches and diaconal organisations in Brussels for an international conference on "A common vision for a social Europe".

In their final message, the participants of the conference confirmed the commitment of churches and diaconia: "There cannot be a full community without participation of vulnerable people. Churches and diaconia are wedded to a 'privileged option for the poor', that means living together in solidarity with the vulnerable, the excluded, the marginalised people."

Further information on the CEC website:  
<http://www.cec-kek.org/content/economic.shtml>



# "Open, transparent

**T**he CSC as well as many of its member churches welcomed article I-52 of the "Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe" as major step forward in the relations between the churches and the European institutions.

In this article the European Union recognises the identity and special contribution of the churches and commits itself to an "open, transparent and regular dialogue" with the churches, religious communities and "non-confessional organisations". Now that the ratification process has been put on hold, has this dialogue ended before it really began?

**On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005**, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, received representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths for an exchange and dialogue, which he suggested be repeated about every six months. During the meeting a wide range of topics of common concern for the religious communities and the European Commission were addressed.

CEC Presidium member Thomas Wipf and CSC Director Rüdiger Noll addressed issues related to Europe as a value-based community and the European Commission's programme on "European citizenship".

Opening the meeting, President Barroso expressed his conviction that it did not require the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty for the dialogue to continue. "The dialogue between the religions and the European Commission has always existed and will continue", he said.



# and regular”

## Relations with the European political Institutions

However, such dialogue does not go without saying, as became evident when some Members of the European Parliament questioned the President of the European Commission for having received representatives of the religious communities. There are still forces in the European institutions advocating that religion should play no role at the institutions. These voices, wanting to limit religion solely to the private sphere, are few, but they seem to become more vocal.

**There is no need** to over emphasise such opinions arguing for a strict separation instead of cooperation between states, international organisations and religious communities. But it is all the more important that the existing dialogue with the European institutions, on various levels, continues in practice. This was also expressed when President Barroso received the CEC President Jean-Arnold de Clermont and a CSC delegation on 7th November. In addition, there have been numerous contacts between the CSC and the European Commission on the working level. Discussions with Director Matthias Ruete from DG Enterprise and Mr Mark Gray from the Cabinet of Commissioner Wallström during the CSC Secretaries Meeting on the Lisbon Strategy and “Plan D” – two priorities of the European Commission – serve as an example.

Despite the fact that no meeting with the British EU Presidency could be arranged, 2005 saw meetings with the Luxembourg and the incoming Austrian EU Presidencies. The joint CSC/COMECE

delegations, consisting of member church representatives from the respective countries and from the CSC/COMECE offices, were received by Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg) and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik (Austria).

In 2005, contacts with Members of the European Parliament increased considerably, especially in relation to the debate around Services Directive. During the CSC/Eurodiaconia Conference on Social Issues (November 2005), parliamentarians from three different groupings discussed the Services Directive with church representatives, just a day after the respective committee of the European Parliament had taken a vote. In addition to the CSC facilitating many contacts between member church delegations and MEPs, the CSC was also invited by one of its Vice-Presidents, Dr Ingo Friedrich, to publicly present the book on “European Churches Confronting Poverty” in the European Parliament.

It had been hoped, in 2005, to foster even closer relations with the Council of Europe (CoE). Many working relations do already exist; but notwithstanding that CEC/CSC already enjoys observer status in the CoE Steering Committee on Bioethics, the Committee of Ministers, though recognising CSC’s contribution and competence, refused to grant observer

status in the Steering Committee on Human Rights. The CSC will, however, be invited when issues of concern for the churches are on the Committee’s agenda. Closer relations with the CoE’s Committee of Ministers are still under consideration.

**Last but not least**, major features of the year were the substantial debates about the reform of the United Nations and the OSCE. Both organisations had established High Level Panels, whose findings were discussed at various forums throughout the year. The CSC followed these debates very closely through its various Working Groups under human rights’ and security aspects. Also the CSC policy paper on globalisation indirectly commented on the UN reforms asking for an effective system of global governance based on transparency and people’s participation.

Part of the reform agenda is the progressing of plans for a European Fundamental Rights Agency as an independent centre of expertise on fundamental rights. Its main role will be to collect and analyse data in order to advise Member States and the Union’s institutions on preparation and implementation of legislation. The CSC, in cooperation with CCME, has actively participated in the process leading to the creation of the Agency. We welcomed its proposed monitoring role if it encompasses the broad set of fundamental rights as foreseen in the EU Charter of Fundamental rights and in any potential international Human Rights instrument that the EU may ratify in future.

*“CEC sees the results of the ratification process of the Constitutional Treaty as a challenge to intensify debates on Europe in European churches and will continue to stay in dialogue with the politicians and the people calling for a democratic united Europe owned by its citizens”.  
Statement of the CEC Central Committee on “European Constitutional Treaty: a call for citizen’s*



# Sustainable Europe



Between 5th and 8th May 2005, more than 120 participants from 30 European countries and from all major Christian traditions met in Basel, Switzerland, for the 5th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). The Assembly was hosted by the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in and around Basel. The Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland supported the meeting substantially. Basel was a very symbolic venue for the Assembly, as the city also hosted the First European Ecumenical Assembly in 1989.

The delegates in Basel met around the theme: "The churches' contribution to a sustainable Europe". In the basic document of the Assembly, a call to member churches of CEC and the bishops' conferences of CCEE, the delegates stated, "We are concerned that the ecological and social situation is deteriorating... Despite all scientific and political declarations and warnings, too little is being done often too late about many of the critical problems such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, air, water and soil deterioration." In order to meet this challenge the document attempts to contribute to a more precise definition of the concept of "sustainability" and indicates a series of issues and actions to be taken up by the churches and European politicians.

**The Assembly stressed** that churches should give a high priority to disseminating and underlining the importance of sustainability, ensuring that "their

personal and communal lives include sustainability as part of their Christian values". Christians "could encourage governments to actively explore and urgently apply the most effective environmental fiscal policies as a practical and economic way of conserving energy, limiting environmental degradation and increasing renewable resources".

As for the European Union, ECEN affirms that "the current EU strategy for sustainable development needs to be strengthened and implemented, equally the commitments undertaken in Johannesburg 2002" as well as the obligations

therefore very closely linked to CSC and CEC as one of its major instruments to address environmental issues. CEC and CCEE are now in the process of jointly organising the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania, in September 2007, where environmental issues will also be high on the agenda. During the worship life of the ECEN Assembly, the candle of the 1989 Ecumenical Assembly in Basel, now carrying the logos of all European Ecumenical Assemblies, symbolised the past and future journey of the network and its links with the European Ecumenical Assemblies.



european christian **environmental** network

the EU and all European states have towards developing countries.

In addition to the basic document, the Assembly also adopted a message entitled "From ECEN to every church and congregation in Europe." It was widely circulated, translated into 16 languages and has been used in many churches across the continent.

**ECEN is a network** of delegates from churches and experts, who are committed to the protection of God's creation and who are involved in environmental issues. ECEN was founded upon a recommendation of the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in Graz 1997. It is

**The 2005 Assembly of ECEN** was the largest meeting that the Network has organised. In addition to sessions for delegates, a number of events were organised as public events in the city of Basel. Thus the Assembly provided an extraordinary opportunity for Christians from all over Europe, who are involved in the protection of the environment, to meet. It enabled the participants to deepening their work in special areas of ECEN activities, notably a "creation time" (promoting a time devoted to creation in the liturgical calendar of the churches), creation theology, environmental education, climate change, motorised mobility and air traffic, eco-management of churches and church-related institutions, and water. It also contributed to deepening links with the environmental activities of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE).

## The Venerable Colin Williams New General Secretary of CEC

The Central Committee of CEC, meeting in Crete in June 2005, elected the Venerable Colin Williams to be the new General Secretary of CEC, in succession to the Rev Dr Keith Clements, who retired on 30 November 2005.

Colin Williams, before taking up the post as General Secretary of CEC, served in the Church of England, most recently as Archdeacon of Lancaster in the Diocese of Blackburn in the North West of England. Prior to his studies of theology at Oxford and his ordination, Colin Williams practised as a lawyer.

From 1996-2005, Colin Williams was a member of the Meissen Commission, which works towards full, visible unity between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) as well as of the General Synod of the Church of England and its Council for Christian Unity.



Colin Williams assumed office as General Secretary on 1st December 2005. His office is based in the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, where he was officially installed during an act of worship on 16th December. Though

based in Geneva, Colin Williams will frequently visit the offices of the Church and Society Commission in Brussels and Strasbourg; one of his tasks is to work with colleagues in the newly established CEC Leadership Team to coordinate the work of CEC as a whole and of its commissions.

On his first visit to Brussels following his election as General Secretary, he met with CSC partner organisations and representatives of the European Commission, including Johannes Laitenberger, now Spokesperson and Ambassador Dr Michael Weninger, European Policy Advisor.

The new General Secretary is very committed to CEC's work with the European Institutions. On his election he said: "I am very excited at the prospect of working as part of the CEC team. Europe stands at a crossroads. Throughout our continent, women and men are entering into debate about the sort of Europe we must now build. The churches in Europe have a distinct contribution to make to that debate as we argue for a Europe, which is open, which is compassionate, which is just, which above all is in touch with its spiritual heritage."



# What's more?

*The Church and Society Commission is challenged to address a broad range of issues, ensuring a continuous presence and monitoring vis-à-vis the European institutions. A substantial part of the policy work of the CSC is done through its Working Groups (WGs) on issues such as European Integration, EU legislation, Peace, Security and Reconciliation, Bioethics and Biotechnology, Human Rights and Religious Freedom and Social Issues.*

**P**ace, security and reconciliation issues have dominated the headlines in 2005. A major task for churches is to help dispel the notion of a clash of civilisations between the 'West' and the Islamic world.

Within the EU, developments continue apace – notwithstanding the no votes in the French and Dutch referendums on the European Constitutional Treaty.

The EU's European Security and Defence Policy (ES-

DP) has seen new initiatives including EU led peacekeeping troops deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the EU's supervision of the Rafah checkpoint between Egypt and the Palestinian Gaza Strip.

The UN and the Vienna-based Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are currently undergoing review and reform processes. The Working Group is monitoring such developments; peace, security and reconciliation issues will be presented as the main theme at the annual plenary meeting in Sigstuna, Sweden, in April 2006.

**T**he Working Group on **European integration** focuses its work on three areas:

- 1 the theme of values and identity. This is a genuine religious and Christian based issue, the discussion of which the churches have much to contribute.
- 2 The expectations and hopes linked to the continuing EU enlargement. The WG is interested to deal with the experiences of new and old EU Member states after the 2004 enlargement, as well as contributing to the discussion in the EU candidate countries preparing themselves for fu-

ture accession. An important element in this part of the WG engagement is the whole range of questions linked with the accession process of Turkey.

foto da trovare

- 3 The discussion linked with the ratification process of the EU Constitution Treaty.

## Cooperation in the Ecumenical Centre in Brussels - CCME

As co-owners of the Ecumenical Centre in Brussels, the Church and Society Commission cooperates closely with the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe on a wide range of issues.

### Fighting trafficking in human beings.

In the endeavours to fight the crime of trafficking in human beings, CCME has developed jointly with partner organisations including the Conference of European Churches, standards of assistance to victims of trafficking. The project called Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women started its third phase at the end of 2005.

In 2005, CCME and CSC together with Caritas Europa welcomed the adoption of the Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of Europe in May and called for a speedy ratification by Council of Europe Member States.

**Inclusion of Roma minorities.** With regard to inclusion of ethnic minorities in European societies, CCME and CSC of CEC fo-

cus on the situation of Roma minorities. At a conference on the topic organised by Roma organisations in December 2005, the President of the Conference of European Churches reiterated the commitment of Churches in Europe to live up to this challenge. The issue remains on the agenda for CCME, particularly regarding its work within the European coordination of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the mandate to work against racism and discrimination; and for CSC particularly in the framework of its human rights activities.

CCME is an ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination of Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches, Councils of Churches and diaconal agencies in Europe. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. CCME and CEC are currently negotiating the merger of the two organisations for CCME to constitute one of three Commissions of CEC.



Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe  
Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe  
Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

## Third European Ecumenical Assembly 2007 in Sibiu

About 3000 delegates from churches and church-related organisations from all over Europe are expected to attend the European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) in Sibiu, Romania, 4-9 September 2007. This will be the third European Ecumenical Assembly after Basel (1989) and Graz (1997).

In the light of the European integration process, this Assembly could have hardly been better timed. Romania is due to join the European Union in 2007; discussions about a Constitutional Treaty for the European Union and the continuation of the enlargement process may well reach another peak in the year of the EEA3.

Therefore the CSC hopes that this context as well as relations to the European institutions will play an important role in the Assembly and its preparations. Under the main theme of the Assembly "The light of Christ shines upon all. Hope for renewal and unity in Europe", several fora are expected to address core issues of the CSC

agenda, such as Building Europe, Globalisation, Integrity of Creation, Peace and Security, Inter-Religious Dialogue.



With the first encounter on the way to Sibiu (Rome, 24-27 January 2006) the period of intensive preparations has begun. Member churches are now encouraged to engage in national preparatory processes before a second pan-European encounter will take place in Wittenberg (Germany, 15-18 February 2007).

Further information can be obtained from the EEA3 website: [www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org). A study guide can be ordered from the Assembly office in Geneva.

**T**he Working Group on **human rights and religious freedom** has set its priorities and decided to develop its work on social, economic and cultural rights. An initial research on the issue as a concern for the European churches has led the WG to want to develop this issue further. The group has also decided to focus on the issue of human rights versus security issues through an analysis of international anti-terrorism legislation.

**M**onitoring the European Institutions, in particular the European Commission and the Council of Europe, on issues related to **education** also continued in 2005. The Group of CSC Partner Organisations involved in Education met only once throughout the year, but contacts with the Council of Europe and especially with the European Commission's Directorate on Education and Culture were intensified with regard to the newly

# Future projects

## Intensifying the cooperation of European churches to meet the challenges of unemployment

Unemployment is a major problem in most European states. In the European Union alone, more than 18 million people are unemployed. Therefore, the Church and Society Commission's 2005 Plenary Meeting in Dunblane decided that employment should be a major topic in the work plan. During the last months, the CSC discussed the issue with a number of member churches and associated organisations involved in industrial mission or diaconal work with unemployed people. During 2006, the CSC will launch a process to raise awareness and to mobilise its member churches and associated organisations for

intensified cooperation on employment issues. On 22-24 November 2006, the CSC is planning a conference at the Protestant Lay Academy Centre in Bonn - Bad Godesberg, which will be the focus for this mobilisation process.

## Values as a theme for the engagement of the churches

The discussion of values in the EU has received a new impetus following the 2004 enlargement, the agreement on the opening of accession negotiations with Turkey and the troublesome process of ratification of the EU Constitutional Treaty in 2005. The European Commission responded by promoting a deeper debate about the aims and objectives of the Union as it currently exists, such as through the publication 'European values in the globalised world' (October 2005) and by intensifying reflections about the future of the Union.

The churches now need to clearly articulate their position not only in the discussion about future of Europe but also in clarifying their role in the changing European society.

The process of intensive discussions of the theme, culminating in a conference entitled 'Values, Religion and Identity' in 2006, will be CSC's response to the ongoing debate.

## Human Rights manual and training session

It is a tradition for the Conference of European Churches to offer its members training sessions on human rights issues to raise awareness among its member churches; additionally in supporting the work of the churches active in human rights advocacy. In 2006 the CSC will develop a manual on human rights issues especially designed for member churches to boost human rights work and strengthen the support

to those member churches that consider human rights work a priority.

In the process of producing a manual on human rights, it is vital to involve practitioners from CEC member churches to seek their input and to promote the use of the manual. The training will address present human rights issues and related developments in the European institutions, as well as in CEC member churches.

The training will be practical and will offer an opportunity to experiment with the use of the human rights manual. Through the exchange of information amongst participants and the presentation of policy developments in the European institutions on the issues tackled, the training will give the opportunity to human rights experts in the churches to develop skills and to increasingly engage their churches in human rights work.

## The role of religion in conflict situations

The CSC, with the support of CEC's member churches in Ireland, will organise a conference on the role of religion in conflict situations. This will be held at Corrymeela, Northern Ireland, in October 2006. The aim is to bring together an invited group from churches in Northern Ireland and the Balkans to discuss and reflect upon practical issues of how Christians can contribute to peace-building and reconciliation.

## Agriculture and rural life

Agricultural support remains the largest single budget in the European Union and this will continue in the EU's new budget for 2007-2013. Given that often churches are often the focal point of rural communities, the CSC is maintaining co-operation with the Churches Euro-

pean Rural Network  
The Church and So  
mission has recei  
into an agree  
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sations involved  
Europe Ecumen  
Programme.

## "A Soul for Europe" is dissolved, but Inter-Religious Dialogue continues

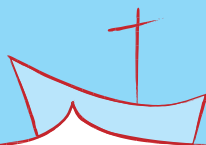
In February 2005, the project "A Soul for Europe" was dissolved. The project was launched in 1992 when the then-President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, challenged the churches and religious communities "to contribute to the soul of Europe". It brought together European organisations of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, as well as Humanists, to support activities and projects contributing to giving a soul to Europe.

In December 2002, the "Soul for Europe" initiative became an independent international non-profit organisation under Belgian law with the main aim to foster inter-religious dialogue in view of the European integration process. Before, "A Soul for Europe" was formally coordinated by staff colleagues from EECES and the Church and Society Commission. The first Co-ordinator was Alastair Hulbert, who was followed in 1999 by Win Burton.

There were many occasions at

which Win Burton was thanked for her extraordinary skills and efforts in co-ordinating the initiative, for bringing many communities of faith and conviction from all over Europe in touch with each other and for contributing with many ideas. A farewell party in the Ecumenical Centre in Brussels was a special occasion for friends and colleagues of Win to express their thanks and to say "au revoir".

Although the Initiative has been discontinued, it is by no means an end to inter-religious dialogue in relation to the European integration process. At a final symposium of the initiative, all members committed themselves to continue to work together on issues related to the European institutions. The CSC will also continue to cooperate with the CEC/CCEE Committee for Relations with Muslims, the European Council of Religious Leaders, the World Conference of Religions for Peace and with partner organi-



# The Church and Society Commission goes public

## January

Statement by Church and Society Commission of CEC and Eurodiaconia regarding the proposal for a directive on services in the internal market and the White Paper on services of general interest

## March

Letter to Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, on the occasion of the Spring Summit of the European Union. Jointly issued with Eurodiaconia (European Federation for Diaconia)

## May

Call for action on reducing global poverty on the occasion of the meeting with representatives of the French Government in view of the summit of the G8 countries.

Statement on the occasion of the meeting with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President-in-Office of the European Council, Jean-Claude Juncker, welcoming the inclusion of respect for human dignity and prospects for increased solidarity in the Constitutional Treaty.

Statement to welcome the European Constitutional Treaty as a step towards a value-based European Union.

## June

Statement of the CEC Central Committee on "European Constitutions Treaty: a call for citizen's participation"

Book launch in the European Parliament hosted by its Vice-President Dr Ingo Friedrich MEP: "European Churches confronting poverty – Social Action against social exclusion" (in co-operation with Eurodiaconia.)

Open letter to the G8 Summit welcoming the initiative of the British Government in prioritising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a focus for the G8.

## July

Statement on the occasion of the meeting between President Barroso and religious leaders from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.

Discussion paper on new issues regarding stem cells and regenerative medicine.

## September

Response of the CSC and CCME to the "Draft Recommendation to Member States Regarding A Code of Conduct For Non-Profit Organisations to Promote Transparency and Accountability Best Practices"

## October

Contribution to the EU Green Paper on demographic changes in cooperation with Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) and Eurodiaconia.

## November

Statement on the occasion of the meeting of the Conference of European Churches with EU Commission President Barroso on the role of churches as partners in the dialogue about values in the European Union.

Final message from the conference "A common vision for a social Europe: Towards quality of life for all".

## December

Release of the position paper "European Churches living their faith in the context of globalisation" published in preparation for the WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brasil (February 2006).



# Meetings organised by CSC



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## January

Visit of the Board of the Church of Sweden  
Brussels, Belgium

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## February

CEC Team Visit to Serbia  
Serbia

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## March

Visit of a delegation of the Turkish  
Government (EU enlargement)

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## May

Joint consultation of CSC, CCME and the  
Theobalt network on "Free Movement of  
Persons – an opportunity and a challenge  
for the European Union Integration in the  
Baltic Sea Region"  
Visby, Sweden

Meeting with the French Foreign Ministry  
in preparation of the G8 Summit  
Paris, France

Joint CSC – COMECE meeting with the  
Luxembourg EU Presidency, Prime Minister  
Jean-Claude Juncker  
Luxembourg

Visit of Dr. Michael Weninger, European  
Policy Advisor, to the ecumenical  
organisations in the Ecumenical Centre in  
Geneva, Switzerland

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## June

Visit of Archbishop Yukka Paarma,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland  
Brussels, Belgium

Annual plenary meeting of the Church and  
Society Commission  
Dunblane, Scotland

Book launch: "European Churches  
Confronting Poverty" in the European  
Parliament, with Ingo Friedrich MEP, Vice-  
President of the European Parliament  
Brussels, Belgium

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## July

Meeting of representatives of religious  
communities with European Commission  
President José Manuel Barroso  
Brussels, Belgium

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## October

Third Consultation of Church and Society  
Staff of European Churches  
Brussels, Belgium

Visit of a delegation of the Federation of  
Swiss Protestant Churches  
Brussels, Belgium

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## November

Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury  
(Church of England)  
Brussels, Belgium

Joint CSC – Eurodiaconia Conference "A  
Common Vision for a Social Europe:  
Towards Quality of Life for All"  
Brussels, Belgium

Visit of a group of Free Churches in Great  
Britain

Strasbourg, France

Meeting of CEC President, Jean Arnold de  
Clermont, and CSC representatives with  
the European Commission President José  
Manuel Barroso

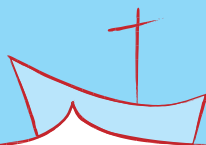
Consultation with the National Council of  
Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCCUSA)  
Geneva, Switzerland

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## December

Consultation on Globalisation for  
European delegates to the WCC Assembly  
in Porto Alegre, Brazil  
Brussels, Belgium

Joint CSC-COMECE meeting with the  
Austrian EU Presidency, Foreign Minister  
Ursula Plassnik  
Vienna, Austria



# The Church and Society Commission of CEC

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

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

**Kirchenrat Joachim Brandt**  
Strasbourg Beirat

**Ms Anthea Cox \***  
Methodist Church in Great Britain

**Vice-President Christian Dräger**  
Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

**Prof. Karsten Fledelius**  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

**Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim**  
Romanian Orthodox Church

**Rev. Gunnar Grönblom \***  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

**OKR'in Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm \***  
(co-moderator)  
Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

**Ms Anita Jakobson \***  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia

**Archimandrite Arsenios Kardamakis**  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

**M. Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba \***  
Church of Greece

**Prof. Dr Ulrich Körtner**  
Ecumenical Council of Churches in  
Austria

**Rev. Fr Hovakim Manukyan Vardges**  
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

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

**Rev. Evert Overeem**  
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

**Ms Lidia Palac**  
Evangelisch-Augsburgische Kirche in  
Polen

**Rev. Tony Peck**  
European Baptist Federation

**Prof. Dr Hans-Balz Peter**  
Schweizerischer Evangelischer  
Kirchenbund (until November 2005)

**Ms Françoise Prager-Bouyala**  
Fédération Protestante de France

**Dr Charles Reed**  
Church of England

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

**Rev. Dr David Sinclair**  
Church of Scotland

**Rev. Hana Tonzarová**  
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

\* Members of the Executive Committee

## Strasbourg Beirat

**President Claudia Bandixen**  
Church of Aarau

**Rev. Joachim Brandt**  
Church of Reinland

**President Jean-François Collange**  
Lutheran Church Alsace-Lorraine

**Dekan Rudolf Ehrmantraut**  
Church of Palatinate

**Mr Jean-Jacques Fritz**  
European Parliament

**Mr Mario Heinrich**  
Council of Europe

**Dr Jean-Gustave Hentz**  
Lutheran Church Alsace-Lorraine

**LK'in Rev. Susanne Labsch**  
Church of Baden

**Mr Halvor Lervik**  
Council of Europe

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

## Staff

**Rev. Rüdiger Noll**  
Director, Brussels

**Rev. Richard Fischer**  
Executive Secretary, Strasbourg

**Canon Alexander Gordon (until May)**  
Associated staff, Anglican Chaplancy,  
Strasbourg, France



# Working Groups and working groups members

**Rev. Dr Dieter Heidtmann**  
Executive Secretary, Brussels

**Rev. Dr Dr Peter Pavlovic**  
Study Secretary, Brussels

**Rev. Matthew Ross**  
Executive Secretary, Brussels

**Ms Donatella Rostagno**  
Executive Secretary, Brussels

**OKR'in Sabine von Zanthier**  
Associated staff, EKD office Brussels

## Support staff

**Ms Véronique Dessart**  
Brussels

**Ms Véronique Engels**  
Brussels

**Ms Lois Hough-Stewart**  
Brussels

**Ms Marie-Madeleine Linck**  
Strasbourg

**Ms Charlotte Vander Borgh**  
Accountant, Brussels

## Interns

**Ms Philine Blum**  
until July

**Mr Faruk Drovs**  
November-December

**Mr Sebastian Lamotte**  
until July

**Ms Christina Maria Koch**  
August-September

**Ms Stella Welburn**  
November

## Working Group on Bioethics

**Kirsti Aalto**  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

**Svend Andersen**  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

**Stavros Baloyannis**  
Church of Greece

**Donald Bruce**  
Church of Scotland

**Andrea Dörries**  
Evangelical Church in Germany

**Anton Ilyin**  
Russian Orthodox Church

**Mireille Jemelin**  
Swiss Protestant Federation

**Karsten Lehmkuhler**  
Luth. & Ref. Churches Alsace-Lorraine

**Elena Masarovicova**  
Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
(SK)

**Anna Rollier**  
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

**Egbert Schrotten**  
(moderator)  
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

**Stefan-Ioan Stratul**  
Romanian Orthodox Church

## Working Group on EC legislation

**Lisbet Christoffersen**  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

**Altana Filos**  
Greek Evangelical Church

**Gunnar Grönblom**  
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

**Peter Kresak**  
Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
(SK)

**Gianni Long**  
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

**Maria Lundqvist-Norling**  
Church of Sweden

**David McClean**  
(moderator)  
Church of England

**Joanna Mizgala**  
Evangelical-Reformed Church  
in Poland

**Gerhard Robbers**  
Evangelical Church in Germany

**Rüdiger Stotz**  
Evangelical Church in Germany

**Sophie Van Bijsterveld**  
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

## Working Group on Human Rights and Religious Freedom

**Rev. Peter Ciacchio**  
(from June)  
World Student Christian Federation

**Kirill Frolov**  
Russian Orthodox Church

**Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim**  
Romanian Orthodox Church

**Ebbe Holm**  
(co-moderator)  
Baptist Church of Denmark

**George Krippas**  
Orthodox Church of Greece

**Peter Krömer**  
Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
Austria

**Anne Lagerstedt**  
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian  
Women

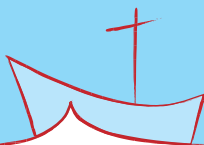
**Tony Peck**  
European Baptist Federation

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

**Corinna Schellenberg**  
Evangelical Church in Germany

**Dr Daniel Spratek**  
(from June)  
Silesian Ev. Church of the Augsburg  
Confession





### **Working Group on European Integration**

**Zoltan Bona**

Reformed Church in Hungary

**Elfriede Dörr**

Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
Romania

**Serge Fornerod**

Swiss Protestant Federation

**David Gill**

Evangelical Church in Germany

**William Jourdan**

Ecumenical Youth  
Council in Europe

**Vakhtang Kipshidze**

Russian Orthodox Church

**Jitka Krausová**

Ecumenical Council  
of Churches in Czech Republic

**Lena Kumlin LL.M**

(co-moderator)  
Evangelical-Lutheran  
Church of Finland

**Ignatios Sotiriadis**

Church of Greece

**Peter Southcombe**

United Reformed Church in UK

**George Tsetsis**

(co-moderator)  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

**Andrzej Wojtowicz**

Ecumenical Council  
of Churches in Poland

### **Working Group on Peace and Security**

**Christine Busch**

Evangelical Church in Germany

**Paula Devejian**

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

**Miklos Menessy**

Ecumenical Association of Churches in  
Romania

**David Mumford**

Church and Peace

**Anette Månsson**

Church of Sweden

**Georgy Roshchin**

Russian Orthodox Church

**Karl-Reinhart Trauner**

Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession  
Austria

**Donald Watts**

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

**John Edward Williams**

Methodist Church in Great Britain

**Costas Zorbas**

Church of Greece

### **Working Group on Social Issues (jointly with Eurodiaconia)**

**Ms Rita Bruvers**

Ev. Lutheran Church of Latvia

**Rev. Jac Franken**

Kerkinactie

**OKR Rev. Dr Jens Kreuter**

Evangelical Church in Germany

**Major Göran Larsson**

Salvation Army, Sweden

**Mr Ian Manson**

Church of Scotland

**Mr Ole Meldgaard**

Kofoeds Skole

**Mag. Martin Schenk**

Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession,  
Austria

**Dr Stephanie Scholz**

Diakonisches Werk der EKD

**Rev. Dr David Sinclair**

Church of Scotland

**Ms Margaretha Svensson-Paras**

Church of Sweden

**Prof. Christina Vayas**

Church of Greece

### **Task Force on Globalisation**

**Mr Jean-Philippe Barde**

Fédération Protestante de France

**Dr Milos Calda**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Czech  
Brethren

**Rev. Gabor Czagany**

Hungarian Reformed Church

**Mr John Ellis**

British Methodist Church

**Fr Georges Ryabykh**

Russian Orthodox Church

**Rev. Serge Fornerod**

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

**Rev. Eberhard Hitzler**

Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

**M. Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba**

Church of Greece

**Mr Erik Lysen**

Church of Sweden

**Dr Ulrich Möller**

Evangelical Church of Westphalia

**Dr Antonios Papantoniou**

Church of Greece



# Our resources

## The income and Expenditures of the Church and Society Commission in 2005

Besides some member churches increasing their contributions, this increase largely results from additional human resources offered by member churches in the form of seconded staff in order for the CSC to better respond to increasing demands. The increase slightly changes the overall balance of the accounts without changing the principal conclusions of previous years: the overwhelming part

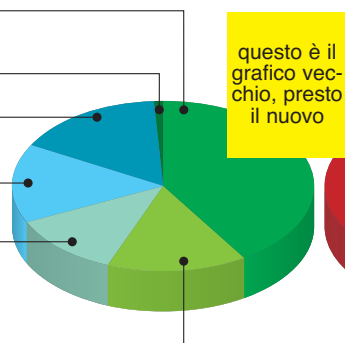
of the Commission's income stems from member church contributions. This support of the Commission's constituency is essential in order for the Commission to be able to fulfill the churches' expectations and the Commission's mandate. The percentage share spent for administrative costs remains comparatively low.

**The chart** dividing the costs according to working areas gives an approximation, on which issues the income was spent. It does, however, not necessarily indicate the priorities of the Commission's work in 2005 in precise detail. Some

working areas were more cost intensive than others, which were nevertheless of high importance. About 36% of the income was spent on management (including meetings of the decision-making bodies), relations to member churches (visits to member churches as well as visits of church delegations in Brussels and Strasbourg, working materials etc) and communication. The area of communication includes communications to member churches as well as communications with the European institutions and the broader public to make the churches' voice heard.

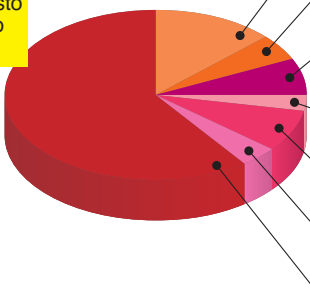
### Church & Society Commission Income

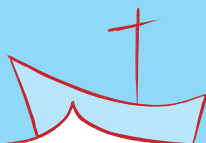
- 41% contributions member
- 1% other
- 16% earmarked contributions
- 15% contribution CEC general budget
- 12% staff paid by member churches
- 15% contributions churches on the Rhine



### Church & Society Commission Expenses

- 13% meetings, conferences
- 5% government boards
- 7% rent
- 3% equipment, computer costs
- 8% administration cost
- 4% travel costs
- 60% salaries & social charges





# CEC Member Churches

## **Albania**

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

## **Armenia**

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

## **Austria**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria

Evangelical Church of the Helvetic Confession in Austria

Evangelical-Methodist Church in Austria  
Old-Catholic Church in Austria

## **Belgium**

United Protestant Church in Belgium

## **Bulgaria**

Baptist Union of Bulgaria

Evangelical-Methodist Church in Bulgaria

Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria

## **Croatia**

Baptist Union of Croatia

Church of God in Croatia

Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia

Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia

Reformed Christian Church in Croatia

## **Cyprus**

Church of Cyprus

## **Czech Republic**

Baptist Union in the Czech Republic

Czechoslovak Hussite Church

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 and Slovak Republic

Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic

## **Denmark**

Baptist Union of Denmark

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

## **Estonia**

Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church

Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad

Estonian Methodist Church

## **Finland**

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Orthodox Church in Finland

## **France**

Church of the Augsburg Confession in Alsace and Lorraine

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of France

Federation of Evangelical-Baptist Churches of France

French Reformed Church

Malagasy Protestant Church in France

Reformed Church of Alsace-Lorraine

Georgia

Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptists of Georgia

## **Germany**

Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany

Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptists)

United Methodist Church in Germany

## **Great Britain**

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Church in Wales

Church of England

Church of Scotland

Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom

Council of African and Caribbean Churches

Lutheran Council of Great Britain  
Methodist Church in Great Britain

Presbyterian Church of Wales

Salvation Army (UK Territory with the Republic of Ireland)

Scottish Episcopal Church

Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide

United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom

## **Greece**

Greek Evangelical Church  
Church of Greece

## **Hungary**

Baptist Union of Hungary

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Hungary

Evangelical-Methodist Church in Hungary

Reformed Church in Hungary

## **Iceland**

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Iceland

## **Ireland**

Church of Ireland

Methodist Church in Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

## **Italy**

Baptist Union of Italy

Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Italy

Evangelical-Methodist Church in Italy  
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

Lithuanian Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany

## **Luxembourg**

Alliance of Protestant Churches of Luxembourg

## **Netherlands**

Mennonite Church in the Netherlands

Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands

Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Remonstrant Brotherhood

## **Norway**

Church of Norway

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**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

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**Portugal**

Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical  
Church  
Methodist Church of Portugal  
Evangelical 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  
(Kiralyhagomelléki District)  
Reformed Church in Romania  
(Transylvanian District)  
Romanian Orthodox Church

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**Russia**

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

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**Serbia and Montenegro**

Evangelical-Methodist Church in  
Macedonia  
Evangelical-Methodist Church in Serbia  
and Montenegro  
Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and  
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 Slovakia  
Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and  
Slovak Republic  
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**

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

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**Ukraine**

Trans-Carpathian Reformed Church

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**International Areas**

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

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**CEC Associated members**

Action of Churches Together in Scotland  
Christian Council of Norway  
Christian Council of Sweden  
Church and Peace  
Church Mission Society  
Churches Commission for Migrants in  
Europe  
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland  
Churches Together in England  
Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn)  
Conference of European Pastors'  
Association

Conference of European University  
Chaplains  
Council of Churches in the Netherlands  
Ecumenical Association of Academies  
and Laity Centres in Europe  
Ecumenical Association of Churches in  
Romania/AIDROM  
Ecumenical Council of Churches in  
Hungary  
Ecumenical Council of Churches in the  
Slovak Republic  
Ecumenical Council of Finland  
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian  
Women  
Ecumenical Institute for the Nordic  
Region  
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe  
Estonian Council of Churches  
Eurodiaconia / European Federation for  
Diaconia  
European Alliance of YMCAs  
European Baptist Federation  
European Contact Group on Urban  
Industrial Mission  
European Forum of Christian Men  
European 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 Christian Churches  
Protestant Working Group on Adult  
Education in Europe  
Society for Ecumenical Studies and Inter-  
Orthodox Relations  
Spanish Committee on Cooperation  
between the Churches  
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in  
Germany  
World Student Christian Federation  
(Europe)



# Who we are

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

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

The CSC was established in 1999 as a result of an integration process between CEC and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS), both of which had a long-standing record of working in the field of church and society. CEC was founded in 1959 as a bridge-building organisation between the churches in Eastern and Western Europe. 1979 can be regarded as the founding date for EECCS, which was established as a representation of churches vis-à-vis the European institutions.

Following this integration process, the CSC received a special status within CEC.

Its work programme as well as its working mechanisms and methods are determined by a 24-person Commission in agreement with CEC's Central Committee. The Commission Plenary meets once a year, and elects the CSC Executive Committee. In consultation with the General Secretary of CEC it can make public statements on issues within its remit. The CSC has secretariats in Brussels and Strasbourg and maintains strong links with the CEC headquarters in Geneva. The Directorate of the CSC is based in Brussels.

## Mandate and Methods

### Our mandate

- 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

AGAPE	Alternative Globalisation Addressing People and Earth
APRODEV	Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe
CCEE	Council of European Bishops' Conferences
CCME	Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
CEC	Conference of European Churches
CERN	Churches Environmental Rural Network
CoE	Council of Europe
COMECE	Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community
CSC	Church and Society Commission
DG	Directorate General
ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network

EEA3	Third European Ecumenical Assembly
EECCS	European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society
ENAR	European Network Against Racism
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EURODIACONIA	European Federation for Diaconia
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MEP	Member of European Parliament
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
WCC	World Council of Churches
WG	Working Group