
2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches

Assembly Handbook



“You shall be my witnesses”
2018 Novi Sad General Assembly
31 May – 6 June 2018

	Thu 31 May	Fri 1 June	Sat 2 June
	REGISTRATION (HP)	HOSPITALITY	JUSTICE
9.00-9.15		Morning prayer (MC)	Morning prayer (MC)
9.15-9.30			
9.30-10.00		Bible Study (MC)	Bible Study (MC)
10.00-10.15			
10.15-10.30		BREAK	BREAK
10.30-10.45			
10.45-11.00		Keynote Address (MC)	Keynote Address (MC)
11.00-11.30			
11.30-12.00		Reflection (MC)	Reflection (MC)
12.00-12.15	Discussion	Discussion	
12.15-12.30	midday prayer	midday prayer	
12.30-13.00			
13.00-13.30	LUNCH (HP)	LUNCH (HP)	LUNCH (HP)
13.30-14.00			
14.00-14.30	REGISTRATION (HP)	Workshops 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15 (HP/MC)	Workshops 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 (HP/MC)
14.30-15.00			
15.00-15.30			
15.30-16.00	BREAK	Walk to Master Centre BREAK	
16.00-16.30	BREAK	Business Plenary Report from the General Secretary (MC)	Christian Presence and Witness in the Future of Europe
16.30-17.00	Opening Plenary Opening Actions; Official Greetings (MC)		Presentation; Draft message; Youth perception; discussion (MC)
17.00-17.30	BREAK	BREAK	
17.30-17.45	Confessional Meetings (MC)	Business Plenary Committee Elections; First reading of the Constitutional Amendments of CEC Constitution (MC)	Business Plenary Second and final reading of the Amendments to the CEC Constitution (MC)
17.45-18.00			
18.00-18.30		Transfer to the centre of Novi Sad	
18.30-18.45	Open Air Opening Worship in City Centre (External Venue)	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer
18.45-19.00			
19.00-19.30		DINNER (HP)	DINNER (HP)
19.30-19.45	Standing Hospitality dinner in City Centre (External Venue)		
19.45-20.00			
20.00-20.30		Committee meetings (HP)	Committee meetings (HP)
20.30-21.00	Transfer to hotels		
21.00-21.30			
21.30-22.00			
22.00-22.30			
	Thu 31 May	Fri 1 June	Sat 2 June

Worship
Keynote Session
Business Plenary
Confessional Meeting
Workshop
Future of Europe
Regional Meeting
Break/Lunch/Dinner

For a more detailed agenda of each day and session, please go to the section 4.1 The Agenda.

For more information on the location of each venue and the conference rooms, please see the back of the handbook.

	Sun 3 June	Mon 4 June	Tue 5 June	Wed 6 June
		WITNESS	HOPE	
9.15-9.30	Transfer to local churches	Morning prayer (MC)	Morning prayer (MC)	Start of departures
9.30-10.00		Bible Study (MC)	Bible Study (MC)	Meeting of the newly elected Governing Board and the previous Budget Committee (HP)
10.00-10.15	Worship and visit in local churches/Confessionnal (External Venue)	BREAK	BREAK	
10.15-10.30		Keynote Address (MC)	Business Plenary Discussion on reports continues; Adoption of reports (MC)	
10.30-10.45				
10.45-11.00				
11.00-11.30		Reflection (MC)		
11.30-12.00	Discussion	Stewards programme ends with evaluation		
12.00-12.15	midday prayer		midday prayer	
12.15-12.30	Transfer to Hotel Park			
12.30-13.00	LUNCH (HP)			LUNCH
13.00-13.30				
13.30-14.00	Walk to Master Centre			
14.00-14.30	Christian presence and witness in the Future of Europe Panel speakers (MC)	Walk to Master Centre	Walk to Master Centre	
14.30-15.00		Business Plenary Amendments to CEC legal texts; Mandating procedure to the Governing Board; Committees Draft Reports (MC)	Closing Plenary (MC)	
15.00-15.30				
15.30-16.00				
16.00-16.30	Break/Transfer to Bridge			
16.30-17.00		BREAK	BREAK	
17.00-17.30		Business Plenary Greetings from guests; Election of Presidency and new Governing Board (MC)	Sending Service with a message of Hope (MC)	D E P A R T U R E S
17.30-17.45				
17.45-18.00			Transfer to Closing Reception venue	
18.00-18.30				
18.30-18.45				
18.45-19.00	Prayer and Procession near the Danube Bridge (External Venue)			
19.00-19.30				
	Transfer to Hotel Park	Evening Prayer		
	DINNER (HP)	DINNER (HP)	Closing Dinner in Vrđička Kula (External Venue)	
20.00-20.30				
20.30-21.00	Committee meetings (HP)	Regional Meetings (HP)		
21.00-21.30				
21.30-22.00				
22.00-22.30			Transfer to Hotels	
	Sun 3 June	Mon 4 June	Tue 5 June	



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1. Words of Welcome

Welcome by the President

Welcome to Novi Sad and welcome to the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). Some of us have travelled a long way to reach Serbia and Novi Sad. Yet if you look at a map of Europe – the whole of Europe – you will see we are more or less in the centre of our continent. Moreover, Novi Sad is on the Danube, one of the great rivers of Europe which rises in the west and flows through central Europe to its eventual outflow in the Black Sea. And, on the Danube, Novi Sad was once a border city: the Hungarian and Austro-Hungarian border of Europe with the Ottoman Europe just the other side of the river. The Castle above the river for a time prevented further Turkish advances towards Western Europe. More recently, in the 1999 Serbian-Kosovo conflict, the bridges over the Danube were bombed by NATO. Novi Sad has also been a place of meeting between differing Christian traditions and to this day the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has churches not only of the Orthodox and Catholic traditions but also Lutheran, Reformed, United Methodist and Baptist. While Serbia aspires to join the European Union, its culture rejoices in its Eastern and Slavic resonances. Our majority church host, the Serbian Orthodox Church, together with the other churches locally invites us here. And what better place to be in terms of the importance of a wide and welcoming view of Europe, the whole of Europe, in the face of movements and pressures to retreat from a vision of our continent deeply indebted to the Christian Churches and Christian culture.

Our agenda is to recapture something of the vision of Europe which is not nostalgia for a bygone Christendom, but is formed by the Christian virtues of Justice and Hospitality. Our overall theme is Witness but a Witness which is expressed in Justice and Hospitality at a time of insular retreat and reversion to neo-nationalism. Certainly, in the past, even the Christian Churches have contributed to human division. But the nature of God as Trinity in communion itself tells us that the Witness of the churches must correspondingly be one of community and communion. Communion between the churches, our ecumenical task, but also witnessing to and being an effective sign of wider human community.

Welcome to the Conference of European Churches! We are here invited to

capture a fresh vision of Europe and to be a living Witness to God's Justice and Hospitality.

The Right Reverend Christopher Hill KCVO, DD

Welcome by the General Secretary

The Conference of European Churches gathers for its General Assembly in Novi Sad. The name of this historical European city refers to a new plantation, a new garden. The name and the history of Novi Sad correspond very well to the significance of this General Assembly for CEC. In the same way as Novi Sad, CEC's place is at the crossroads of the major trends that make up our Europe – East and West, North and South. Also CEC bears the memories of our churches regarding the confrontations and conflicts between church traditions - the Great Schism dividing East and West, the Reformation, and the political currents represented by empires and ideologies, genocidal tragedies and liberation movements. The encounter with Islam represented by the Ottoman empire is part of Novi Sad's history, as well as the cortège of today's migrants on their way from the Middle East to Middle Europe. All these dimensions are present in the rich fabric of CEC's Member Churches. The same great trends that meet in Novi Sad, historically and in the present, open avenues of opportunity for CEC in the service of its constituency.

This General Assembly follows directly from the previous one which was held in 2013 upstream the Danube, in Budapest. The connection is consequential, because the main task for the Governing Board and the Secretariat in the five-year period since 2013 has been to implement the Constitutional and operational changes decided by the Budapest General Assembly. As you will learn from the staff reports, this task has been successfully implemented, along with continued and considerable programmatic work. Some details resulting from the Constitutional adaptation between two different legal systems needs still to be finalised by this General Assembly. It should not be disregarded that merging administrations and working cultures of two offices from different countries has been a task demanding energy, determination, flexibility and creativity. Only from the beginning of 2018 is CEC again fully staffed, ready to set out for the General Assembly and the new mandate period beginning there.

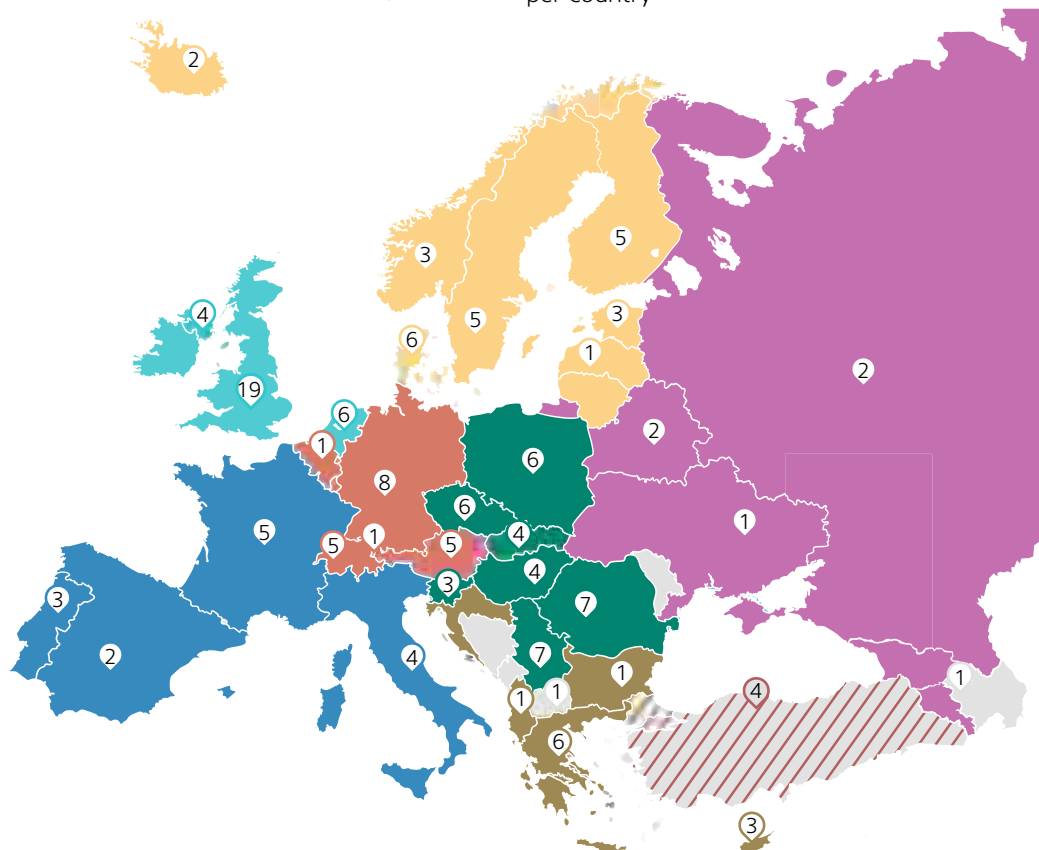
Novi Sad welcomes the Conference of European Churches just after Pentecost in the Western and Eastern calendars. In the Christian year, this is the time of the Church, when the garden of God's care for humanity blossoms. It is the right time to ask what is the precise task of the renewed CEC in this garden. How do the European Churches wish to use this tool, which has been reformed for better service for them?

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Heikki Theodoros Huttunen

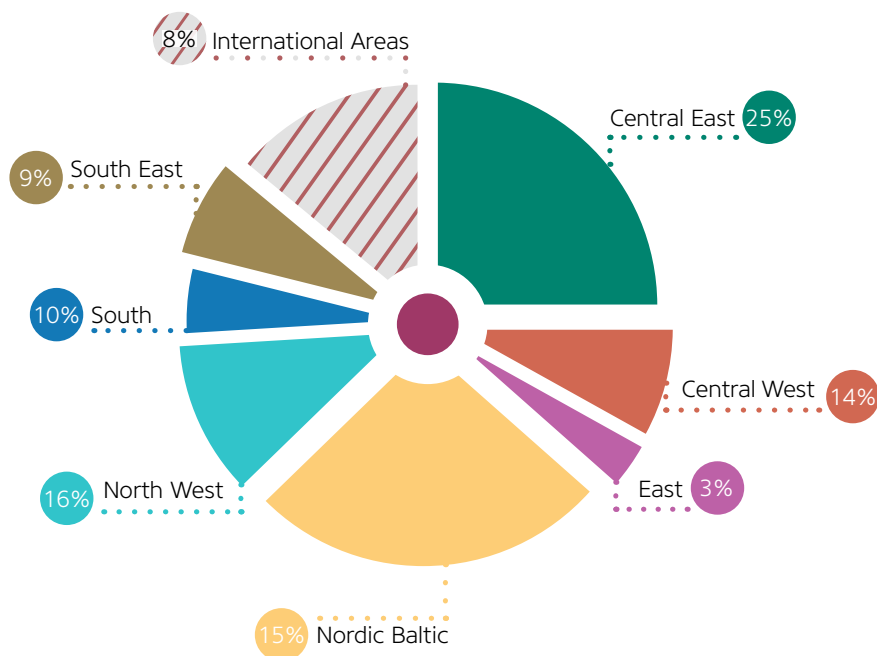
CEC REGIONS

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Central East | North West |
| Central West | South |
| East | South East |
| Nordic Baltic | International Areas |

Number of delegates
per country



Where do General Assembly participants come from?



Welcome and observations by the Moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee

The Assembly Planning Committee (APC) extends a warm welcome to all participants, wishing them a successful CEC General Assembly in Novi Sad. The notes given below will provide participants with important information for understanding the context and the work of the APC.

What it is all about

CEC has come a long way from Budapest to Novi Sad. At the outset it is important to say that the APC had to work with the available Constitution. A comparative reading of the French and English texts with the appointed legal core-group indicated a number of areas that needed to either be fine-tuned or appropriately amended in order that the Constitution be fully in accordance with Belgium law.

The process of transition from Geneva to Brussels was always going to be a complicated matter and it must be also said that, despite this, the transition went quite smoothly. However, it should also surprise no one that with such a transition there were bound to be areas that would need further work or fine-tuning in order that CEC works with a Constitution in future that is fully in keeping with Belgium law and that doubts in the working out of the Constitution, as the APC discovered, are clarified.

It must be also said that in terms of the vision, aims and the programmatic work of CEC that is anchored in the Constitution, there are no problems and no real changes needed. The key Constitutional difficulties are related to legal processes, such as the current procedure with regard to the yearly approval of the financial accounts. The legal advice received considers the current procedure legally insecure. Such matters affected the APC in planning the General Assembly, since unless the legal situation was clear, it would not be possible to prepare proper Rules of Procedure – RoP - (formerly called Standing Orders) for the General Assembly and organise the content in such a way, so that matters are in place for future action.

The legal situation has been clarified to a large extent and the General Assembly design and content have been prepared to enable in the main the General Assembly to have a forward look. The General Assembly theme with its structured focus on Hospitality, Justice, Witness and Hope offers with the bible studies and keynote addresses, the workshops addressing the ongoing CEC work, the discussions concerning Europe, will all serve to give CEC a forward looking focus. And, there will in all this be an opportunity for the General Assembly to provide the future CEC with the greater legal clarity it needs. APC was therefore fully engaged in also clarifying legal issues with

the support of the Legal Core Group and the Legal firm KOAN in Brussels.

A changing CEC

The Conference of European Churches has undergone a major renewal of its structures and is still developing new working methods for purpose for the uncertain Europe of today. (The details of these developments is found elsewhere.) Our significant past history, going back to the bridge-building of the Cold War, must now lead on through a new era in which many of the assumptions which led to the creation of European structures are now questioned. CEC has an essential role in maintaining a dialogue among the churches of Europe in a time of political scepticism.

Ecumenical Dialogue

CEC is a unique forum for dialogue between (all) the major confessional families of Europe, Anglican and Old Catholic; Orthodox; and Protestant; and with the Roman Catholic Church through the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) and the Commission of Episcopal Conferences in the European Union (COMECE). The Charta Ecumenica of 2001 remains a very significant landmark in CEC's pan-European Christian dialogue.

CEC not only brings together different Christian denominations, but builds bridges between smaller and larger churches, majority and minority churches. Ecumenical reciprocity expresses the need of churches for each other.

The European initiative

CEC is in dialogue with the European Commission and the European Parliament and also with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg which has a much wider national membership than the European Union. Important as dialogue with the EU remains, CEC is concerned with the whole of Europe because its membership includes many churches in jurisdictions which are not and may never be part of the EU. CEC provides a unique framework and the expertise for a wider than national consideration of European issues. Together with COMECE and the German Churches, CEC has, to take a single but important example, taken full part in the 'lobby' work which resulted in the inclusion of Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty, ensuring dialogue between the European Institutions and faith communities. CEC continues to work on how this dialogue could be given more substance.

From Budapest to Novi Sad

In 2013 the General Assembly in Budapest provided CEC with the opportunity to reform itself and make itself more fit for purpose.

Since Budapest, CEC has been working with its new Constitution. Its dia-

logue engagement continues. Its vision today is clearly articulated, that is, to promote a community of Churches sharing their spiritual life, seeking reconciliation, strengthening their common Witness and service and fostering the unity of the Church. In providing an authentic, credible and socially responsible Christian Witness, it will work towards building a humane, social and sustainable Europe at peace with itself and its neighbours in which human rights and solidarity prevail (Article 2.1.2 of the Constitution).

CEC also commits itself, on the basis of the conciliar process of Justice, peace and the integrity of creation, to continue to work in the following thematic areas: ecclesiology and theology; diaspora and migrant Churches, and mission; asylum and migration; youth and intergenerational dialogue; social responsibility and human rights (Article 2.1.3 of the Constitution).

The churches need CEC as a facilitator of their ecumenical and European engagement and CEC needs the churches to give it a functional structure, high-quality personnel, the input of expertise into its diverse working mechanisms and funding. This 2018 General Assembly will indeed mark another turning point in the history of CEC.

The APC - Working on key assembly tasks

This section does not highlight in detail all the General Assembly tasks undertaken by the APC. However, it contains some key snapshots.

Working on the location possibilities for the General Assembly was a challenging task. After a number of visits by staff and their reports, the Governing Board of CEC on the advice of the APC approved Novi Sad, Serbia, as the venue for the General Assembly 2018.

The agenda and time-table have been carefully planned taking into account the special requirements and it also has a forward looking focus to it.

From the various theme suggestions, the APC recommended “You shall be my Witnesses” to the Governing Board. This theme is inspired by the passage from Acts 1.8. It is an appeal to build Christian confidence in the current context of uncertainties and fear which both individuals and nations face by focussing on some of the core Christian imperatives of Hospitality, Justice and Witness and Hope.

Size

The APC then worked on streamlining the list of participants for the General Assembly. The Governing Board took the decision that the General Assembly could welcome a maximum of 515 participants, including, Delegates, Or-

ganisations in Partnership, National Councils of Churches, Advisors, Observers, Assembly Moderators, Governing Board Members, Worship Committee, Stewards, Speakers, Guests, Facilitators, Legal Advisers and Assembly Staff (CEC Staff, Co-opted Staff, Interpreters, Translators, Minute Takers, Local Team, Choir, Volunteers). The General Assembly of 2013 had 470 members.

Logo

The APC approved the logo designed by the Novi Sad based Print Studio M&A. Examples of a full and abbreviated logo were reviewed and it was preferred that the full logo be used wherever possible. The logo symbolically combines the bridge across cultures, generations as well pass-over over Danube in Novi Sad with the cross.

The APC and Fundraising

The funding for this has been secure. The work of the treasurer Rev. Michael Bubik of CEC has to be highlighted in this connection. Income and expenditure of the over EUR one million budget are going according to plan; there have been no surprises so far. A few items exceed foreseen expenditure while others are under but in general it balances out. APC thanks all those churches who have contributed additionally to the General Assembly funds. Other points of note:

- Subsidy Guidelines were finalised by the APC core group and an evaluation of subsidy applications is underway; priority will be given to funding balanced delegations that include women, lay persons and youth.
- Our local host, The Diocese of Bačka of the Serbian Orthodox Church offered its generous help through applying for financial assistance to cover some significant cost elements of the event.

Registration and Conference Fees will ensure that the funding continues to be secure.

Thanks

The Local Planning Committee (LPC) with its coordinator Mr Danilo Mihajlovic continues to be a great asset. It meets at regular intervals and feeds significant information into the APC meetings. APC is very grateful to all of them.

There are other significant groups who are devoting their time and energy in preparing the ground for a spiritual and successful General Assembly. One such group is the Worship Committee moderated by the Rev. Sabine Udo-desku to whom we owe our thanks. They have been instrumental in rooting the General Assembly in prayer and worship. The others to be mentioned

are the Stewards and Volunteers who will be central for the smooth running of the General Assembly and all those who are responsible for coordinating the work of the Youth Event. In this connection Ms Katerina Pekridou from CEC and Ms Satu Koikkalainen from the APC need to be acknowledged.

The APC also thanks the Assembly Coordinator, Mr Szabolcs Lörincz for his cooperation and work in taking forward a number of the APC decisions. Our thanks also go to the CEC secretariat in Brussels, especially to Ms Charlie Belot, Assembly Assistant, for their great help in providing logistical and other kinds of support. Likewise, we are grateful to the World Council of Churches for its support through some of their qualified and competent staff.

Thanks also go to Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot and to Rev. Dr Patrick Roger Schnabel, for their tireless work on legal issues. They attended most APC meetings and provided the legal expertise needed and also they support the APC in some of its other tasks.

The APC is furthermore grateful to the Presidium, the Governing Board, Member Churches and for all those who have put their confidence and trust in the APC work and helped it carry out its work efficiently and professionally. APC has had to deliver on many other Assembly tasks, which cannot all be listed. However, the solidarity from the Presidium and the Governing Board has been the momentum which has provided the APC with room to creatively carry out its tasks.

On behalf of all APC members, I wish you all an Assembly of fruitful ecumenical engagement with prayer, worship and celebration, an Assembly of understanding, discernment and empowerment, and an Assembly which will enable CEC to be a confident and significant voice in a Europe of change and to lead it towards greater unity and closer fellowship.

Rev. Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel



CEC Governing Board visit to Novi Sad in June 2017

From left: Bishop Christopher Hill, Church England; Bishop Irinej of Bačka, Serbian Orthodox Church and Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Ecumenical Patriarchate.

2. Introduction of the location

2.1. INTRODUCING NOVI SAD

Looking at the City of Novi Sad from a height, you will perceive it as a city located in a vast plain, open to all directions. On the right side of the river Danube, you can discern the Petrovaradin Fortress, the historical site of the city, whereas on the left side are blooming tall buildings, a sign of a living city.

Between the older and newer buildings, Novi Sad is also a green city, where you will find in its labyrinth of streets and alleys, green oases and parks. The Danube, that flows between the capital of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, serves as a potent axe of the city.

History is part of Novi Sad, which can be seen by the bridges crossing the Danube that were once lost to the city, but are now re-built.

In terms of culture and traditions, Novi Sad is home to many events and Serbian cultural institutions: Matica srpska - the oldest cultural-scientific institution of Serbia, Serbian National Theatre, Sterijino pozorje Theatre Festival and many more. Novi Sad will also be the European Youth Capital in 2019 and the European Capital for Culture in 2021.

Novi Sad, the capital of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, is the second largest city in Serbia with a population of between 300,000 and 400,000 citizens.

2.2. PRESENTATION OF CHURCH LIFE IN SERBIA AND VOJVODINA

Serbian Orthodox Church

Until the time of Saint Sava and his brother Stefan the First-Crowned King (early 13th century), there had been a number of separate Serbian states that were maintained as the member-principalities of the Eastern Roman Empire. Due to their geographical position, the jurisdiction and political influence over the Serbian lands had been claimed by the emperors and Patriarchs of the East and the West alike. It was not before 1217, when the Kingdom of Serbia was established, that a serious state/national and church history of the nation began, and it was definitely turned towards Constantinople.

The Church in Serbia was elevated to the rank of Patriarchate in 1346. In the aftermath of the Battle of Kosovo in 1389 wherein the Serbian and the Ottoman army clashed on a large-scale, Serbia lost its independence. From that time on, Serbia was part of the Ottoman Empire until the 19th century. The Patriarchate of Peć was restored in 1557 and survived in Ottoman territory until 1766 when it returned once more under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. After the abolition of the Patriarchate of Peć, the centre of the church authorities moved to the Metropolitan Bishopric of Karlovci/Karlowitz, in the territory of Austria. (The town is situated north of Belgrade, in the vicinity of Novi Sad.) The revolutionary year 1848 brought about striking changes: the Church-Popular Assembly proclaimed Metropolitan Josif Rajačić as the Patriarch of the Serbs, and Colonel Stevan Šupljikac as the Vojvoda (Duke and General) of the Serbian Duchy as part of the Austrian Empire. This accounts for the name of Vojvodina, Serbia's Northern Province today.

Serbia gained full freedom from Turkish rule at the Congress of Berlin, in 1878 and soon after that, autocephaly of the Metropolitanate of Belgrade. Independence was paid for by enormous human loss and devastation in two Balkan Wars and especially World War I. The inter-war period saw an ideological creation – the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later (1929) renamed as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This state was to provide a seemingly guardianship over the (tri-une) national unity and the achievement of the age-long dream about all the Serbs living within one independent country. The region of Vojvodina had become part of it, too. However, World War II put an end on the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and brought about new horrors

and millions of Serb victims. The feeling of reaching freedom through the end of the war (1945) was soon suppressed when the Communists lead by Tito took over power and founded a new ideological state, the last name of which was 'the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia'. The new rule meant new afflictions and temptations for the Serbian Patriarchate that had been revived in 1920. Christian believers, clergy and bishops - were sent into exile or even murdered. As long as until the disintegration of the Communist-ruled Yugoslavia, the Church was a voice crying in the wilderness; also, the Church was witnessing great injustice and crimes that victimised its people and its centuries old heritage.

The collapse of the Iron Curtain and of the states founded on Communist systems and principles, implied a new map of Europe being drawn: its new (and old) states have – fast or slow – identified their place on the European cultural and political scenes. At the same time, Serbia remained fettered by regional wars, political conflicts, struggles between ideologies and confrontations inside the country as reheated residues of unsettled accounts since long ago, and also blackmailed, oppressed and overwhelmed by some political lobbyists outside of Serbia, with not enough understanding for modern Serbian State and its citizens.

It is enough to say, that since the end of the last war on the Ex-Yugoslav territory, between NATO and Yugoslavia in 1999, 156 churches and monasteries, including medieval heritage, have been damaged or destroyed in Kosovo and Metohija.

Nowadays, the Serbian Orthodox Church spreads across several countries again. The Church presently consists of 29 home dioceses, the Autonomous Archbishopric of Ohrid/Ochrida in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 9 dioceses in the diaspora. There are 45 bishops as members of the Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The Church is a member of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia

The Reformed Christian Church in Serbia was originally part of the greater Hungarian Reformed Church. After the World War I, Hungary lost two-thirds of its territory, and the Hungarian Reformed communities beyond the new borders of Hungary were forced to reorganize. The Hungarian Reformed communities in this new region ended up living as dual minorities, being Hungarian and Reformed.

The first Hungarian translations of the Bible were brought to the southern regions of the Hungarian Kingdom (called Délvidék or Vojvodina) and the

Ottoman Empire during the Hussite movement. At the time of the Reformation, Reformed Pastor, Mihály Sztárai introduced and then created 120 Reformed congregations in the region. After the fall of the Ottoman Empire, many Reformed Hungarians moved from Debrecen, in the north, to the southern regions. In the World War I, Hungary lost two-thirds of its territory, including the southern regions, now part of Serbia. In 1933, the Reformed Christian Church in the Yugoslavian Kingdom was established and approximately 55 000 Reformed people of Hungarian, German, Czech, and Croatian origin were active members of the Church. During World War II, the region and the Church were reunited as a part of Hungary and the Hungarian Reformed Church. However, after the War, the same territories were, again, axed from the country.

During the Cold War, church properties were nationalised, causing the churches to struggle financially. In 1953, the Law on Religion freed the properties from the state, allowing for autonomy of the church and maintenance of international ecumenical relations. In the 1970s, the Church faced another obstacle. Due to the lack of theological institutions, the number of Reformed pastors and congregation members decreased dramatically. After the breakup of Yugoslavia, as well as Reformed Christian Church of Yugoslavia, the Hungarian-speaking Reformed communities living in the now northern part of Serbia, specifically Vojvodina, reorganised to the Reformed Christian Church in Serbia.

Today, the Church keeps the same confessions as the Reformed Church in Hungary, the Second Helvetic Confession and the Heidelberg Catechism. The Reformed Christian Church in Serbia has 19 pastors serving 17 000 members in 50 congregations. Among the priorities of the Church is the dedication to the children and young people. Despite the financial challenges, the ministers and members of the Church takes its mission for the children and young people very seriously. Currently, the Reformed Christian Church in Serbia is an active member of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

United Methodist Church in Serbia

This year, the United Methodist Church in Serbia celebrates the 120th anniversary of its founding. The first local church was founded in Srbobran. In the beginning, the work was carried out primarily among the German population who lived in this area. They invited a missionary to come from Germany, and thus the work of the Methodist Church begun. Several other churches were established in Vrbas, Feketić, Novi Sad, among other places. As part of this work, an orphanage was founded in Srbobran. It was open to

orphaned children of all nationalities.

The fast growing church recognised the importance of educational, cultural and social areas. Therefore, a piece of land was bought, where the Betania hospital and a girls' boarding school were built. A care home for the elderly was also a part of the church's work.

World War II brought many changes, after which the German population was forced to leave the country and the Methodist churches were left almost empty.

In those post-war years, several local congregations from the teetotal (alcohol abstinence) movement "Blue Cross" joined the Methodist church, because they were not allowed to exist as a religious association anymore, according to the laws of the land. Their philosophy was very close to the teachings of the Methodist Church. Churches among Slovak people developed, influenced also by the work of the community of nuns, Sisters Roy, who lived and worked in Slovakia. They often went to the Lowland (the name Slovaks use for the flat land area of Vojvodina) and ministered to the Slovaks here. They tried to raise awareness of their national and spiritual heritage, but also to emphasise the importance of spiritual renewal and regeneration.

During its existence, the church experienced another union at the global level. In 1968, two other churches joined: the Evangelical Association and Methodist Church and thus the name of the church since then has been the United Methodist Church (in Europe: Evangelical Methodist Church).

Today, there are 14 local churches of the United Methodist Church in Vojvodina, Serbia, where work is carried out among several nations, such as Serbs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Macedonians, Roma and Czech people.

The activity of the church is still focused on the same things as at its origin: leading people towards spiritual knowledge and regeneration through the message of the Gospel; applying these new truths into everyday life; developing Christian communities and establishing new churches. We are engaged in social work with people who experience manifold sufferings, we seek justice and support the peace processes and fight for freedom and people's rights.

Slovak Evangelical Church A.C. in Serbia

The Slovak Evangelical Church A.C. in Serbia is the largest Lutheran church in former Yugoslavia, speaking the Slovak language. Its largely rural membership is located in the autonomous province of Vojvodina on the plains

south of the Hungarian border. It was earlier a part of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, but upon the creation of Yugoslavia, it became an autonomous church, with headquarters' in Novi Sad. Its pastors are educated at the Lutheran theological faculty in Bratislava, along with those of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Slovakia.

In 1967, this Yugoslav church body was joined by the then 7,000-member Evangelical Church in the People's Republic of Serbia, composed of Hungarian Lutherans. Prior to 1918, that small body had also been part of the Lutheran Church in Hungary. Between the World Wars, it was part of the German Lutheran Church in Yugoslavia, but after 1945 it became an independent church. As it is located between the Hungarian border and Novi Sad, its merger with the larger Slovak church made sense, although linguistic differences required adjustment. In recent years, the believers and descendants of the Hungarian Lutherans have become independent of the Slovak Evangelical Church of the A.C. and joined their own church, named the Evangelical Christian Church in Serbia/Montenegro with headquarters in Subotica.

A growing challenge for the Slovak Evangelical Church of the A.C. is maintaining the Slovak identity in a majority Serbian environment. A Slovak translation of the Bible, completed in the 1970s in Czechoslovakia, is widely used. Close links continue to be maintained with the much larger counterpart and namesake of the church in the Republic of Slovakia.

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3. The Role of the General Assembly

3.1. THE CEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY – HISTORY AND BASICS

The Conference of European Churches is a fellowship of some 114 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 National Councils of Churches and Organisations in Partnership.

CEC was founded in 1959. The movement which led to the creation of CEC dates back to the period of the Cold War. The fragmented and divided Europe of the 1940s and 1950s needed to surmount political divisions to devote itself anew to the peoples torn apart by the World War II.

At this time a small group of church leaders in East and West Europe began to enable churches of Europe to become instruments of peace and understanding. These efforts were formalised when a full-time secretariat was established in April 1968 following CEC's fifth General Assembly in 1967.

The highest governing body of CEC is the General Assembly. The first CEC General Assembly was held in Nyborg, Denmark in 1959, while the rest respectively took place in Nyborg, Denmark (1962); Bornholm, Denmark (1964); Pörschach, Austria (1967); Nyborg, Denmark (1971); Engelberg, Switzerland (1974); Chania, Crete (1979); Stirling, Scotland (1986); Prague (1992); Graz, Austria (1997); Trondheim, Norway (2003); Lyon, France (2009); and Budapest, Hungary (2013).

CEC works on several issues pertinent to European churches. These include dialogue with the European political institutions, ecclesiology and theological dialogue, peacebuilding and reconciliation, human rights, economic and ecological justice, employment and social issues, bioethics, education for democratic citizenship, migration and asylum issues, and EU policy and legislation. Today it has offices in Brussels and Strasbourg.

3.2. HOW DOES A GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORK?

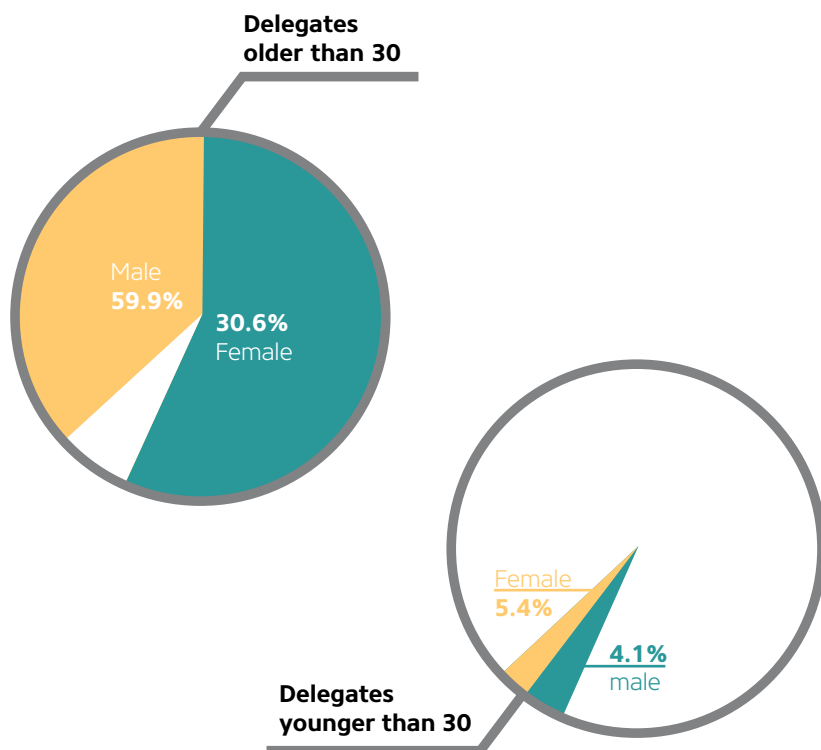
Technically, CEC is an International Non-Profit Association under Belgium law, so the 'General Assembly' is in fact the compulsory annual meeting of the Members: Each year, Members must approve the accounts of the last year as well as the budget for the coming year, and give discharge to the Governing Board. According to the Constitution of CEC, the Members, i.e. the Member Churches, are represented in the General Assembly through 'Delegates'. Depending on the size of the Church, between one (1) and five (5) Delegates are registered, who together form the actual 'General Assembly' (in the stricter sense).

However, CEC's self-understanding is more far-reaching than the technicalities described above. Within the limits of Belgian civil law, CEC aims at giving the General Assembly, held every five years, a more ecclesiastical character. You can see that also from the previous pages of information on its history and composition. That's why it does not look or function like a typical members' meeting but is more a hybrid between an 'Ecumenical Parliament' and a 'Christian Convention'. The latter is reflected in worships, workshops and the like, whereas the former becomes apparent in the way, business sessions are conducted.

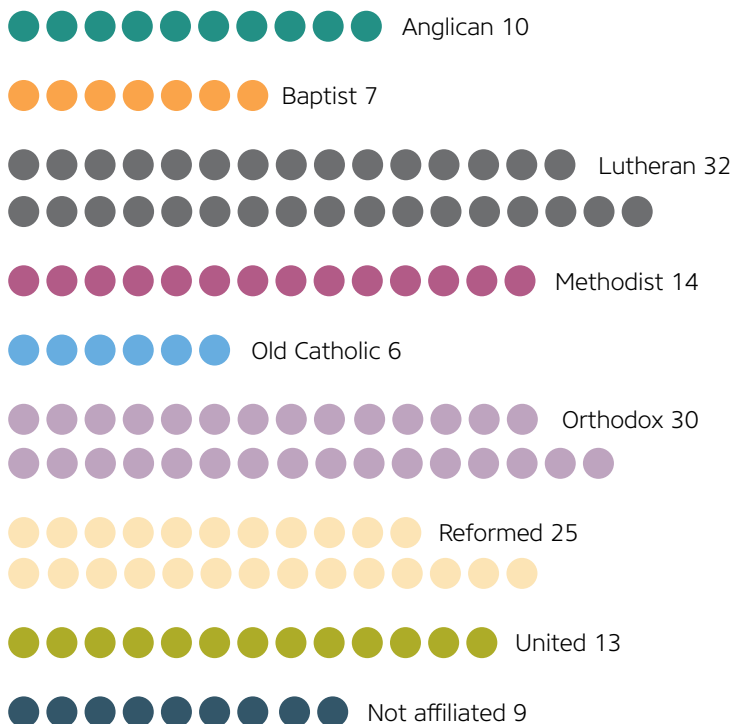
In order to fully participate in business sessions, you need to be a 'Delegate'. Only Delegates can exercise 'membership rights', in particular voting on motions. However, most categories of participants have also special rights in business sessions. In your welcome package you will find the 'Rules of Procedure' (RoP) of the General Assembly, which will inform you in more detail what rights you have and how best to exercise them.

With almost 200 Delegates and more than 300 other participants, it is very important that certain rules are followed. It is not possible to summarise these RoP on one page. Many of the procedures, especially with regard to elections, are pretty complicated. This is necessary, because committees of the General Assembly and the bodies of CEC need to be representative of denominational families and regions as well as of ordained and lay, male and female, young and old persons, to name but a few of the criteria. A lot of diligence is needed to come up with proposals that satisfy CEC's need for inclusiveness.

Gender distribution of the Delegates



Confessions of the Delegates



Moderation

Even if you are a fast and thorough reader, you will probably not be able to understand and memorise all RoP. But the General Assembly is chaired by a Moderator and two Vice-Moderators who have meticulously studied them, and who are also assisted by two legal advisors with an intimate knowledge of all the internal and external rules governing CEC. They will make it as easy for you to follow proceedings as far as possible. And should you ever feel unsure of what is happening or how to proceed, you can, at any time, raise a 'point of procedure' (raising two hands) and the Moderators will clarify it for you.

At this General Assembly, there is also one extra-ordinary item on the agenda. The last General Assembly, Budapest 2013, decided on a major reform: CEC (Geneva) and CSC (Brussels) were fully merged, with the joint headquarters relocated to Belgium. That process is as good as complete. However, when preparing this General Assembly, several legal issues have emerged that needed further consideration. CEC sought legal advice, and the Governing Board now asks the General Assembly to endorse that advice. From the point of view of the Belgian law, the General Assembly cannot enact these changes at Novi Sad, but it can commission the Members to complete the reform process in an appropriate way, to fully align its legal base with Belgian law. This 'endorsement' will be sought in such a way that it fully complies with the CEC's internal rules on amending the Constitution, so the mandate of the General Assembly is a clear and solid foundation for Members on which to build. The changes are very detailed and technical, but they do not alter the content of the Constitution adopted in Budapest. For several reasons, these changes will need to be voted on 'en bloc':

- The proposed amendments only serve to align the Constitution with Belgian law and good legal practice. Additional proposals might change the aims and structure of CEC and would therefore need more time for discussion than is available.
- Having had two subsequent 'Constitutional' General Assemblies, the General Assembly should, however, not focus on legal debates, but work together on issues relevant for CEC, its Member Churches and the people of Europe.
- The changes interrelate, so you cannot simply take some and reject others.
- At the General Assembly, it is not possible for a Belgian lawyer to verify possible amendments in the light of Belgian law.

For more details, please refer to the booklet containing the current Constitution of CEC and the text of the 'Rules of Procedure'. In this booklet, there is a somewhat longer introduction you might be interested to read, if you feel uncertain about the formalities of the General Assembly.

3.3. HOW TO RECOGNIZE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS

Having around 500 participants from various capacities and backgrounds, it is important to have an easy understanding of how one can recognize each other. For that reason, we have applied a badge system that reflects the type of participants.

badge colour	List of Capacity
Red	Delegates
Green	Representatives of Organisations in Partnership and National Councils of Churches
Blue	Observers (Partner Organisations), Advisors, Officials (Governing Board Members, Moderators, Legal Advisors), Speakers and Guests
Grey	Press
Yellow	Assembly Staff (CEC Staff, Co-opted Staff, Local Staff, Worship Committee, Minute Takers, Interpreters, Translators), Stewards, Choir

Please note that more detailed rights and possibilities for each type of participants can be found in the Rules of Procedure.

4. The 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly

4.1. THE AGENDA

Thursday, 31 May 2018

8:30-22:00 Registration of Participants
Hotel Park / Info desk

16:30-17:30 Opening Plenary
Master Centre / Novi Sad

- Bishop Christopher Hill, President of CEC opens the General Assembly
- Words of Welcome from H. G. Bishop Irinej of Bačka, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Official greetings by H.E. Igor Mirović, President of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Elections

- Tellers
- Officers of the General Assembly (Moderator and Deputy Moderators)
- Legal Advisors

Business Plenary

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Adoption of the Rules of Procedures
- Election of the Nominations Committee
- Election of keynote listeners

Official Welcoming of new CEC Member Churches and new Organisations in Partnership

17:45-18:45 Confessional Meetings
Master Centre (MC) and Master Hotel (MH)

- a. Anglican (MC / downstairs Exhibition area)
- b. Baptist (MC / downstairs Garden area)
- c. Lutheran (MC / Novi Sad)

-
- d. Methodist (MH / Engelberg)
 - e. Old-Catholic (MC / upstairs Cafeteria area)
 - f. Orthodox (MC / Lyon)
 - g. Reformed (MC / Chapel)
 - h. United (MC / Chania)

18:45-19:30

Transfer to the Centre of Novi Sad
Shuttles departing from main road in front
of MC entrance to bus stop area
near Serbian National Theatre.
Short walk to Katolička Porta Square.



19:30-20:30

Open Air Opening Worship
City Centre of Novi Sad: Katolička Porta Square



20:30-21:30

Standing hospitality dinner in Atina Restaurant
Atina Restaurant, Katolička Porta Square



21:30-23:00

Transfer to Hotels
Shuttles departing from bus stop area near
Serbian National Theatre.



Friday, 1 June 2018

Thematic Block: HOSPITALITY

9:00-9:30

Morning Prayers
Master Centre / Chapel
Prayer according to the Protestant tradition



9:30-10:15

Bible Study
Master Centre / Novi Sad
Genesis 18 1:8
By Rev. Luca Negro,
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

10:15-10:45

Coffee Break
Master Centre



10:45-11:30

Keynote Address
Master Centre / Novi Sad
By His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Aphrem II,
Patriarch of
Antioch and All the East and Supreme Head of the
Universal Syriac Orthodox Church

11:30-12:15

Reflection
Master Centre / Novi Sad
By Rev. Meletis Meletiadis,
President of the Synod of the
Evangelical Church of Greece
Discussion on the Keynote Address



12:15-12:30

Middy Prayers
Master Centre / Novi Sad



12:30-14:00

Lunch
Hotel Park



14:00-15:30

Thematic Workshops

7. Ecumenical fellowship of churches:
How is it relevant for the Conference of
European Churches today?

-
12. *Master Centre / Novi Sad*
The role of religion in Conflict and Peace
Master Centre / Lyon
4. Freedom of Religion or Belief brings
Justice for Minorities and Majorities
Master Centre / Chapel
5. Witness to Climate Change –
Justice to God’s Creation –
Hospitality to all Creatures
Hotel Park / Budapest
2. What will be the world of work tomorrow?
Discussion on digitalisation and the
churches reflection on “good work”
Hotel Park / Trondheim
8. Refugee protection – a task of the churches
Hotel Park / Graz
14. Bioethics and the development of science.
Challenges for the future
Hotel Park / Prague
15. The dialogue according to Art. 17 III TFEU:
opportunities and challenges
Hotel Park / Stirling
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
Master Centre
- 16:00-17:30 Business Plenary
Master Centre / Novi Sad
- Greetings from Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches
 - Greetings from Bishop Dr Michael Bünker, General Secretary of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe
 - Report from the General Secretary
 - Introduction by Bishop Christopher Hill, President
 - Report from Fr Heikki Huttunen, General Secretary
 - Discussion



17:30-18:00	Break	
18:00-19:30	Business Plenary <i>Master Centre /Novi Sad</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Assembly Committee Elections:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strategy and Policy Committee- Public Issues Committee- Finance Committee- Message Committee• First reading of the Constitutional amendments in light of the Belgian legal system	
19:30-19:45	Evening Prayers <i>Master Centre / Chapel</i>	
19:45-21:00	Dinner (Committee meetings start over dinner) <i>Hotel Park</i>	
21:00-22:00	Committee meetings to be continued after dinner <i>Hotel Park</i> Strategy and Policy Committee (HP / Prague) Public Issues Committee (HP / Graz) Finance Committee (HP / Pörschach) Message Committee (HP / Nyborg) Nominations Committee (HP / Stirling)	

Saturday, 2 June 2018
Thematic Block: JUSTICE

09:00-9:30 Morning Prayers
Master Centre / Chapel
Prayer according to the
Armenian Apostolic tradition



09:30-10:15 Bible Study
Master Centre / Novi Sad
1 King 21
By Rev. Dr Elaine Neuenfeldt,
Lutheran World Federation

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break
Master Centre



10:45-11:30 Keynote Address
Master Centre / Novi Sad
By Ms Lisa Schneider,
EYCE

11:30-12:15 Reflection (30 mins.)
By Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi,
Anglican Centre of Rome
Discussion on the Keynote Address (15 min)
Master Centre: Novi Sad

12:15-12:30 Midday Prayers
Master Centre / Novi Sad



12:30-14:00 Lunch
Hotel Park



14:00-15:30 Thematic Workshops

1. Social imbalances in Europe – Reflections on challenges
for Societies and our Churches

-
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| | <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> |
| 3. | Persecution of Christians: situation in Syria and Iraq
<i>Master Centre / Lyon</i> |
| 11. | Democracy and Populism: The Role of Education and of CEC
<i>Master Centre / Chapel</i> |
| 13. | No peace without Justice! No Justice without peace!
<i>Hotel Park / Budapest</i> |
| 10. | Ecclesiology in times of migration
<i>Hotel Park / Trondheim</i> |
| 8. | Interreligious work in the face of migration in Europe
<i>Hotel Park / Graz</i> |
| 6. | Sharing God's earth and its riches justly
<i>Hotel Park / Prague</i> |
|
15:30-16:00 |
Walk to Master Centre and Coffee Break
<i>Master Centre</i> |
|
16:00-18:00 |
Christian Presence and Witness in the Future of Europe
<i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of summary and highlights of CEC Future of Europe consultation • Presentation of draft Assembly message on Future of Europe • Vision of Europe's future from the ecumenical youth perspective • Panel Discussion with the participation of Bishop Christopher Hill, CEC, H.G. Bishop Irinej of Bačka, Serbian Orthodox Church, Bishop Marianne Christiansen, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and youth representatives. • Open discussion |
|
18:00-18:15 |
Break |
|
18:15-19:30 |
Business Plenary
<i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second and final reading of the amendments to the CEC constitution for legal purposes in Belgium • Vote on the amendments • Plenary items continued from the previous day |

19:30-19:45

Evening Prayers



19:45-21:00

Master Centre / Chapel

Dinner

(Committee meetings start over dinner)

Hotel Park



21:00-22:00

Committee meetings
to be continued after dinner
Hotel Park

Strategy and Policy Committee (HP / Prague)





Public Issues Committee (HP / Graz)

Finance Committee (HP / Pörschach)

Message Committee (HP / Nyborg)

Nominations Committee (HP / Stirling)

Sunday, 3 June 2018

08:30-10:00	Transfer to local Church Shuttles will leave from hotels	
09:00 -12:00	Worship and visit in local Churches Eastern Orthodox - Holy Great-Martyr George, Novi Sad	
8:45 - 12:00	Eastern Orthodox - St Nicholas Church, Novi Sad	
10:00 - 12:00	Slovak Evangelical AB, Novi Sad	
10:00 - 12:00	Reformed Church in Maradik (30 km)	
10:00 - 12:00	Methodist Church, Novi Sad	
10:00 - 12:00	Roman Catholic, The Name of Mary Church, Novi Sad	
10:00 - 12:00	Anglican and Old - Catholic, Master Centre / Chapel	
12:00-12:30	Transfer to Hotel Park Shuttles	
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Nominations Committee publishes Governing Board proposals) <i>Hotel Park</i>	
13:30-14:00	Walk to Master Centre	
14:00-16:00	Christian Presence and Witness in the Future of Europe <i>Master Centre /Novi Sad</i> Contributions from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England• Mr Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission• Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, Evangelical Church in Germany Open discussion and conclusions	

16:00-17:30	Coffee break and transfer to Bridge Shuttles will leave from Master Centre	
17:30-19:00	Prayers and Procession near the Danube Bridge	
19:00-19:45	Transfer to Hotel Park Shuttles will leave from the Danube Bridge	
19:45-21:00	Dinner (Committee meetings start over dinner) <i>Hotel Park</i>	
21:00-22:00	Committee meetings to be continued after dinner <i>Hotel Park</i>	
	Strategy and Policy Committee (HP / Prague) Public Issues Committee (HP / Graz) Finance Committee (HP / Pörschach) Message Committee (HP / Nyborg) Nominations Committee (HP / Stirling)	

Monday, 4 June 2018
Thematic Block: WITNESS

09:00-9:30 Morning Prayers
Master Centre / Chapel
Prayer according to the Orthodox tradition



09:30-10:15 Bible Study
Master Centre / Novi Sad
Matthew 28:18-20
By Metropolitan Porfirije of Zagreb and Ljubljana,
Serbian Orthodox Church

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break
Master Centre



10:45-11:30 Keynote Address
Master Centre / Novi Sad
By The Most Reverend Dr Antje Jackelén,
Archbishop of Uppsala, Church of Sweden

11:30-12:15 Reflection
Master Centre / Novi Sad
By Mr Tauri Tölp,
Orthodox Church of Estonia
Discussion on the Keynote Address

12:15-12:30 Midday Prayers
Master Centre / Novi Sad



12:30-14:00 Lunch
Hotel Park








14:30-16:30 Business Plenary
Master Centre / Novi Sad

- Amendments to CEC legal texts
- Mandating procedures to Governing Board for process in Belgium
- Message Committee draft report
- Public Issues Committee draft report
- Finance Committee draft report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Strategy Committee draft report 	
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break <i>Master Centre</i>	
17:00-19:30	Business Plenary (continued) <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greetings from guests • Nominations Committee proposals for Governing Board • Election of Presidency and new Governing Board 	
19:30-19:45	Evening Prayers <i>Master Centre / Chapel</i>	
19:45-21:00	Dinner <i>Hotel Park</i>	
21:00-22:30	Regional meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central-East (HP / Graz) • Central-West (HP / Budapest) • East (HP / HP-Lobby area) • Nordic-Baltic (HP / Trondheim) • North-West (HP / m.v. Bornholm) • South (HP / Pörtlach) • South-East (HP / Nyborg) • International areas (HP / Stirling) 	
21:00-22:30	Governing Board meeting <i>Hotel Park / Prague</i>	

Tuesday, 5 June 2018
Thematic Block: HOPE

09:00-9:30	Morning Prayers <i>Master Centre / Chapel</i> Prayer according to the Anglican tradition	
09:30-10:15	Bible Study <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> John 20:11-18 By Dr Marianna Apresyan, Armenian Apostolic Church	
10:15-10:45	Coffee Break <i>Master Centre</i>	
10:45-12:15	Business Plenary <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuation of discussion on committee reports• Adoption of reports	
12:15-12:30	Midday Prayers <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i>	
12:30-14:00	Lunch <i>Hotel Park</i>	
13:30-14:30	Closing Press Conference <i>Master Centre / Lyon</i>	
14:30-16:30	Closing Plenary <i>Master Centre / Novi Sad</i>	
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break <i>Master Centre</i>	

17:00-18:00

Sending Service
Master Centre / Chapel
With a message of Hope



18:00-19:30

Transfer to closing reception venue:
Vrdnička Kula
Shuttles will leave from Master Centre



19:30-22:00
22:00-

Closing Dinner in Vrdnička Kula
Transfer to hotels



Wednesday, 6 June 2018

Shuttles from hotels
to Belgrade and Budapest Airports
during the day according
to departure schedules



09:30-11:30 Meeting of the newly elected Governing Board
Hotel Park / Prague

09:30-11:30 Meeting of the Budget Committee
Hotel Park / Stirling

Workshops

On 1 and 2 June, two sessions of 1 ½ hours each will be devoted to workshops. These 15 workshops have been prepared by the outgoing Thematic Reference Groups and thematic networks/organisations related to CEC. They all deepen the General Assembly sub-themes of “Justice – Witness – Hospitality” in view of a particular work area of CEC.

The workshops are foreseen to bring together in the range of 20-50 participants and will allow for a more interactive exchange on the sub-themes of the General Assembly than the plenary sessions. They deliberate on challenges and achievement of CEC in its thematic work since 2013 and will debate future thematic work in view of the strategic objectives of CEC in the next years, as foreseen in Article 7 (4) of the CEC Constitution

Participants at the General Assembly are invited to attend and to contribute to the workshops. During the registration process participants have been asked to express preferences for the workshops and will be allocated to the different workshops accordingly. The organiser of each respective workshop will ensure that they draw upon participants’ expertise.

Members of the Strategy and Policy Committee will be attending the different workshops, so that the workshops’ discussions are fed into the policy reference document which will be adopted by the General Assembly.

The list of the workshops and the day to which they have been assigned can be found in the Agenda for Friday 1 and Saturday 2 June. Description of the workshops can be found on the General Assembly website www.assembly2018.ceceurope.org/workshops/.

Keynote Sessions

Hospitality is one of the key attitudes to which the Bible invites the faithful from the beginning until the end. It is an intrinsic aspect of Witness in the life of the church from its foundation. In the biblical tradition the experience of hospitality can be a sign of the presence of the Triune God. But Hospitality is under threat in European societies. Churches and parishes themselves struggle and discuss in Europe to what extent Hospitality can be realised, although we observe and recognise still a remarkable culture of welcome and Hospitality through Christian parishes on the ground.

Justice is one of the key notions of the Bible, which has led to deep controversial theological debates between the Christian confessions and Churches, which is therefore at the core of ecumenical debate. It's just one year ago that we commemorated the Reformation anniversary and its' reflection on Justice and justification. Justice in theological doctrine relates to the joyful discovery of justification by faith. But it is also a central notion of social ethics and secular debate about the situation of a society. In the global context it is said Europe and the societies in Europe have a particular emphasis for social Justice.

Witness is a central vocation and task for all Christians and Churches throughout all time – as it is expressed in the biblical quotation in the motto of this General Assembly.

But the question might be to what extent it is today seen and perceived as central by Christians and the Churches – towards members of other religions, towards the secular world, which has become more and more multi-cultural. There seems to exist quite an uncertainty, at least in European Churches, in which way Christian faith should be witnessed today, and perhaps even what the central message would be, if God is no longer a self-evident relation.

Future of Europe Sessions

Thematic discussions at the General Assembly will focus along the accents on Justice, Witness and Hospitality, on joint assessments of current challenges in Europe and the churches' vision of the future of the continent. For several years Europe has been facing a number of unprecedented challenges, including Brexit, long-term economic difficulties of countries in the South, the massive influx of migrants and refugees, the threat to peace and stability and the military conflict in Eastern Ukraine, as well as the urgent question of the relationship of people living together with different cultures and religions.

CEC has launched a public discussion on the Future of Europe by sharing an Open Letter on the Future of Europe with its Member Churches already in 2016. This document reflects the original vision of the EU, as against the current situation, which is characterised by emerging new division lines in the EU from the specific churches' perspective. The letter caused an overwhelming reaction through written contributions, organisation of discussions at national and regional levels and through participation at four regional consultations, which CEC organised during the course of 2017.

The General Assembly offers an opportunity to summarise the findings of the consultations, formulate the churches' vision of Europe and to suggest the next steps in the joint churches' action. Europe will be the centre of attention at the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions. The first one (Saturday 2 June 2018, 16.00 – 18.00) will offer a space for summarising the two years' discussion on the CEC letter, the space for dialogue and exchange, and in particular input from the youth. The second session (Sunday 3 June 2018, 14.00 - 16.00) will be an opportunity for outlining a vision of Europe's future and the role of churches in shaping the future through presentations of personalities from churches and from the political life of Europe, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, Head of Ecumenical Relations and Foreign Affairs in Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD), Mairead McGuinness, the First Vice-President of the European Parliament Frans Timmermans, the First Vice-President of European Commission.

Discussions on the Future of Europe will be an opportunity for the General Assembly to outline a vision of Europe and the churches' role in it. The vision of a society underlining the duty of solidarity, Justice and respect for each other and for the world around us, as well as a vision of fruitful ecumenical relations supporting such a society. The General Assembly sessions on the Future of Europe will offer a space for providing Witness on the way to achieve this aim.

Worship at the General Assembly

Worship services, prayers and Bible studies will unfold the General Assembly theme with the aid of four key concepts – Hospitality, Justice, Witness and Hope.

The different services and prayers – both inter-confessional and confessional – will reveal the wealth of liturgy and forms of spiritual expression existing in the churches of Europe.

Opening service

The service will start on Thursday at 19:30 on the public square Katolička Porta, behind the ‘Name of Mary’ Catholic Cathedral. A central action in this service will be assembling a bridge from four components. This symbolises the common path towards the unity of Christians and the whole humanity. Christians are called to build bridges in the power of the Holy Spirit. After the service everyone present is invited to enjoy a meal together on the square, anticipating the topic of the next day: Hospitality.

Daily prayers

Each day starts at 09:00 with Morning Prayers from a different church tradition, held in the “Chapel” at the Master Centre. Then, from 09:30, a Bible study in the “Novi Sad” plenary hall will take up the text for the day.

Friday	Protestant tradition	Genesis 18:1-8	Hospitality
Saturday	Armenian Apostolic tradition	1 Kings 21	Justice
Monday	Orthodox tradition	Matthew 28:18-20	Witness
Tuesday	Anglican tradition	John 20:11-18	Hope

A short Midday Prayer will end the morning sessions in the “Novi Sad” Plenary Hall. The inter-confessional Evening Prayer at 19:30 in the Chapel will conclude the thematic discussions of the day. The prayers and hymns are printed in the worship book ‘Gloria Deo’, which will be distributed in Novi Sad. Please remember to bring your copy to the prayers services each time.

Worship with the local parishes in Novi Sad

Parishes from Novi Sad and the surrounding area have invited us to attend their services and meet their members on Sunday 3 June. Methodist, Orthodox, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Slovak Lutheran, and Hungarian Reformed – they are all looking forward to our visit. Details will be announced during the General Assembly.

Prayers for peace

From 17:30 on Sunday afternoon, prayers for peace will be said at the monument for Jewish and Serbian victims of the massacre in Novi Sad during World War II. We will also remember the recent past of the whole region when, among other tragedies, all the bridges of Novi Sad were destroyed in bombings. These events were a challenge for European unity and they offer an ongoing opportunity for reconciliation and cooperation between states, communities of faith, churches and people in Europe. The path along the Danube leads to the new bridge, where trees will be planted as a sign of hope and a new beginning.

Closing service

The General Assembly will conclude on Tuesday 5 June with a sending-out service in the Chapel in Master Centre. A sermon on the theme from the Book of Acts, set against the discussions and results of the General Assembly, will conclude matters. All present will receive a piece of blessed Serbian slava bread, as we set out on our homeward journey.

Committee Work

During the General Assembly several specific tasks will be handled and discussed in the Committees set up by the General Assembly itself.

In Novi Sad, work is planned to be concluded in the following Committees:

The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee assists the Moderators in the conduct of the General Assembly.

The Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee supervises the nominations processes including nominations for the Presidency, for the Governing Board and for Committees. They make proposals to the General Assembly on these issues.

The Finance Committee

The task of the Finance Committee is to discuss the financial situation of the Conference. Having assessed the assets and income of the conference, it presents to the General Assembly a concise financial report and gives recommendations in areas such as membership fees, fundraising and a mid- to long-term financial planning.

The Strategy and Policy Committee

The Strategy and Policy Committee evaluates the progress made in achieving the strategic objectives of the Conference and makes proposals for their development and the future work of the Conference in general.

Among the tasks of the Committee is to discuss, in the light of the theme of the General Assembly selected by the Governing Board, the following: the report of the General Secretary of the Conference;

- any thematic addresses to the General Assembly;
- any relevant results of the group work;
- any draft recommendations or statements tabled for the General Assembly to be adopted.

Public Issues Committee

The task of the Public Issues Committee is to discuss, draft and recommend to the General Assembly resolutions and statements on particular issues of international political nature or general interest as proposed by the Member Churches.

Message Committee

The Message Committee is responsible for drafting an overall message of the General Assembly. It will also take up the draft message prepared on the

basis of the Future of Europe consultation process.

The General Assembly can also decide to set up other Committees for various other areas of work.

Communications and the media at the General Assembly

The CEC communications team will provide an encompassing coverage of the Novi Sad General Assembly. The coverage will highlight the theme of the General Assembly “You shall be my Witnesses” in various ways –relating stories about the life and activities of the General Assembly. The communications materials will explore subthemes: Justice, Witness and Hospitality.

Voices from CEC Member Churches, Organisations in Partnership, National Councils of Churches and European Union networks will find visibility through media content produced for the event. The communication operation in Novi Sad will actively engage participants and help build their community.

A number of communications materials in different formats will be executed before, during and after the General Assembly. These news items and information will target both church and secular audiences in Europe, as well as mainstream media.

Communications at the General Assembly will bring to focus discussions and important decisions from the plenaries, covering high profile speakers, youth and dialogue revolving particularly around the CEC Future of Europe consultation process.

Press releases, feature articles and interviews will be available in English, German, French, Russian and Serbian. These news items will be featured on the General Assembly’s website and will be distributed to the church and media contacts via email.

The General Assembly website www.assembly2018.ceceurope.org will be the main hub where news stories, photo albums, short videos, information about the programme, Assembly calendar, speakers, Assembly publications and official documents will be made available.

Live streaming of the entire event each day will be offered. Also short videos from thematic plenaries, worship services, speeches and public events will be available.

Press briefings will be held at the venue regularly. Journalists will benefit

from live streaming. They will be provided with press kits, releases, presentations from the speakers, profiles and offered support with reporting, interviews and coverage for TV, internet outlets.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube will provide everyday highlights from the General Assembly. Social media will feature interesting news stories, short videos, photos, fun facts about Serbia and official statements to everyone. These posts will welcome comments, sharing, prayers and greetings from the Member Churches, related organisations and networks.

The communications team will facilitate exhibition, showcasing the diversity of ecumenical movement and churches in Europe and beyond. The space will provide delegates and other participants at the General Assembly an opportunity to develop networks and new contacts, to learn about new organisations and their respective work in an informal manner.

5. Youth

Pre-Assembly Event

In the spirit of Charta Œcumenica the Conference of European Churches commits “to promote ecumenical openness and cooperation in Christian education, and in theological training, continuing education and research.” We organised our event in this perspective.

Young adults between 18-30 years of age will participate actively at the General Assembly as delegates, stewards and advisors. Being full members of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), and engaged in the life of their local churches, young Christians will contribute their expertise and experience in the various areas of work of the Conference of European Churches. They will bring to the conversation the concerns and priorities of their generation with regard to Christian witness in Europe today.

The Event is a short ecumenical formation programme. The goal of the programme is threefold. On the one hand, it aims at providing a general overview of the development of ecumenical relations in Europe. It will place the work of the Conference of European Churches within the broader ecumenical movement, identifying and discussing key ecumenical concerns and current areas of work. On the other hand, the programme will provide practical information concerning the life and overall running of the General Assembly that will ensure the active participation of young adults.

In addition, the Pre-Assembly Youth event is intended to provide a space for young adults to engage with the main themes of the General Assembly, as well as possibilities for community-building and networking during the different sessions and social events. Part of the programme will be dedicated to the preparation of the General Assembly Plenary on Europe -that among others- will harvest and articulate fresh perspectives on Witness, Justice and Hospitality in Europe today.

Central to the Pre-Assembly Youth event are prayers and the study of the Bible. The event will familiarise participants with the variety of spiritualities and liturgical expressions in Europe, it will foster understanding of diversity and inspire respect for differences.

In order for the programme to reach its objectives, the Event is going to: build trust and develop a sense of community, enhance intercultural and ecumenical communication, provide informed perspectives on the history of ecumenism in Europe and its main concerns, inspire respect and appreciation for the diverse spiritualities and theological expressions in Europe, and listen to and articulate fresh perspectives on Witness, Justice and Hospitality.

Stewards' Programme

The Stewards' Programme is central to the overall smooth running and success of the General Assembly. Stewards work hard and contribute to different tasks such as organising prayers, documentation, communications, language services and floor management.

The Stewards Programme will bring together 50 young adults from different parts of Europe. It begins with an intensive training during the Pre-Assembly Youth event and runs throughout the General Assembly.

The Stewards Programme ensures a vibrant participation of young adults at the General Assembly and fosters ecumenical learning and experience. Young adults will not only enrich dialogue during the Assembly from diverse perspectives, but will also help to set directions of future ecumenical work.

6. Practical Information for Participants

Arrival, Departure, Airport Transfer

All participants will be met at the airport by the Assembly Staff. Transport will be provided to take participants to Hotel Park and then to the respective hotels. Airport transfers will be available for all those arriving at any time during the General Assembly, provided they have clearly indicated their arrival time their online registration form. Airport shuttles will be provided for the departures as well.

Registration Procedures

Check-in for the registered participants for the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches will take place at Hotel Park from 28 May to 31 May all day. Delegates and participants are asked to check-in upon their arrival in order to be given their respective hotel room, badge and General Assembly Welcome bags. Those arriving after 31 May will be able to check-in through the Information Desk at Hotel Park.

The check-in area is located at the entrance of the Hotel Park, in the lobby. The Participants team are in charge of this aspect. Please refer to the hard cover for contact details of the members of this team.

Meals

Breakfast

All participants will have breakfast in the hotel where they are staying. Participants who stay in the Villa building near Hotel Park will join the breakfast in Hotel Park.

Lunch, dinner

Lunches and dinners, except for the dinner on 31 May and 5 June, will be held in the restaurant of Hotel Park.

Exception: Assembly Staff who stay in Hotel Master will have lunch and dinner provided in the Master Centre restaurant.

A standing hospitality dinner on Thursday, 31 May will follow the Open Air Opening Worship, in the city centre of Novi Sad, at Atina Restaurant, Ka-

tolička Porta Square.

Dinner on Tuesday, 5 June will be a closing reception, for all participants at the General Assembly, at the Etno Kompleks Vrdnička Kula.

The locations of coffee breaks have been determined to facilitate ease of movement for the delegates. Coffee breaks that take place either before or in-between two workshops sessions will take place at Hotel Park, while those taking place either before or in-between two plenary sessions will be served at the restaurant of Master Centre.

For detailed schedules and venues for the meals and coffee breaks please check the Timetable.

May/June, being the beginning of summer in Serbia, we encourage participants to drink a lot of water. Water dispensers are available at various locations within Hotel Park and Master Centre. We have also been advised by the Local Committee that tap water in the hotels and throughout the General Assembly venues is safe to drink. We encourage you to use your re-usable water bottles.

Accommodation and Transport

Participants will be staying at the following hotels near the General Assembly venue:

- Hotel Park: Delegates, Representatives of OiP and NCCs, Officials, Advisors
- Villa Park: Stewards
- Hotel Novi Sad: Advisors, Workshop Facilitators, Press
- Hotel Prezident: Guests, Observers, Advisors
- Hotel Master: Assembly Staff

For those staying at Hotel Novi Sad and Hotel Prezident, daily transportation to and from Hotel Park/Master Centre will be provided. Walking to and from the Hotel Park or Master Centre will take about 20 minutes. Directions are provided in the Welcome bags as well as at the Information Desk at the Master Centre.

The address of the hotel and venues are the following:

Hotel Park/Villa Park: Novosadskog Sajma 35, Novi Sad 21000

Master Centre: Hajduk Veljkova 11, Novi Sad 21137

Hotel Novi Sad: Boulevard Jaše Tomića bb, Novi Sad 21000

Hotel Prezident: Futoška 109, Novi Sad 21000

Hotel Master: Brace Popovic Bb, Novi Sad 21000

Shuttles will be available each morning and evening to and from Hotel Novi Sad and Hotel Prezident.

A map with the location of the most important venues of the event can be found at the back of the handbook.

Simoultaneous interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and German during the plenary sessions.

Weather

Novi Sad in May-June has an average daytime temperature of 25° Celsius with 9 hours of daily sunshine and 90 mm of rain during the month of June. All the meeting rooms and dining areas at Hotel Park and the Master Centre are air-conditioned.

Electricity

The plugs in Serbia are 2-pin. They have a voltage of 220-230 volts. Most European plugs will fit but if in doubt it is best to bring an adaptor.

First-Aid and Medical Assistance

The Information Desk located in the Master Centre will be able to provide medication and first aid for minor aches and illnesses. Should you require more specialist assistance or in case of an emergency, the following numbers may be of use:

Hospital/ambulance: 194

Police: 192

Fire Department: 193

Lost Property

If you lose or find any valuables at the Conference site, you may deposit your find or inquire about your lost article at the Information Desk.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care will be provided during the General Assembly. The role of the pastoral care group is to listen and to advise the participants if there are some frustrations that appears during the General Assembly, or improper language used during discussions, amongst others. They will also be present during business plenaries to identify and mediate any inappropriate behav-

your in an ecumenical gathering.

This responsibility will be shared by Ms Elena Timofticiuc, from the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania, Rev. Sören Lenz, from the Conference of European Churches, Very Rev. Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis, from the Church of Greece, and Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan. They will also be joined by Ms Krista Henrika Autio, World Student Christian Federation – Europe and Rev. Dr Benjamin Simon, Bossey Ecumenical Institute, who will respond, as needed, to requests from youth delegates and stewards.

Please approach the Notice Board near the Information Desk for the phone numbers as well as the pastoral care room location.

7. Other Information

7.1 ECO-MANAGEMENT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Similar to its previous General Assemblies, the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches will have an eco-management that will look after different aspects of the organisation of the conference. Carbon compensation of greenhouse gas emissions due to travelling will be carried out with “Klima-Kollekte“, a church compensation fund. The money will go towards greenhouse gas reduction projects.

Meals: it will be possible to choose vegetarian meals that will be served on a buffet table. Additionally, food will be seasonal and domestic, coming from local farms, and will consist of ecological and fair-trade products whenever possible.

An attempt will be made to avoid plastic material as far as possible. There will be no mini plastic packages at breakfast, and water will be served during the conference in big recyclable tanks. The congress centre will provide possibilities for waste separation (plastic, paper, glass).

The Assembly organisation will try to reduce the use of paper consumption as much as possible. Double-sided printing, the use of recycled paper and a thrifty use of hand-outs will be steps on this road.

7.2 CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES

What is sexual harassment and assault?

On a continuum of severity, harassment ranges from whistles in the street and obscene phone calls to sexual assault. Sexual assault includes rape, sexual intercourse without consent, and sexual contact without consent. Several kinds of behaviour with a sexual connotation, if unsolicited and unwanted and especially if repetitive, can be forms of sexual harassment. Examples are: suggestive looks or comments, teasing or telling of jokes with sexual content, letters, calls or materials of a sexual nature, imposed touching or closeness, pressure for dates or activities with a sexual overtone, or offers to use influence in return for sexual favours. The feelings of the person experiencing any unwelcome behaviour are what is important. This depends on each individual and the context. In the end, harassment is not what someone necessarily intends to do but how his or her actions impact another's person's feelings and well-being.

Some steps to prevent and deal with sexual harassment

- Be clear with yourself and others about your personal boundaries
- What sort of closeness with others feels comfortable or appropriate for you?
- Refuse any inappropriate gesture or contact.
- Respect other people's personal boundaries. If you are not sure ask first (i.e. would it be okay if I gave you a hug?).
- If you experience harassment, make it clear that the behaviour is unwelcome. You can say "no" with a look, words or gestures.
- Harassment is never the fault of the person being harassed. By its nature, harassment is unwanted attention or behaviour. It is not consensual.
- If harassment persists, and you are in a public place, make your protests louder so that the public notices the harasser.
- Trust your intuition and feelings if someone's behaviour makes you feel uncomfortable. People who experience harassment sometimes try to rationalize or deny what is really going on.
- Talk about it with people you trust, so that the name of the harasser and the kind of objectionable things done are known. This is important so that others are not subjected to the same treatment. Silence may only provoke more harassment.
- In serious cases where legal or other follow-up action is necessary, a verbal and written record of events will be helpful.

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- If you see or hear of someone being harassed, don't keep silent. You could approach the person being harassed to see how you can help. Tell the person doing the harassing that their actions or words are inappropriate and make everyone feel uncomfortable. If the case is severe call for help.
 - If you have experienced harassment, the solidarity care team can provide a safe space to talk about the situation and your feelings. They can also support you with whatever follow-up measures might be appropriate when you return home (i.e. local centre against sexual harassment and assault or support group through a local church).

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7.3 BIOGRAPHIES OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND KEYNOTE RESPONDENTS OF THE EVENT

His Holiness Patriarch Moran Mor Ignatius Aphrem II

His Holiness Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II was born in May 1965 in Qamishly, Syria.

He entered St. Aphrem Theological Seminary in Atchaneh, Lebanon in 1977. He served from 1982 to 1984 at the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo, Syria. In 1985, he was tonsured as Monk, ordained as Deacon in Egypt, and as Raban in Qamishly and served as the parish priest in Egypt. From 1988 to 1989, he worked as Secretary to the late Patriarch Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas and taught at St. Aphrem Theological Seminary in Damascus, Syria. On January 28, 1996 he was consecrated Archbishop under the episcopal name 'Mor Cyril' and became the Patriarchal Vicar of the Archdiocese of the Syriac Orthodox Church for the Eastern USA. He was enthroned as the 122nd Successor of St. Peter in the Apostolic See of Antioch on May 29, 2014.

He studied Theology from 1984 to 1988 in the Coptic Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. In 1991, he obtained a License of Sacred Theology and then was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Divinity from St. Patrick College, Maynooth, Ireland, by researching in his doctoral thesis on Symbolism of the Cross in Early Syriac Christianity. He enrolled for a PhD in religious education at Fordham University, New York, USA in 2013.

In addition, His Holiness Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II served as a member of the Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches, a member of the Executive and Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Conference of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in America and Founder of Christian Churches Together in the USA.

Ms Lisa Schneider

Lisa Schneider was born in December 1990. She grew up in the Black Forest - a rural Catholic area in the southwest of Germany. During her confirmation classes in 2004 she developed a deeper interest in the youth work of her local congregation in Donaueschingen, and subsequently got involved in Sunday school, and the Easter and summer camps. Eventually she assumed responsibility for the management and organisation of the youth programme and youth politics in her church - the Evangelical Church of Baden and the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany.

Between 2013 and 2017 Lisa Schneider was a member of the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE), first as Vice-Chairperson, and since 2015 as Chairperson.

From October 2010 until January 2016, she studied law in Freiburg, Germany and at the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom. She is currently in the final stages of obtaining her second state examination (zweites juristische Staatsexamen) with the Higher Regional Court of Appeal of Düsseldorf.

Archbishop Antje Jackelén

Archbishop Antje Jackelén was born in June 1955 in Herdecke, West Germany.

She served as a priest in different parishes: in Tyresö parish in the Diocese of Stockholm from 1981 to 1988, in Gårdstånga parish in the Diocese of Lund until 1994 and then in the Cathedral parish of Lund in 1995-1996. She was elected Bishop of Lund in 2006 and ordained Bishop of the diocese of Lund on April 15, 2007. She has served as the representative of the Church of Sweden on the Lutheran World Federation Council. She was elected Archbishop of the Church of Sweden in October 15, 2013 and took up her new position on June 15, 2014.

She studied Lutheran theology at the University of Tübingen and Uppsala University. After her doctorate at Lund University, she was Professor of Systematic Theology/Religion and Science at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, USA, from 2003 to 2007. She has also been the Director of Zygon Centre for Religion and Science and President of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT). Her research interests include the dialogue between science and theology, the role of religion in society and Trinitarian theology. She is Honorary Doctorate at the University of Greifswald and at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Her most recent books are *Samlas kring hoppet* [Together in hope] (2016) and *God is Greater* (forthcoming 2018, Fortress Press).

Rev. Meletis Meletiadiis

Reverend Meletios B. Meletiadiis was born and raised in Greece. His family – of both Greek and Armenian background – came to Greece as refugees in 1923 from Asia Minor, modern day Turkey, along with the rest of the Christian populace, due to the Genocides against them by the Neo-Turks.

After his formal education he went to Canada and then to the United States to pursue his theological studies. He studied at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and Boston College. While in the US he served as a licensed Minister at the Greek Evangelical Church (GEC) of Boston. In late 1994 he returned to Greece to assume the responsibilities of the Pastor of the GEC of Volos, Greece. In the spring of 1995 he was ordained Minister by the Synod of the GEC. Together with his ministerial responsibilities, in 1997 Rev. Meletiadiis helped the Volos Parish to develop a leading environmental programme, in collaboration with the city of Volos and involving groups of young people every summer.

The Parish of Volos, together with Orthodox Diocese of Demetrias, hosted the 3rd meeting of the European Christian Environmental Network in 2003. Since 2012 the Parish of Volos can claim to probably be the first totally Green Parish in Greece.

From 2002, Rev. Meletiadiis serves as the Moderator of the General Synod of the GEC. He also serves on a number of Boards, one of them being the Greek Bible Society where he presides over its Executive Committee. Prior to his involvement in the current movement of refugees through his homeland, he was active in refugee ministries dating back to the late 1990s.

Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi

Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi was born in 1948 in Matana, Burundi.

He is Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Church of Burundi. He was the Bishop of Matana Diocese since 1998 and the Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi from 2005 to 2016. He is now the Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See.

He studied at Mukono Theological College, in Uganda, and at Ridley Hall, Cambridge UK. He is an Honorary Fellow of St John's College Cambridge.

Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi was a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and has served on the Executive Committee of ACT International. He has actively participated in the work of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) as a member and chairperson and has been a member of the Anglican Consultative Council Standing Committee for ACC 9-11. He was nominated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Right Reverend and Right Honourable, The Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth to chair the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order since 2009.

Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi has worked for peace and reconciliation for his people and represented the other protestant churches in the Arusha peace negotiations for Burundi from 1998 to 2000. He was Vice-president of the Burundi Truth and Reconciliation Commission, just before moving to Rome.

Mr. Tauri Tölpt

Tauri Tölpt was born in April 1987 in Tallinn, Estonia. He undertook his graduate studies at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Thessaloniki (Greece) and his postgraduate studies at the theological faculties of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), University of Geneva (Switzerland) and at the Institute of Postgraduate Studies of Orthodox Theology in Chambèsy (Switzerland). He is currently a PhD student at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Tartu (Estonia). His main field of interest is Orthodox-Byzantine Patristic and Systematic Theology. In his current PhD dissertation, he researches the notion of alteration in the anthropology and cosmology of St. John of Damascus.

Tauri Tölpt is the head of the Chair of Orthodox Theology of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Institute of Theology, where he also gives lectures on Orthodox Dogmatic and Systematic Theology. He works at the General-Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Estonia and serves as an assistant to His Eminence Metropolitan Stephanos of Tallinn and All Estonia. In addition, he gives lectures of Orthodox Theology at the Centre of Arvo Pärt (Laulasmaa, Estonia).

7.4 WHAT TO SEE IN NOVI SAD

For three centuries already, namely as long as it has been existing under the names of Novi Sad/Újvidék/Neusatz/ the city has been the space of diverse and rich cultural heritage of many nations living in it. Material and intangible cultural heritage created during the past centuries, is the basis serving as the foundation of an interactive network of scientific and institutions of culture, which makes Novi Sad of today the space of active meeting of cultures and diverse identities. It is the city of museums, galleries, and events among which the EXIT Music Festival has acquired international rewards and indisputable recognisability.

Recently, the programmes and events belonging to a new cultural matrix compared to a traditional cultural production are emerging – those leaning towards the avant-garde and alternative. Their programme epicentre is the Students Cultural Centre while Chinese Quarter is their spatial epicentre. A new creative energy that is active within the space of the Chinese Quarter is a part of ideas and activities that nominated Novi Sad for the European Youth Capital and European Capital of Culture 2021.

Novi Sad also attracts the visitors with its neatness, safe embeddedness by the Petrovaradin Fortress – the “Gibraltar on the Danube”, different languages spoken by its inhabitants, and the rhythm so untypical for hasty and chaotic pace of an urban community. The surroundings of the city core marked with baroque, neo-Renaissance, classicistic and Bauhaus buildings, reveals the picnic sites, preserved eco-systems and a complex of Orthodox monasteries settled in the territory of the National Park Fruška Gora. “Salaš” farmsteads, “čardas” and wine trails at the outskirts of Novi Sad provide the visitors the possibility to experience all the richness of gastronomy and rural customs.

Novi Sad is the city that provides the visitors the agenda of unbelievably rich content with its urban core and rural surroundings. Each visitor, according to his or her internal feeling for nice and pleasant, attractive and joyful, useful and accessible can create his or her own experience while learning about all the layers of the past and present of Novi Sad.

The diversity and richness of its population can be found in the city centre where you will see the Orthodox and Catholic Cathedral Church, as well as the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. Novi Sad is also home of a Syna-

gogue. A memorial stone has been placed where the Armenian Church used to be. Novi Sad, the city on the Danube is the city with European history and tradition and Balkan hospitality.

©Courtesy of European Best Destinations



7.5 BASIC SERBIAN PHRASES

Hello - Здраво! (Zdravo)

How are you? - Како сте? (Kako ste)

Fine, thank you. - Добро сам, хвала. (Dobro sam, hvala)

What is your name? - Како је ваше име? (Kako je vashe ime)

My name is _____. - Моје име је _____. (_____) (Moje ime je _____)

Nice to meet you. - Драго ми је што смо се упознали. (Drago mi je shto smo se upoznali)

Please. - Молим. (Molim)

Thank you. - Хвала. (Hvala)

You're welcome. - Нема на чему. (Nema na chemu)

Yes. - Да. (Da)

No. - Не. (Ne)

Excuse me. (getting attention) - Молим за вашу пажњу. (Molim za vashu pažnju)

Excuse me. (begging pardon) - Извините. (Izvinite)

I'm sorry. - Жао ми је. (Žao mi je)

Goodbye - Довиђења. (Dovidjenja)

I don't speak Serbian [well]. - Не говорим добро српски. (Ne govorim dobro srpski)

Do you speak English? - Да ли говорите енглески? (Da li govorite engleski)

Can you show me the way to Master Centre/Hotel Park? – Да ли ми можете показати у ком смеру је Мастер центар и хотелу Парк? (Da li mi možete pokazati u kom smeru je Master centar i hotelu Park?)

May I use your phone? – Да ли се могу послужити вашим телефоном? (Da li se mogu poslužiti vašim telefonom?)

Help! - Упомоћ. (Upmotj)

Look out! - Пази! (Pazi)

Good morning. - Добро јутро! (Dobro jutro)

Good afternoon. - Добар дан! (Dobar dan)

Good evening. - Добро вече! (Dobro veche)

Good night. - Лаку ноћ! (Laku notj)

I don't understand. - Не разумем. (Ne razumem)

Problems

I'm lost. - Изгубио сам се. (Izgubio sam se)

I'm sick. - Не осећам се добро. (Ne osetjam se dobro)

I need a doctor. - Треба ми доктор. (Treba mi doktor)

Common signs

OPEN - ОТВОРЕНО (Otvoreno)

CLOSED - ЗАТВОРЕНО (Zatvoreno)

ENTRANCE - УЛАЗ (Ulaz)

EXIT - ИЗЛАЗ (Izlaz)

PUSH - ГУРАЈ! (Guraj)

PULL - ВУЦИ! (Vuci)

TOILET - Тоалет (Toalet)

FORBIDDEN - ЗАБРАЊЕНО (Zabranjeno)

7.6 ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Rev. Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel, Church of England, Moderator
- Ms Catherine Tsavdaridou, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Vice-Moderator
- Ms Nan Braunschweiger, Church of Scotland/World Council of Churches
- Rev. Michael Bubik, Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria
- H.E. Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan, Armenian Apostolic Church
- Rev. Helle Rosenkvist, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark
- OKR Klaus Rieth, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg
- Very Rev. Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis, Church of Greece
- Ms Elena Timofticiuc, Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)
- Ms. Satu Koikkalainen, Evangelical Church of Finland

7.7 ASSEMBLY WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Rev. Sabine Udodesku, Evangelical Church in Germany, Moderator
- Fr Miodrag Andrič, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Marianna Apresyan, Armenian Apostolic Church
- Ms Anna Barton, Church of England/Old Catholic Church of the Czech Republic
- Fr Constantin Miron, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Mr Nikos Kosmidis, Church of Greece
- Ms Triin Salmu, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Rev. Karin Wiborn, Christian Council of Sweden
- Ms Jooa Sotejeff-Wilson, Orthodox Church of Finland

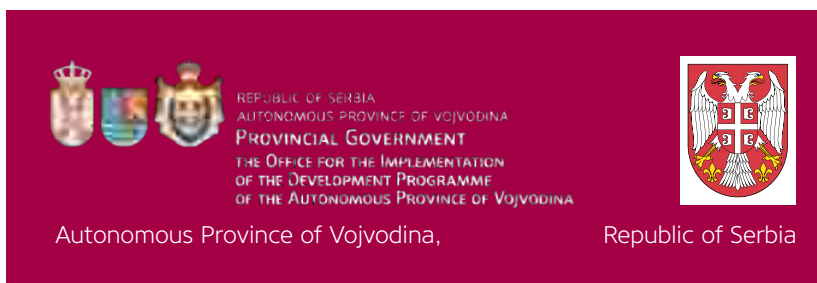
7.8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY STAFF INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISATION

- Very Rev. Fr Heikki Huttunen, General Secretary, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Szabolcs Lörincz, Assembly Coordinator, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Danilo Mihajlović, Local Coordinator, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Charlotte Belot, Assembly Assistant, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Peter Arendt, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark
- Ms Betty Arendt, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark
- Ms Krista Autio, World Student Christian Federation – Europe
- Ms Mirjana Banović, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Elise Boissenin, Conference of European Churches
- Ms Nan Braunschweiger, Church of Scotland/ World Council of Churches
- Ms Véronique Engels, Conference of European Churches
- Rev. Frank Dieter Fischbach, Conference of European Churches
- Ms Elisabeth Frey (Translator/Interpreter)
- Ms Erin Green, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Jean-Pierre Habimana, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
- Mr Henrik Hansson, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Marc-Henri Heiniger, World Council of Churches
- Mr Albin Hill, World Council of Churches
- Mr Miroslav Ilic, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Angelika Joachim (Interpreter)
- Mr Emmanuel Kabalisa, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
- Mr Branko Kalaba, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Valentina Karanovic, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic, Conference of European Churches
- Ms Satu Koikkalainen, Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
- Ms Katrin Knorr (Interpreter)
- Mr Milovan Krstic, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Mr Saša Kuridža, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Ms Jelena Lalic, Serbian Orthodox Church
- Rev. Sören Lenz, Conference of European Churches
- Mr Gerald Machabert, United Protestant Church in France

-
- Ms Ivica Makovic, Serbian Orthodox Church
 - Ms Dragana Masic, Serbian Orthodox Church
 - Ms Christine Méar (Interpreter)
 - Dr Torsten Moritz, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
 - Ms Maria Mountraki, Orthodox Church of Finland
 - Rev. John Murray, Conference of European Churches
 - Rev. Dr Peter Pavlovic, Conference of European Churches
 - Ms Katerina Pekridou, Conference of European Churches
 - Ms Doris Peschke, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
 - Ms Elaine Phyllis Griffiths (Interpreter)
 - Ms Naveen Qayyum, Conference of European Churches
 - OKR Klaus Rieth, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg
 - Ms Triin Salmu, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - Mr Adrian Shaw, Church of Scotland
 - Rev. Prof. Benjamin Simon, Bossey Ecumenical Institute
 - Ms Miriam Stålsett Follesø, Church of Norway
 - Mr Philip Tanis, World Communion of Reformed Churches
 - Ms Evelyne Tatu (Interpreter)
 - Mr Milan Tolj, Serbian Orthodox Church
 - Ms Charlotte Vander Borght, Conference of European Churches
 - Ms Caroline van der Veen, World Council of Churches
 - Mr Ivan Vasiljevic, Serbian Orthodox Church
 - Mr Damien Vercauteren, World Council of Churches
 - Ms Astrid Weyermüller, Lutheran World Federation
 - Ms Barbara Weber, Conference of European Churches

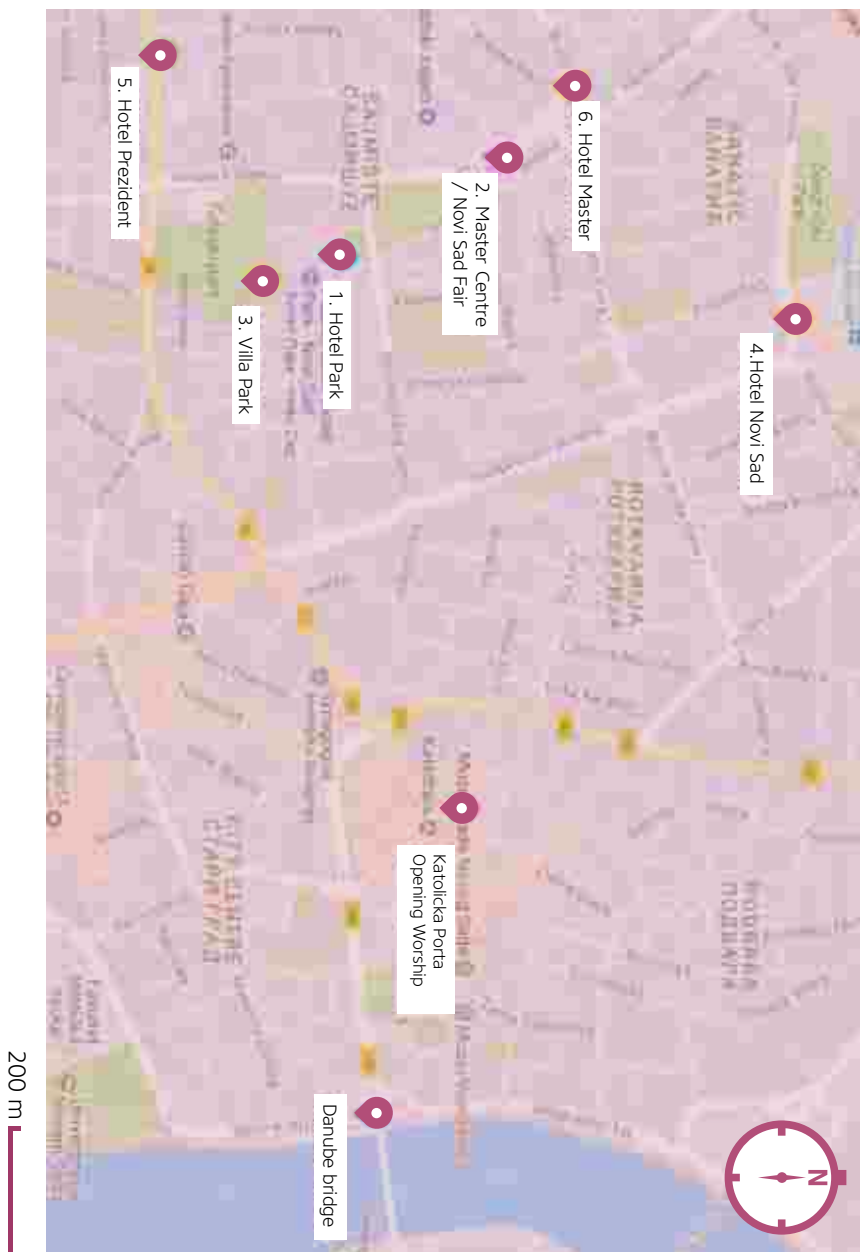
7.9 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS OF THE EVENT

The Conference of European Churches expresses its gratitude to the following partners for their support. These partnerships make it possible to organise a high quality, successful event.



Telekom Srbija





1. Hotel Park

- Check-in, Information Desk
- “Budapest” room
- “m.v. Bornholm” room
- “Graz” room
- “Nyborg” room
- “Pörschach” room
- “Prague” room
- “Stirling” room
- “Trondheim” room

2. Master Centre/ Novi Sad Fair

- Information Desk
- Documentation centre
- Chapel
- “Chania” room
- “Lyon” room
- “Novi Sad” plenary hall

3. Villa Park

4. Hotel Novi Sad

5. Hotel Prezident

6. Hotel Master

- “Engelberg” room

List of important phone numbers:

Hospital/ambulance 194

Police: 192

Fire Department: 193

Participants/team numbers

Ms Charlotte (Charlie) Belot +381 64 815 27 34

Ms Elise Boissenin +381 64 815 27 33

Ms Caroline Van der Veen +381 64 815 27 32

Ms Mirjana Banovi +381 64 805 24 40

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Hotel Novi Sad +381 21 442 511

Hotel Prezident +381 21 487 74 44

Hotel Master +381 21 487 87 00

General Assembly Website:

<https://assembly2018.ceceurope.org>



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