



Protestantse Kerk

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Response of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands on the open letter of CEC "What future for Europe?".

The letter gives an elaborated view on the history of the European project. This huge amount of information does however not contribute to a broader view on Europe. The board of the general synod is of course in favour of any effort that aims at the unity and the dignity of human life and of society. The letter of CEC however is rather descriptive instead of making an appeal to the readers. The challenges that are faced by the European project seem to be hold against a lack of information. This strengthens the idea that CEC is in its ivory tower protecting the religious values in a context of selfishness, crisis, short term thinking, and so on. It would have been much stronger if CEC had the courage to be critical too at their own role and at the role of its member churches.

Of course it is important to be aware of the roots of Europe, its source, its values. For many people however, these sources are not clear anymore. The letter does not contribute to the involvement of those people who are not aware of the source of Europe.

In this perspective it is a pity that the discussion with the people that are opposed to the European project does not get shape in this letter.

Europe wants to be a communion of values, but it can hardly fulfil that role, because of the focus on the economic aspects of the society. In this respect we would appreciate a more elaborated view on the contribution of the churches, e.g. in the field of diaconal work. Nonetheless we as member churches of CEC have to admit that we have not sufficiently acted as the voice of the people that are marginalized.

We would have appreciated it, if the letter would end with a proposal for action. What do we have to do in the next future in this field as member churches of CEC.

We hope that our letter will be useful in the process of discussion leading to the General Assembly.

With kind regards,

On behalf of the general synod of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands,

Dr. R. de Reuver, general secretary.