



Saksbehandler: Beate Fagerli

Saksdokumenter:

Brev fra KEK: Situation of the Venerable Colin Williams

Pressemelding: "Working in a coherent, transparent way: CEC Presidium discusses CEC working priorities"

Saker i de økumeniske organisasjonene

Konferansen av europeiske kirker (KEK)

Forslag til vedtak

Mellomkirkelig råd tar brev og pressemelding fra KEK til orientering.



Conference of European Churches
General Secretariat

TO:
CEC MEMBER CHURCHES
MEMBERS OF CEC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
CEC ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS
NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES
CEC PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Geneva, 4 May 2010

Subject: Situation of the Venerable Colin Williams

Dear Respected Leaders, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christ is risen!

On behalf of H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, the CEC President, I would like to inform you that as you already may know the Presidium of CEC met last week in Warsaw. One of the main tasks of the Presidium was to look at the implementation of the Central Committee's working priorities set after the 13th Assembly in Lyon, France, in July 2009.

Furthermore, the Presidium discussed the situation of our General Secretary, the Venerable Colin Williams, who has been on sick leave. I am happy to share with you the following statement drafted by Bishop Christopher Hill, one of our Vice-Presidents, on behalf of the Presidium:

"The Venerable Colin Williams, General Secretary of CEC since 2005 will be moving on to a post back in the Church of England from mid-July. Colin Williams will then become Team Rector Designate of the Ludlow Team Ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. The Presidium of the Conference of European Churches wishes Colin well in his return to pastoral ministry and thanks him for his service to the unity of the European Churches through his time as General Secretary".

In the staff of CEC we are pleased that Colin Williams is recovering during a very difficult period of time for him and that he is looking forward to his new responsibilities.

With my best wishes to all of you!

Yours respectfully,

Revd Prof. Dr. Viorel Ionita
Acting General Secretary of CEC

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PRESS RELEASE

Working in a coherent, transparent way: CEC Presidium discusses CEC working priorities

H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), convened the 26-27 April 2010 meeting of the CEC Presidium in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting was hosted by the Ecumenical Conference of Churches in Poland. H.B. Metropolitan Sawa of the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church met and greeted the Presidium.

His Eminence expressed condolences to the Polish Nation and the Polish Conference of Churches, on behalf of all of CEC, for the tragedy they have had to face with the death of their President, leadership and members of their churches.

The Rev. Prof. Dr Viorel Ionita presented the Report of the Acting General Secretary, updating the Presidium on the actions that have been taken by the CEC General Secretariat and the Staff Management Team (SMT) on the mandated work priorities received from the CEC Central Committee, December 2009. Dr. Ionita highlighted how the process of clarifying the priorities has helped solidify the work that needs to be done in a more coherent way. The SMT was able to announce the foreseen reduction of 150,000 CHF in the budget for the year 2010 through hard decisions made on programming and office space reductions.

The Report on the Joint CEC-CCEE Committee was received. Dr. Ionita indicated that the meeting around the issue of migration was very successful. The working relationship between CEC and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) was strengthened. The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in February 2011 at the invitation of His Grace Mgr Stanislav Hocevar, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Belgrade.

The Interim Report from the CEC Churches in Dialogue Commission (CiD) was presented by Dr. Ionia. The Rev. Rüdiger Noll, Director of the Church and Society Commission presented their interim report. Rev. Noll spoke of the work on the Joint Document from COMECE/CEC on the Implementation of Article 17 on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Presidium received this report and welcomed the cooperation involved in their joint work. Both reports dealt with their work priorities and the way in which both commissions are working together for a continuum process for their work. Ms. Doris Peschke, General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) presented a report on behalf of this commission focusing on events around the year Migration 2010.

The CEC Presidium meeting ended with an encounter with the Presidium members of the Polish Ecumenical Conference of Churches followed by a reception and dinner.

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is a fellowship of some 120 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 associated organisations. CEC was founded in 1959. It has offices in Geneva, Brussels and Strasbourg.

Rapport fra "Human Rights begin with the churches"**3.-5. mai 2010, Himmelsthür, Tyskland**

v/Åshild Solgaard

Konferansen "Human rights begin with the churches" ble organisert i regi av Church and Society Commission i KEK (Konferansen av europeiske kirker) som inviterte alle sine medlemskirker til å delta i det videre arbeidet med en manual om kirkenes arbeid med menneskerettigheter. Initiativet til dette kom fra en workshop om menneskerettigheter og kirken, holdt ved KEKs 13th Assembly i Lyon, juli 2009. Konferansen fant sted 3.-5. mai 2010 i Himmelsthür i Tyskland ved et senter drevet av den serbisk-ortodokse kirken. Dette gav en god ramme for det økumeniske arbeidet over de tre dagene konferansen varte. Norge var representert ved Dag Nygård fra NKR og undertegnede fra Den norske kirke.

Hovedmålsettingen med konferansen var innspill til den pågående prosessen med å utarbeide en manual om menneskerettigheter som kan benyttes i KEKs medlemskirker. Før konferansen var det allerede lagt ned et betydelig arbeid i å samle artikler om ulike temaer - fra ulike perspektiv - som skulle utgjøre del I og II i manualen. Konferansens deltakere ble oppfordret til å ta med seg materiale fra sine respektive kirker som dokumenterte arbeid og prioriteringer gjort i de ulike kirkene innen området menneskerettighetsarbeid.

I tråd med målet for konsultasjonen var det lagt vekt på at samlingene skulle være interaktive, og at deltakerne skulle ha mulighet til å gi innspill innenfor områder der de hadde jobbet mest. Arbeidsformen var derfor i stor grad lagt opp til å skje i mindre arbeidsgrupper som hver jobbet med ulike temaer, og at man deretter kom sammen i plenum for å diskutere de ulike innspillene.

Det var enighet om at målgruppen for denne manualen skulle være menigheter på grasrota. Med utgangspunkt i dette ble det stilt spørsmålsteget ved om de artiklene som skulle utgjøre del I og II av manualen, egentlig kunne sies å være del av en manual. De fleste mente artiklene var gode og viktige, men ikke praktisk anvendelige i en menighetskontekst. Vi kom frem til at det mest hensiktsmessige ville være å beholde artiklene og utarbeide to eller tre artikler om temaer som ikke var tilstrekkelig dekket, og la dette bli en "Reader". I tillegg vil vi utarbeide mindre hefter under en rekke aktuelle tema, som trosfrihet, barns rettigheter osv. Disse heftene skal alle være bygget opp etter samme struktur:

- 1) Bibelsk historie og/eller en historie fra virkeligheten som omhandler temaet for heftet
- 2) Kort innføring i det juridiske menneskerettighetsrammeverket for temaet
- 3) Kort innføring i teologiske grunnprinsipper for temaet
- 4) Eksempler fra ulike kirker og menigheter om hvordan de har jobbet med tematikken
- 5) Spørsmål til diskusjon
- 6) Ressurser

Heftene skal være enkle å benytte på lokalt menighetsplan. I første omgang vil de bli utarbeidet på engelsk, men målet er at de skal oversettes til flest mulig språk.

I tillegg til samlingen med artikler og de mindre heftene ble det bestemt at sekretariatet skal opprette et elektronisk bibliotek der alle de ulike dokumentene fra KEKs medlemskirker om

menneskerettigheter kan samles. Samlingen med artikler og heftene vil også være tilgjengelig elektronisk.

Arbeidsgruppene var til enhver tid sammensatt tematisk der hver og en skulle sette seg i den gruppen der de hadde mest å tilføre. Ut fra gruppene var det veldig tydelig at hovedvekten i kirkers menneskerettighetsarbeid har vært på artikkel 18 i menneskerettighetserklæringen som omhandler trosfrihet. Dette er et av kirkens særlige kompetanseområder som det er viktig at vi utvikler videre. Men det er også viktig å huske på at menneskerettighetene er "universal, indivisible and interdependent" og at kirkene derfor har et ansvar for også å fremme de øvrige rettighetene som er nevnt i menneskerettighetserklæringen og de ulike konvensjonene. Både menneskerettighetserklæringen og kirken baserer seg på menneskeverdet. Det er derfor et viktig anliggende for den verdensvide kirke å forstå på hvilken måte menneskerettighetene fyller en viktig plass i kirkens verdssystem og også er et viktig å vite hvordan dette rammeverket kan benyttes på en god måte til å kjempe for fattige og marginaliserte. Undertegnede deltok i arbeidsgrupper om "Advocacy" og om "Human Dignity".

Som nevnt i innledningen, ble denne konferansen avholdt ved et serbisk-ortodoks senter. Dette hadde to svært positive konsekvenser. På et mer prosaisk plan var maten fantastisk, men noe som i kirkelig (og da særlig økumenisk) perspektiv nok var mer betydningsfullt, var at det var god representasjon fra Den ortodokse kirken på ulike nivå av kirkestrukturen, og de var svært aktive deltakere under hele konferansen. I så måte var konferansen vellykket både faglig og økumenisk.

Vedlegg: Pressemelding

**Pressemelding fra konferansen Human Rights begin with the Churches
CSC-CEC**

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European Churches meet to discuss Human Rights

Members of the Human Rights Conference 4-5 May 2010 (Photo: CEC/CSC)

In order to further the work on a Human Rights Manual for churches within the Conference of European Churches (CEC), a consultation was held by the Church and Society Commission of CEC, with human rights focal points from the various member churches. The infrastructure and hospitality for the meeting was graciously provided by the Church and Society Commission of the Diocese for Central Europe of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Hildesheim, Germany. More than thirty participants from over 25 member churches came together from 3-5 May, 2010.

The participants discussed how the various issues of human dignity, racism, freedom of religion, security, migration, the rights of the child and discrimination and exclusion could be usefully translated into theological and ethical terms and in a manner that allows them to be brought closer to the "parishioners in the pews", as one participant called it.

The participants welcomed the work already undertaken by the Human Rights Secretariat of the Church and Society Commission of CEC under whose guidance 16 articles had already been commissioned and delivered covering themes such as "The Bible and Human Rights", "Interpretation of Human Rights in the Light of Church Fathers" and "Universality and Different Cultures and Traditions" written by well-respected authors in their field. This collection will be augmented by additional articles on human rights and security, "Moving from the House of Fear to the House of Love", and "Social Justice" and then distributed as a reader.

The second part of the project is to establish a Human Rights Manual for Churches which will comprise a series of short booklets covering individual human rights subjects from a legal and practical perspective accompanied by theological reflections to underpin them, as well as discussion guides for parishioners and local congregations. These will be produced in the course of 2010 and 2011 and made widely available for all member churches.

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is a fellowship of some 120 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 associated organisations. CEC was founded in 1959. It has offices in Geneva, Brussels and Strasbourg.

The Church and Society Commission of CEC links member churches and associated organisations of CEC with the European Union's institutions, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, NATO and the UN (on European matters). Its task is to help the churches study church and society questions from a theological and social-ethical perspective, especially those with a European dimension, and to represent common positions of the member churches in their relations with political institutions working in Europe.

