



Saksbehandler: Beate Fagerli

Saksdokumenter:

Rapport nr. 23/2010 **Kristine Hofseth Hovland, Hans-Jürgen Schorre og Estrid Hessellund**

Rapport fra ECEN Assembly, Praha, 9.-13. juni 2010

Rapport nr. 16/2010 **Raag Rolfsen**

Rapport fra møte i Church and Society Commission (CSC) i KEK, 18.05.-01.06.2010 i Hagenau (Strasbourg)

CEC Updates July 2010

## Saker i de økumeniske organisasjonene

### Konferansen av europeiske kirker (KEK)

#### Forslag til vedtak

Mellomkirkelig råd tar følgende saker til orientering:

1. Rapport fra møte i Church and Society Commission (CSC) i KEK, 18.05.-01.06.2010 i Hagenau (Strasbourg)
2. CEC Updates July 2010
3. Rapport fra ECEN Assembly, Praha, 9.-13. juni 2010





## **Rapport fra ECEN Assembly, Praha 9.-13. juni 2010**

v/ Kristine Hofseth Hovland, Hans-Jürgen Schorre og Estrid Hessellund

**Tema: Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change**

### **1. Innledning**

ECEN er et europeisk nettverk av kristne som er opptatt av og ønsker å fremme samarbeid omkring "Vern om skaperverket". ECEN er tilknyttet KEK – Konferansen av europeiske kirker – som et redskap for å tydeliggjøre relasjonen til naturen og miljøet fra et kristent teologisk og livsstilsmessig perspektiv.

ECEN har etablert en rekke arbeidsgrupper der deltakerne kan holde kontakt med hverandre innbyrdes, også uten om seminarer og konferanser:

- Church environment management
- Climate Change
- Creation Day & Worship
- Ecological Education
- Nature & Biodiversity
- Transport & Mobility
- Theology
- Water

Annethvert år holdes en konferanse med fokus på et utvalgt tema. Nettverket kommuniserer også via egen nettside [www.ecen.org](http://www.ecen.org). Sekretariatet ledes av Rev Dr. Peter Pavlovic, KEK, Brüssel.

ECEN-nettverkets 8. konferanse ble holdt i Praha på International Baptist Theological Seminary. Ca 80 deltakere fra 23 land var samlet om temaet: *Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change*. Fra Norge deltok Kristine Hofseth Hovland, NKR, Børge Greaker, Frikirkens Speiderkorps, Hans Jürgen Schorre, KR, og Estrid Hessellund, KUI/MKR.

### **2. Programmet – se vedlegg**

Forbindelsen mellom daglig brød, forbruk og klimaforandringer ble belyst fra ulike perspektiver. Tsjekkiske forskere og politikere utdypet situasjonen i Sentral-Europa. Konferansen tok dette alvorlig ved kun å spise vegetarmat.

Den skotske teologen og kvekeren Alastair McIntosh talte om nødvendigheten av spiritualitet for å få til en vedvarende endring. Både dypdepsykologi og spiritualitet bør inkluderes i "creation theology", mente McIntosh.

Metropolitan Krystof, leder av den ortodokse kirke i Tsjekia og Slovakia, understreket også viktigheten av sterke relasjoner mellom teologi og vern om skaperverket.

Libor Ambrozek, tidligere miljøvernminister i den tsekkiske regjering, understreket den rolle som kirkene spiller som del av sivilsamfunnet i dialog med offentlige myndigheter. Herunder også i miljøspørsmål.

Konferansen utarbeidet et brev og en bønn som vil bli sendt til de europeiske kirker og kirkesamfunn – *se vedlegg*.

**Metodistkirkens sosiale bekjennelse** – som ble brukt på en morgengudstjeneste:

A: Vi tror på Gud, som er verdens Skaper og på Jesus Kristus, som er skaperverkets Forløser. Vi tror på Den hellige ånd, som lar oss ta imot Guds rike gaver. Vi bekjenner med anger at vi har misbrukt disse gavene til å dyrke andre guder enn den eneste, sanne Gud.

Vi fastholder at den verden som omgir oss er Guds eget skaperverk. Vi sier ja til å vie oss selv, vår tid og våre evner til å bevare og forvalte den skapte verden og hjelpe menneskeheten til å bruke skaperverket med troskap og respekt.

Vi mottar med glede for oss selv og for andre de velsignelser som samfunnslivet, kjærlighetslivet, ekteskapet og familielivet gir. Vi sier ja til å forsvare rettighetene til menn, kvinner, barn, ungdom, unge voksne og eldre, og særlig dem som faller utenfor. Vi sier ja til å gjøre det vi makter for å bedre alle menneskers livskvalitet, så deres rett blir erkjent og verdighet bevart.

Vi bekjenner vår tro på at mennesker har rett og plikt til å arbeide for Guds ære og til beste for seg selv og andre, under sosial og økonomisk trygghet. Vi sier ja til at et menneske kan se på frukten av sitt arbeid som en gave og som noe Gud har betrodd det. Vi sier ja til løsninger i fellesskap, til ansvarlig forbruk og til utryddelse av økonomisk og sosial undertrykkelse og nød.

Vi gir av oss selv og vårt eget for at det skal bli fred i verden, for at rettferdighet og orden skal herske mellom nasjonene og for at alle mennesker skal kunne leve i frihet der de bor. Vi tror og bekjenner at Guds Ord er det første og det siste i alle menneskelivets forhold, både nå og siden, og mottar med glede vårt kall til å gjøre det glade budskap synlig ved vår livsførsel på jord. Amen

### 3. Arbeidsgruppene

#### **Eco management** (v/ Hans-Jürgen Schorre)

Jeg har i mange år deltatt i ECEN-arbeidsgruppen om eco-management. Den norske kirkes konsept "Vår grønne menighet" og vårt samarbeid med Stiftelsen Miljøfyrtårn om miljøfyrtårnsertifisering har vært veldig interessant for flere andre land og kirkesamfunn, som enten har eller ønsker å etablere en lignende ordning.

Til årets ECEN-møte er teksten på plakaten "Vår grønne menighet" blitt oversatt til engelsk og distribuert blant gruppens deltakere.

Nytt i år var også at den miljøansvarlige i EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland), Hans Diefenbacher, hadde fått tilsagn til et betydelig beløp (ca. 90.000 Euro) av en tysk miljøstiftelse for å finansiere en rekke "twinning-prosjekter". Her kan to og to land samarbeide om erfaringsoverføring og -utveksling. Ett av i alt seks delprosjekter skal være et

samarbeid mellom Norge/Dnk (ved Hans-Jürgen Schorre) og den ortodokse kirke i Hviterussland.

Til neste vår er det planlagt et nytt felles møte mellom alle deltagende land, denne gangen i Krakow, Polen.

#### **Clima change** (v/*Kristine Hofseth Hovland*)

En gruppe på 8-10 stykker møttes fire ganger til informasjons- og erfaringsutveksling. Representantene fra KV og Svenska Kyrkan arbeider med dette til daglig og kunne gi viktig og god informasjon. ECEN ønsker å kunne jobbe med lobby opp mot EU, men de fleste på gruppa hadde ikke gjort noe på verken klima eller lobby før, så det var vanskelig å skulle tenke noen felles satsing. Dårlig organisert arbeidsgruppetid og uklart hva som skulle komme ut av det, men nyttig med oppdateringer fra KVs arbeid fram mot COP 16 og 17.

#### **Theology** (v/*Estrid Hessellund*)

Det var ikke satt opp en egen arbeidsgruppe på "Creation Day and Worship" denne gang, ellers hadde jeg valgt den. I stedet ble det Theology-gruppa sammen med ca 15 andre. Det var fra starten av meget usikkert hva gruppen skulle drøfte og hvilken retning det skulle ta: Praktisk teologi for prester og kateketer, klima-teologi, fokus på tema "Daily bread" (eucarist and food), fokus på kristologi og skapelse ut fra konseptet "Paul and The Cosmic Christ" – eller hva?

Gruppen ble aldri enig, og det ble derfor innlegg i alle retninger (under dårlig ledelse). Den siste dag fikk vi utlevert et papir som gjenga hva teologi-gruppen hadde foreslått å arbeide med i Stavanger 2006 og i Milano 2008, samt forslag for Praha 2010!

I ettertid har ledelsen av gruppen tatt selvkritikk (mail mottatt 21.6.) og bl.a. foreslått å jobbe videre med "Making bridges or connections between eco-theological insights and reasoning and the life of churches – by sharing knowledge and experiences in this fields, and by developing models for such bridge building." – En systematisk og dynamisk ungarsk kvinnelig teolog er heldigvis kommet med i ledergruppen, så det er håp i sikte!

#### **4. Generell vurdering og oppfølging**

*Estrid:* Som førstegangsdeltaker var mitt inntrykk at dette var en forsamling av engasjerte (eldre) miljøentusiaster av god vilje og med faglig kompetanse på ulike felt, men også med et personlig eierskap til saken og et veletablert felleskap. Kunne savne et mer ungdommelig og mer globalt engasjement. KVs representant og representantene for WSCF (World Student Christian Federation) kom først til orde i plenum den siste ettermiddag.

Positivt var det å knytte kontakt til enkeltpersoner og å få mer informasjon om østeuropeiske forhold og menighetspedagogiske tiltak i ulike land. Det miljøfaglige og økoteologiske utbyttet var mindre.

*Oppfølging:* undersøke mulighetene for å få Tore Johnsens bok "Jordens barn, Solens barn, Vindens barn" oversatt til engelsk. Den kunne være en nyttig ressurs på økoteologi med urfolksperspektiv.

*Kristine:* Som møteplass er ECEN bra og nyttig. Mange engasjerte mennesker samles, og en del av dem har betydelig erfaring i å jobbe med kirke- og miljøspørsmål. ECEN har også klart å få en tydelig østeuropeisk deltakelse. Ambisjonene for nettverket virker samtidig urealistiske (ni working groups om overlappende tema som skal holde kontakt mellom samlingene; lobby opp mot EU, osv). Det er store forskjeller i fokus deltakerne imellom - alt fra å anlegge blomsterhage rundt kirken til å ha politisk kampanje i forkant av klimatoppmøter. Bistandsorganisasjonene og deres vinkling savnes. Ungdomsorganisasjoner savnes. Foredrag tenderte mot idyllisering av gamle dager og landsbyliv uten at det var rom for diskusjon av premisene i dette.

*Oppfølging:*

Holde fortsatt kontakt med KV og de nordiske kristne rådene, særlig fram mot COP 17. Grønn menighet-plakat er oversatt til engelsk i Word-format, mål om å få en engelsk plakat (A3-størrelse) til utdeling i liknende sammenhenger.

*Hans-Jürgen:*

Jeg har deltatt på de fleste ECEN-møtene siden 1999. Det er derfor interessant å se Estrids og Kristines vurderinger, som jeg stort sett kan slutte meg til. Jeg ser en stor verdi i at personer som ønsker å arbeide med miljø, forbruk og rettferd med utgangspunkt i sine kirker/et kristent ståsted, har et møtepunkt. Dette nettverket er jo modellen for vårt ”kirkelige nettverk for miljø, forbruk og rettferd” i Norge, som ble dannet rett etter ECEN. For mange, særlig fra små minoritetskirker og fra Øst-Europa, er dette det eneste møtested med likesinnede. Jeg er spesielt glad over utviklingen i en del østeuropeiske land, særlig vertslandet Tsjekkia i dette tiåret. Men jeg deler kritikken som er nevnt ovenfor, og behovet for en reformering. Men ECEN har svært få ressurser og er i stor grad avhengig av frivillig innsats. Dette har man forsøkt å endre ved å oppfordre KEKs medlemskirker til å bidra med midler.

*Oppfølging:*

Forsøke å holde kontakten, særlig i arbeidsgruppen for eco-management. Her ligger for første gang forholdene til rette for et konkret samarbeid (se ovenfor). Et annet område er å forsøke å samarbeide med ECENs webredaktør og linke våre nettsider tydelig med å ha en del mer stoff på engelsk

Vedlegg:

- Program
- Brev til kirker og kristne i Europa (*A call to the Churches and Christians in Europe*)
- “Our daily bread”-*prayer from ECEN Assembly in Prague*

**ECEN 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly: *Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change***  
Prague, 9 – 13 June 2010

**Tentative Programme**

**Wednesday, 9 June**

- Arrivals
- 16.00 Liturgical opening
- 17.00 Welcome and opening of the Assembly
- 18.00 – 19.00 Dinner
- 19.30 - 21.30 Open Space Session, including Mobility, Creation Time, Water and Biodiversity
- 21.30 Evening prayer

**Thursday, 10 June**

- 8.45 Morning prayer
- 9.00 – 9.45 ECEN work 2008 –2010  
*Peter Pavlovic, ECEN Secretary*
- 9.45 – 10.15 ‘Climate change and Care for Creation – can politics and civil society including churches speak with one voice?’  
*Libor Ambrozek*
- 10.15 – 10.45 Tea / Coffee
- 10.45 –12.30 ‘Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change’  
Theological perspective presented by  
*Alastair McIntosh & Metropolitan Krystof*
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 14.30 – 16.00 Impacts of climate change on quality and availability of food, from the perspective of Central Europe  
*Prof. Bedrich Moldan & Daniel Lešinský*
- 16.00 – 16.30 Tea/Coffee
- 16.30 – 17.15 Impacts of climate change on quality and availability of food, from the perspective of Central Europe – cont.  
*Prof. Pavel Nováček*
- 17.15 – 18.30 Panel discussion led by *Alastair McIntosh*  
Summary of the day
- 18.30 – 19.30 Dinner
- 19.30 – 21.30 Informal meetings, sharing networking
- 21.30 Evening prayer

### **Friday, 11 June**

- 8.45 Morning prayer
- 9.00 – 10.30 Thematic Groups:
- Theology
  - Climate change
  - Eco-management
  - Food
  - Lifestyle transition
- 10.30 – 10.45 Coffee / Tea
- 10.50 – 11.45 Thematic Groups continued
- 11.45 – 12.30 Plenary session
- First report of the Nomination Committee
  - First reading of the Assembly document
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Excursion: Projects of Czech churches addressing Climate Change & Care for Creation
- Evening Free time
- 21.30 Evening prayer

### **Saturday, 12 June**

- 8.45 Morning prayer
- 9.00 – 10.30 Thematic Groups, continued
- 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee / Tea
- 11.00 – 12.30 Thematic Groups / Creative Workshops
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00 ECEN cooperation with partner organisations
- 15.00 - 16.00 Summary of the Thematic Groups, Adoption of the Assembly documents, Elections, Future work of ECEN
- 16.00 – 16.30 Coffee/Tea
- 16.30 – 17.30 ECEN in Central and Eastern Europe
- Summary of the Assembly
- 18.00 – 19.00 Dinner
- 19.30 – 21.30 Festive evening with thematic presentations '*Czech churches in caring for creation*'

### **Sunday, 13 June**

- 9.30 Worship service in the congregation  
'U Klimenta' (in the City centre)
- Departure





European Christian **environmental** network

**8th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network  
'Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change'  
Prague, 9 – 13 June 2010**

**A call to the Churches and Christians in Europe**

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*We write to you as 85 participants – representing 23 countries – gathered at the European Christian Environment Network's (ECEEN) 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly, held at the International Baptist Theological Seminary at Prague, 9-13 June 2010. This took place under the theme of 'Our Daily Bread – living in a Time of Climate Change', with contributions from churches of Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions.*

*Considering the contemporary serious social, economic and financial crises we face today, we ask churches and Christians of Europe to be carefully vigilant, and wherever possible to oppose trends which distract and deter us from environmental sustainability.*

*In spite of the disappointing outcome from the international negotiations at Copenhagen last December, many of our churches continue to be actively committed to addressing the challenges of catastrophic climate change threatening God's creation on Earth. We are already facing the extinction of living organisms and of ecological sustainability across the world, and especially in more vulnerable countries, communities and habitats. Displaced people and environmental refugees also require justice in Europe and elsewhere.*

*The consequences of climate change often affect the poor and excluded more than those who cause the damage, increasing injustice, sometimes with militaristic zeal.*

*We believe our churches have a strong role to play in responding to these challenges, and indeed their engagement in grassroots movements and campaigns before and after Copenhagen are to be applauded. At this Assembly we have heard compelling evidence of the links between the ways we produce our food and environmental damage.*

*Modern lifestyles and patterns of food consumption pose great risks for our future. For instance, current intensive meat production is the number one contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions (according to figures from FAO) and the drive to provide cheap food comes at an environmental cost. The soil is often overstressed, with excessive use of chemicals, and biodiversity is depleted. Many species of wild plants and animals are under threat of extinction*

*from loss of habitat. The quantities of energy and water required by agro-businesses are unsustainable on current demands. Additionally, 'food miles', the risks of the genetic modification of organisms, food insecurity, and an excessive dependency on intensive meat production, all raise serious ethical questions for Christians in all our churches.*

*Faith-based organisations must develop their calling to bring hope turning words into actions inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit in all life. Our hope springs from the gospel of the Triune God who creates, redeems and sanctifies the world and takes us into the divine act of love as co-workers in Creation. So it is our wish to encourage church leaders, church councils and all believers in Christ to respond to such food issues, and to demonstrate their concerns with us to our wider society and to lead by examples of new ways of sustainable living.*

*We therefore encourage you to join us in increasing your awareness and engagement, remembering that 'daily bread' for all life is a gift of God. We invite you to recognise that feeding the world raises deep questions as people experiencing hunger or poor diet are not able to grow in the image of their Maker. This is not right!*

*Furthermore, we should recall that irrespective of its worth to people, the whole inhabited world is of value to the triune God.*

*Our passionate pastoral concern for future generations of human and non-human life on Earth leads us to be extremely troubled about these complex but very real food questions. As Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, "Food for myself is a material concern; for my neighbour is a spiritual matter".*

*Finally, we offer this prayerful reflection on our Lord's Prayer for you to use in your own church and ministry at this critical time which is a 'kairos' moment for us...*

*Yours faith-fully*

*Delegates and participants of the Assembly in Prague*

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*European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) is a church network promoting co-operation in caring for creation. ECEN is an instrument of the Conference of European Churches for addressing the relationship to nature and the environment from the perspective of Christian theology and Christian way of life.*



European Christian Environmental Network

**8th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network  
'Our daily bread – living in a time of climate change'  
Prague, 9 – 13 June 2010**

**OUR DAILY BREAD  
PRAYER FROM ECEN ASSEMBLY IN PRAGUE**

*O Holy God who is present in all heaven and earth, you nurture and care for us in our daily lives. May we live today as if tomorrow matters.*

*We are called to worship you and live according to ways of peace and justice, and sustainably in community.*

*Help us to be good neighbours and to recognise that our relationships are broken and the planet's ecosystems are fractured. We see that the whole creation is struggling with changing conditions and our communities are fragmented by inequality and division.*

*We recognise your generosity in providing for our food. Let us not forget that the world's foods are not equally shared and while some over-eat, others go hungry.*

*We confess that we have developed a dependency on debt which causes idolatry, insecurity and injustice, and are losing communities of caring and sharing.*

*We regret that we are tempted by the idols of death and we forget the vulnerable, preferring our own superficial addictions rather than our deeper potential.*

*Help us to choose to return to the holiness of each moment and to reject the temptations of excessive greed and speed. May we be delivered from excessive pride that the Earth be healed and our lives be re-shaped by the grace of your Word and Spirit.*

*For the gifts of light, life and love are yours, now and for ever and from age to age. \**

*For the reign, the glory and the power are yours.*

*Amen.*



## **Møte i Church and Society Commission (CSC) i KEK, 18. mai-1. juni 2010 i Hagenau (Strasbourg)**

v/ Raag Rolfsen

Jeg ble valgt til CSC i KEKs sentralkomités møte i desember etter nominasjon fra MKR. Kommisjonen hadde med møtet i Hagenau i nærheten av Strasbourg 18. mai-1. juni sitt første møte, og det var preget av tre forhold:

1. Et oppstartsmøte bærer preg av å være nettopp det. Veteranene (dvs. sekretariatet og de gjenvalgte fra forrige kommisjon) dominerer sesjonene, og de nyvalgte "føler seg inn på" hva dette er for noe.
2. Stedet Strasbourg satte rammen for møtet. Hovedsaken, religiøse symboler i det offentlige rom, var valgt fordi dette er en av de mest kontroversielle sakskompleksene for Den europeiske menneskerettighetsdomstolen for tiden. Generelt kan det også sies at denne lokaliseringen av møtet gjorde at den menneskerettslige og institusjonelle siden av flere saker fikk et hovedfokus.
3. De utviklinger som KEK har gjennomgått de siste årene og det siste året spesielt.

### **Lørdag**

På grunn av flyforsinkelse rakk jeg ikke den første sesjonen i møtet der KEKs visjon for Europa 2020 ble behandlet. Denne sesjonen ble så fulgt opp av en sesjon som tok for seg EUs strategi for 2020. Bakgrunnen var den strategi som EU vedtok i år 2000 for år 2010, og som EU selv anser for mislykket i dag. EU-kommisjonen foreslo en femdelt strategi for EU 2020 med følgende målbare mål:

1. 75 % av befolkningen mellom 20 og 64 år skal være i arbeid
2. 3 % av GDP skal årlig investeres i forskning og utvikling
3. Målene kalt 20/20/20 skal nås i 2020 (20 % reduksjon i CO<sub>2</sub>-utslipp, 20 % energi fra fornybare kilder og 20 % reduksjon i forbruk av energi fra primærkilder ut fra anslått utvikling)
4. Andelen som slutter skole for tidlig, skal være under 10 % og minst 40 % av den yngre generasjon skal ta en universitetseksamen
5. 20 millioner færre mennesker skal risikere fattigdom

Selv om EUs råd i sitt møte i mars aksepterte disse målene på et overordnet plan, så stilte de seg skeptiske til indikatorene som ble anvendt for de to siste målene. Det ble opplyst om at KEK ønsker å spille en rolle for å sikre at disse målene forblir innenfor EUs 2020-strategi.

Medlemmer i CSC stilte spørsmål om hvorfor KEK hadde valgt å engasjere seg nettopp innenfor dette arbeidsfeltet (det finnes både en EU 2030- og EU 2050-prosess). Det ble svart at denne prosessen var den med mest håndfaste resultater, og at liten kapasitet fratok KEK å spre sin aktivitet mer.

Sesjonen fortsatte med en orientering om hvordan KEK arbeider for å komme i dialog med de europeiske institusjonene, spesielt med EU og Europarådet; og at man nå var fast deltaker i noen panel, mens man inviteres fra sak til sak i andre sammenhenger.

Den siste delen av sesjonen ble brukt til å orientere om KEKs arbeid med globalisering de siste årene, dvs. fra utarbeidelsen av KEKs posisjonsdokument som et alternativ til AGAPE-dokumentet, via KVs generalforsamling i Porto Alegre, til det arbeidet som er blitt ivarettatt gjennom KEKs arbeidsgruppe (Task Force) for globalisering de siste to årene. Spesielt ble dialogen mellom KEK og CLAI fremholdt som sentral når det gjelder å bearbeide den spenning som finnes i forhold til disse spørsmålene innenfor den globale kirken.

Ettermiddagsøkten var satt av til arbeidsgrupper for KEKs satsingsområder: Utdanning, globalisering, menneskerettigheter og (bio-)teknologi og rettigheter. Jeg ledet globaliseringsgruppen, og det ble oppnådd enighet om

- a) at KEK skal videreføre satsningen på globalisering.
- b) at man skal bruke dialogen med CLAI som et utgangspunkt for å identifisere samarbeidsområder for de to regionale kirkelige organisasjonene. Spesielt innenfor området regional integrering synes det å være muligheter for samarbeid.
- c) at man skal utforske muligheten for å bruke erfaringen fra dialogen med CLAI til å starte opp dialog med andre globale kirkelige partnere. Her var Sørøst-Asia og China Christian Council særskilt nevnt.
- d) at CSC skal vedta ("adopt") det felles dokumentet som er utarbeidet i KEK-CLAI dialogen.

Kveldssesjonen var satt av til rapportering fra gruppene, og konklusjonen var at det skal fortsettes med/opprettes arbeidsgrupper innenfor alle de fire områdene og innenfor området sosialpolitikk, samt at de foreslåtte prioriteringene fra gruppene ble godkjent. Det går ut forespørsel til medlemskirkene om å nominere medlemmer til disse gruppene.

### **Søndag**

Neste dag var satt av til besøk i St. Thomas protestantiske kirke i Strasbourg og lunsj med alsasisk tarte flambée, mens ettermiddagssesjonen introduserte hovedsaken, nemlig religiøse symbol i det offentlige rom. Før dette skjedde, ble det holdt valg av eksekusjonskomité, og valgkomiteens innstilling ble støttet. Det var her tydelig at det foregikk ting bak scenen, uten at jeg fikk helt tak på det. To av representantene som ble valgt, sitter også i den komiteen som skal foreslå revisjon av KEKs struktur, og det er nok et ønske om at det her skal være en sammenheng. Det er litt bekymringsfullt at det ikke finnes nordiske representanter i eksekusjonskomiteen.

Dette er et saksområde som har fått økende oppmerksomhet i de siste årene.

Menneskerettighetsdommen i Strasbourg som forbød obligatoriske krusifikser i italienske skoler, er bare det siste eksemplet på disse sakene. Karikaturstriden, spørsmålet om burka/hijab, kors osv og KRL-faget er andre eksempler blant mange. I kommisjonens respons på dette ble det understreket at man ikke bare skulle se på dette som et spørsmål om rettigheter for majoritets- og minoritetskirker, men også se på forholdet mellom mangfold og nøytralitet i det offentlige rom. Man løser ikke dette spørsmålet ved å tømme det offentlige rom for religiøse uttrykk.

## **Mandag**

Mandagen var satt av til besøk i Europarådet. Vi ble informert om Rådets arbeid, og ikke minst om viktigheten av dette som en alleuropeisk arena, der også Russland er med. Det gikk tydelig frem at det religiøse mangfoldet utgjør en økende utfordring innenfor flere og flere emner: Den sosiale dimensjonen, kulturfeltet, utdanning og innenfor rettighetsfeltet. Vi fikk en viktig gjennomgang av de viktigste sakene de siste tyve årene i forhold til religionsfrihet av en av dommerne i MR-domstolen. Inntrykket jeg satt igjen med, er at utviklingen går i retning av å tilkjenne statene en større kompetanse til å ta avgjørelser innenfor dette feltet. Forholdene og lovgivningen er så forskjellig fra stat til stat at det kan være at MR-domstolen i fremtiden kun tar de mest eklatante MR-bruddene opp til vurdering. Uten å kunne være sikker på dette, så ble det gitt signaler om at den italienske stat ville vinne anken som skal behandles tidlig denne høsten i forhold til krusifiksstriden.

Dagen ble avsluttet med mottakelse i senteret knyttet til KEKs kontor i Strasbourg.

## **Tirsdag**

Tirsdag var reisedag, der det var satt opp en plenumssesjon før lunsj og avreise. Denne sesjonen inkluderte de formelle vedtakene i forhold til budsjett, virksomhetsrapporter, godkjenning av rapporter, endelige vedtak knyttet til arbeidsgrupper og godkjenning av KEK-CLAI-rapporten. Mest interesse var knyttet til rapporten fra Church and Society-direktør Rüdiger Noll om situasjonen i KEK. Det ble rapportert om fortsatt uro i KEK etter generalforsamlingen i Lyon i fjor sommer. Generalsekretæren har nå offisielt gått av etter et halvt års sykemelding. Presidentskapet har vedtatt kutt i staben, revisjonskomiteen jobber med drastiske scenarioer når det gjelder kommisjonene, og det spørres om stillingen som generalsekretær blir utlyst før ny generalforsamling i 2013. Man snakker om mulighet for en "interim manager" som skal jobbe tett opp imot organisasjonens ledergruppe.

## **Oppsummerende punkter**

Det synes som om det arbeidet som skjer i Church and Society kommisjonen, ikke er så grunnleggende berørt av krisen som andre av KEKs virksomhetsområder. Det virker som om man makter å arbeide seg inn på felter og flere institusjonelle områder i EU/Europarådet, og her en reell innflytelse på en del saker. Samtidig er det slik at dette fokuset på disse institusjonene, spesielt innenfor EU, ikke er like naturlig sett fra et norsk perspektiv. Det er derfor viktig at den globale dimensjonen ved KEKs arbeid opprettholdes. Jeg ser det som del av mitt mandat til å bidra til dette.

Krisen i KEK, både med hensyn til finanser og struktur, er ennå ikke over. Det blir viktig for våre medlemmer i sentralkomiteen å følge dette nøye. Det er allikevel tegn på at utviklingen nå begynner å snu i en retning som kan være bærekraftig.

Hvis det er riktig at statene nå får økt kompetanse i forhold til ansvaret for religioners plass i det offentlige, så styrker dette viktigheten av å arbeide for en statlig religionspolitikk. Kirken bør arbeide for en situasjon der det finnes et reelt mangfold - og ikke et fravær - av religiøse uttrykk på den offentlige arenaen.

Mangelen på en nordisk representant i eksekusjonskomiteen gir grunn til noe bekymring. Det bør understrekes at hvis det skulle skje utskiftinger i komiteen, så bør en nordisk representant vurderes.

Jeg takker for den tilliten som er vist meg gjennom nominasjonen til denne kommisjonen. Det kan være at det - i dette som er en utfordrende tid for det økumeniske arbeidet - kan være lurt at det arrangeres et årlig møte for alle som representerer Den norske kirke i internasjonale økumeniske organisasjoner. Jeg tror den informasjonsflyten som ville komme som et resultat av et slikt møte, ville styrke vår representasjon.

Oslo, 4. juni 2010

Raag Rolfsen



**Dehlin, Liv Janne**

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**Emne:** FW: Erratum Europe Update 31\_3\_2010: Revised article on Human Rights an social commitment

**Viktighet:** Høy

**Vedlegg:** CSC\_Europe\_Update\_Nr\_31\_3\_2010\_revised.pdf

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**From:** Véronique Dessart [mailto:ved@CEC-KEK.be]

**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:24 PM

**To:** Véronique Dessart

**Subject:** Erratum Europe Update 31\_3\_2010: Revised article on Human Rights an social commitment

**Importance:** High



Conference of I  
Church & Soc

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## Human rights and social commitment at the heart of the churches calling

Human rights and social commitment are at the heart of the churches calling. This became evident in the first Plenary Meeting of the new Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC) in Hagenau near Strasbourg from 28 May to 1 June 2010.

As its main theme the meeting reflected on the role of religious symbols in the public sphere. Recently, for instance, the Swiss minaret initiative and Italian crucifix case have raised controversy and shown the thin line between freedom from and freedom for religion. It was noted that many conflicts over religious matters derive from a lack of communication but also from an inability to effectively address concerns emanating from increased diversity in our societies. The meeting concluded that there is a need for more and better inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, and religious education both formal and informal.

Besides its internal debate, the Plenary had the opportunity to visit the Council of Europe and discuss religious and human rights with several of its high-level officials. Mr Juris Rudevskis from the Court of Human Rights provided a briefing on the Court's case law in relation to Article 9 which stipulates the freedom of religion. He explained that whereas the right to believe is an absolute right, the external manifestation of religious belief can be limited in the name of public safety, public order, health and morals or the rights and freedoms of others, but only as prescribed by law and as necessary in democratic societies. These limitations are applied with a margin of appreciation for Member States in order to accommodate specificities of national contexts. Mr Alfonso de Salas from the Directorate of Human Rights, described the Council of Europe

Secretariat as a watchdog monitoring the compliance of the Member States' commitments.

According to Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Mrs G. Battaini-Dragoni, the Council of Europe has, over the last years, developed a new policy towards religious communities. More than before, the organisation is now open for dialogue with religious communities as recognition of their importance in promoting human rights, rule of law and democracy. Mrs Battaini-Dragoni called the Conference of European Churches "a key organisation in making our societies more open, democratic and respectful of human dignity." The Church and Society Commission is committed to this end. Serge Fornerod, newly elected moderator of the Church and Society Commission, stated: "the Gospel calls us to defend the whole range of human rights and not only the right on religious freedom."

In addition to the topic of human rights, the Commission was received by one its own members, Dr. Verena Taylor. Dr. Taylor, the Head of Protocol of the Council of Europe and former director of the Council of Europe Liaison Office with the European Union, offered the meeting an overview of the history of relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

The Plenary also heard the report on the Commission's work since the CEC Lyon Assembly in July 2009 and discussed its work programme for 2010 and 2011. The Plenary agreed the priorities for the year 2011 and took notice of this year's priorities, already approved by the CEC Presidium in its meeting in late April. In the next period of time, CSC will, for instance, continue deepening its dialogue on globalisation with the Latin American Council of Churches, developing the Churches' Human Rights Reader - already partly ready and online - and contributing to the European Year on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Furthermore, CSC will, for example, implement the Education Strategy, adopted by the Plenary, promote nuclear disarmament and debate on human enhancement.

The Church and Society Commission elected Pasteur Serge Fornerod (Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches) as the Moderator, and Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba (Orthodox Church of Greece) and Rev. Jan Dus (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren) as the Vice-Moderators of the new Executive Committee. In addition, Bishop Porfyrios Papastylianou (Orthodox Church of Cyprus), Dr. Charles Reed (Church of England) and Dr. Verena Taylor (Evangelical Church AB and HB in Austria) will serve in the Executive Committee.

The Sunday worship service was held at the Church of St. Thomas in Strasbourg. On Monday evening the Commission held a reception with representatives of local churches representing Anglican, Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches.

In her closing reflection, Mag. Karkala-Zorba recalled the words of Jesus Christ and said the mandate of the Church and Society Commission is what Jesus asked us to do: "to be there for the people in need."

Find the full list of members of the new Church and Society Commission at:  
<http://csc.ceceurope.org/who-we-are/csc-plenary>

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3/ 2010  
N° 31

## CSC Update on European Affairs

### TOPICS COVERED:

First meeting of the new CSC Plenary; Implementation of Article 17; Churches and Human Rights; Freedom of Religion in Cyprus; Church Action on Labour and Life launched; CSC statement on the EU Danube Strategy; Nuclear disarmament; Current and future priorities of the European Union; Results of the Reflection Group on the long-term future of the Union; 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration; NEW WEBSITE for CSC; upcoming events.

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## CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION

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### Human rights and social commitment at the heart of the churches calling

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## LISBON TREATY

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### **CSC and COMECE adopt guidelines for the Article 17 dialogue**

After years of negotiations and adoption process, the European Union got, on 1 December 2009, a new legal basis in the form of the Treaty of Lisbon. Already some months before, the new round of

negotiations was set in train to seek agreement on the implementation of that Treaty. The attention of the Member States has been, above all, on the setting up of the new foreign service (the External Action Service). Away from the limelight other elements of the Treaty have been looked upon, like for instance, the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and the implementation of the citizen's initiative. For the churches, the entering into force of the Treaty means that it is time to make a proposal on the implementation of the dialogue between "us" and the EU institutions (Article 17).

The Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC of CEC) and the Commission of Bishops' Conferences in the European Community (COMECE) have been working on a joint document since last autumn. The draft text was circulated to the CEC constituency for consultation in late December and received some 20 responses. The revised text was adopted with some amendments by the COMECE Plenary in mid-April and later by CEC Presidium at its meeting in Warsaw on 25-27 April. The document will serve as the basis for discussions on Article 17 with the EU institutions.

The churches' document acknowledges the similarity between the value basis of the European Union (Article 2) and the value basis of European integration as expressed in Charta Oecumenica. It considers Article 17 as a welcome legal reference reflecting the years of dialogue between the European institutions and churches and religious communities. The paper explains the specific contribution the churches make to European integration and it offers content to the notions of "openness, transparency and regularity" which are to define the dialogue. Unlike the consultation paper, the final paper does not include the concrete proposals on the forms of the future dialogue. These proposals were approved by the CEC Presidium as a reserve of ideas to be drawn on during the discussions with the institutions.

For more information contact: [csc@cec-kek.be](mailto:csc@cec-kek.be)

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

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### European Churches meet to discuss Human Rights

The work has been under way already for some time in order to develop a Human Rights Manual for the use of CEC Member Churches. On 3-5 May, CSC brought together human rights focal points from 25 Member Churches to further debates on those topics on which the texts are ready. These include, for instance, "The Bible and Human Rights", "Interpretation of Human Rights in the Light of Church Fathers" and "Universality and Different Cultures and Traditions". In general, the meeting sought ways to translate human rights questions such as freedom of religion and human dignity into theological and ethical terms in a manner that allows them to be brought to the "parishioners in the pews", as one participant called it. 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.

As the next step of the process the manual will be complemented by additional articles on human rights and security and on social justice, and then distributed as a reader. This reader 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. The reader will be produced in the course of 2010 and 2011 and be made widely available to all Member Churches.

Download the Human Rights Manual in its current volume at:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Human\\_Rights/HumanRightsManualWorkinProgress.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Human_Rights/HumanRightsManualWorkinProgress.pdf)

As a parallel process to the development of the Human Rights Manual, CSC is developing an on-line Human Rights Library consisting of churches' statements and reports.

Visit the CSC Human Rights Library at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/human-rights-library/>

## **Churches urge the EU to help protect cultural heritage in the Republic of Cyprus**

Protection of the cultural heritage in the Northern part of Cyprus was a topic for a seminar organised at the European Parliament on 14 April. The event was hosted by MEP Dr. Eleni Theocharous, enjoyed the high patronage of His Excellency Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering and was organised by the Representation of the Church of Cyprus to the EU in co-operation with CSC.

The seminar was opened by the Archbishop of Cyprus, His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, who called upon "the European Union to support our demand strongly and powerfully and to work systematically and effectively in order to restore and ensure respect for religious freedoms in the occupied part of our island; to put an end to the looting and plundering of our sacred sites and monuments and to protect our religious sites." Besides calling for the respect of religious freedom of Christians, the seminar stressed the need to ensure the respect of human rights in general and for all religious denominations.

The seminar learned about two already completed programmes to restore cultural and religious monuments (the Agios Nikolaos Church in Bedestan and Emerke Hamam) within the occupied part of Cyprus and about an ongoing programme (of €800.000) concerning the architectural documentation of religious monuments.

Read more about the discussions in the seminar from CSC website at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/human-rights/>

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

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### **Churches launch CALL network for a just economy in Europe**

The new Christian Employment and Economy Network, Church Action on Labour and Life (CALL) was founded in Brussels on 28-30 April. The first and the third day of the meeting set the network in motion. After a more general stocktaking on elements contributing to a just and sustainable economy, CALL organized itself into five permanent working groups. These groups will provide the core arena for the co-operation within the network. The first working group is preparing a citizen's initiative on the balance between working time and family life. The second will focus on precarious working situations. A third group will work on the role of religion in the public sphere. The fourth group will look at concepts for sustainable economic growth. A fifth group committed itself to produce a regular newsletter on economic ethics.

The whole network is to meet in assemblies. The next assembly is planned for spring 2011 in Bucharest. The founding meeting also elected a coordination team, whose co-moderators are Alison Jackson from the Methodist Church in Britain and Rev. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann (CSC).

On 29 April, the CALL held its opening conference at the European Parliament. Besides a number of members of the European Parliament, the speakers included, among others, H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr. Nifon of Targoviste, Ms Anne Degrand-Guillaud, Coordinator of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in the European Commission and Prof. Tim Jackson from the Centre for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey.

More about the conference at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/social-and-economic-issues/>

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## EUROPE OF REGIONS

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### Intercultural understanding key to future of Danube Region

CSC together with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) and COMECE issued a joint statement to the European Commission consultation on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (see Europe Update N°30).

The churches' statement recognizes the role religious identities have played in recent conflicts in the Southern and Eastern Danube region. Against this history, the churches regard the strengthening of mutual understanding between cultures and religions a prerequisite for the good future of the area, and already act to that end. Besides supporting the reconciliation work, the future EU Danube Strategy should, the churches argue, foster the integration of minorities, better balance between ecology and transport, and support the education sector. While the economic issues are very important, the EU Strategy should enable to address "soft" issues which create conditions for the development of the region's potential.

The Danube is Europe's second longest river (2778 km) and what is referred to as the Danube Region spreads over 14 countries from Germany to Ukraine. The Commission is expected to table a proposal for the regional development strategy in December 2010 which is likely to be adopted by the EU Member States early in 2011.

Read the CSC-CPCE-COMECE statement at:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/CSC\\_News/eusdr\\_cec\\_comece\\_cpce.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/CSC_News/eusdr_cec_comece_cpce.pdf)

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## PEACE AND SECURITY

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### Talks intensify about the future of nuclear disarmament

The Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT RevCon) in New York (3-28 May) is now in its last days of arms wrestling over the future of nuclear weapons. The European Union went to the RevCon with a rather good Common Position. Even if France once again held the EU back from adopting a more progressive stance, the final compromise paper offers for the first time a balanced look on both the non-proliferation and disarmament pillars of the NPT. The positive new points include, *inter alia*, the EU's call for irreversibility to guide all measures in the field of nuclear

disarmament, its call for reduction of operational readiness of the nuclear weapons and its recognition of the positive role of civil society in promoting NPT. As in the past, the EU advocated for the strengthening of treaty-based nuclear disarmament and of international bodies such as IAEA. A quite interesting move was the EU's proposal for Russia and the United States to further develop unilateral initiatives for arms reduction alongside bilateral ones. This shows unilateralism is no longer banished.

The CSC statement to the EU on its nuclear disarmament policy led to invitations for a pre-meeting at the Council before the NPT RevCon as well as to a meeting which took place in the framework of the NPT meeting itself.

At the national level, the UK churches have pursued their campaign [www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk](http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk). The churches' petition has been presented both in New York and to Number 10 Downing Street. In Finland on 15 April, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church held a seminar with key government officials and a CSC representative on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Evangelical Church in Germany will flag up the issue in a Brussels event on 1 June. At the global level, the World Council of Churches (WCC) is actively engaged in nuclear disarmament.

Alongside the NPT RevCon, the developments affecting the future of nuclear weapons include the publication of the new US strategy on nuclear weapons (Nuclear Posture Review), the signing of new US-Russia strategic arms reduction treaty (new START) and the revision of NATO's Strategic Concept. CSC's stance towards the NATO's Strategic Concept will be informed by an expert meeting to be held in Brussels on 8-9 June in co-operation with IKV Pax Christi and WCC.

For more information on the CSC work on nuclear disarmament and/or to inform the CSC constituency on your national activities on the topic, please contact Ms Elina Eloranta ([elo@cec-kek.be](mailto:elo@cec-kek.be)).

Read the WCC commentary at the opening of the NPT RevCon:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/browse/2/article/1634/up-close-at-nuclear-treat.html>

Read the WCC commentary on the new START:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/browse/3/article/1634/russia-and-united-states.html>

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## EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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### Current and future priorities of the European Union

As reported in the previous Europe Updates, the last year was in many ways a turning point for the European Union. The final negotiations over the Lisbon Treaty occupied the Member States, a new European Parliament took office, and so did, at the beginning of this year, a new European Commission. On the policy side, the focus was on climate change, the adoption of a five-year plan for justice and home affairs (migration, organized crime etc.) and, of course, the economic and financial crisis. This year was supposed to see a major debate on long-term perspectives in the area of economic, financial, social and environmental development (read about the CSC statement on EU 2020 Strategy in Europe Update N° 29), but that debate has been impeded by the need to keep



finding ways out of the financial crisis. Even though the Strategy did not necessarily receive the attention it most surely deserved, it is likely to be adopted at the European Summit on 17-18 June.

In terms of multi-annual planning, the European Commission has adopted a new system. Instead of separate annual work programmes and five-year plans, each year the Commission is from this year on preparing an annual work programme together with an annex providing indication on possible future strategic and priority initiatives. The Commission is expected to present its work programme 2011 in October or November.

See the European Commission work programme 2010 and the annex for the multi-annual bullets: [http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm)

Alongside with the permanent President of the European Council who sets the agenda for the European Council meetings, and the new High Representative who steers foreign policy, the EU presidencies continue to have an impact on the Council agenda. The EU Presidency is currently held by Spain, will be taken over by Belgium at the beginning of July and by Hungary at the beginning of next year. The trio programme for these presidencies was published in November 2009 (see link below). The Council secretariat has already been invited to put down in writing its thoughts of what could be included in the programme of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus (June 2011-December 2012).

Presidency programme of Spain, Belgium and Hungary:

[http://www.eutrio.es/export/sites/trio/comun/descarga/PROGRAMA\\_TRxO\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eutrio.es/export/sites/trio/comun/descarga/PROGRAMA_TRxO_EN.pdf)

Two and half years ago (Europe Update N° 13), the European Council appointed a wise men group to reflect on the long-term perspectives of the European Union. On 8 May, its Chair, the former Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez submitted the report to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy. The report invites the Europeans to update their economic and social models as well as their security models, to foster innovation and to address the challenges of demographic change, immigration, energy security and climate change. In addition, it draws attention to the EU's role in defining new rules of global governance and advocates for the promotion of good governance within Europe.

Read the report at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusid=473&lang=en>

## **60 years after the Schuman Declaration**

2010 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration made on 9 May 1950 by the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, a deeply committed Roman Catholic, calling on France, Germany and other countries to pool their coal and steel production to make war 'materially impossible'. This is recognised as the moment when the European Union was born. Since 1985 the Member States have labelled the anniversary of declaration as 'Europe Day'- an occasion for 'activities and festivities that bring Europe closer to its citizens and peoples of the Union closer to one another'.

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Church of England commissioned a pamphlet to examine this declaration afresh together with the Christian values that shaped Robert Schuman's vision for Europe. The pamphlet aims at fostering the development for a renewed vision and mission for Europe. <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/socialpublic/europe/schuman.rtf>.

The anniversary was marked by specific 'Europe Day' services at Westminster Abbey in London as well as in the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Resurrection, both in Brussels. In addition, Jeff Fountain, the Director of the ecumenical Schuman Centre for the Study of Europe published *Deeply Rooted – The Forgotten Legacy of Robert Schuman*. <http://www.schumancentre.eu/>

Also the secular Brussels think-tank, the European Policy Centre, of which CSC is a member, took the opportunity to revisit the Schuman Declaration. Read the EPC document at: [http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/1091\\_schuman\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/1091_schuman_declaration.pdf)

## **Analogies between the Schuman Declaration and current situation**

In his editorial of Agence Europe bulletin, Ferdinand Riccardi compared the situation of today to the situation of Europe 60 years ago. Back then very few people understood the significance of the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Today, most Europeans do not realize that they are actually going through a similar period of transformation. According to Riccardi, the ground-breaking change is brought about by the new institutional structure of common foreign policy, the acceptance of economic governance for the euro zone and, if achieved, the recent proposal by Jacques Delors and Jerzy Buzek to create a European Energy Community. In addition, Europe will be changed by the increased functionality of the European freedom, security and justice area and the project of a single European sky.

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## **COMMUNICATION**

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### **CSC has a new website and outlook!**

The new website and logo for the whole of CEC ([www.ceceurope.org](http://www.ceceurope.org)) were launched in January. Due to lack of staff resources, the renewal of the CSC website and outlook was delayed but the new CSC logo is now in use. As the website is also coming close to its intended future look, we invite all readers to visit it and offer us their feedback ([elo@cec-kek.be](mailto:elo@cec-kek.be)). Besides providing the latest news on CSC activities, the website is developing into a major resource on churches' reflections on church and society issues. The CSC Human Rights Library has been on-line since a couple of weeks. The section on Ethics, Science and Technology has recently been fuelled by new contributions from the CEC constituency. Your documents on these and other sections are welcome.

Visit the new CSC website at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **Planned CSC events in 2010**

The CSC brainstorming group on education met in Strasbourg on 26-27 May (contact: Ms Carla Maurer, [carla.maurer@cec-kek.fr](mailto:carla.maurer@cec-kek.fr)). The 8th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) will take place in Prague on 9-13 June. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ecen.org/cms/index.php?page=prague10>. You may also contact Rev. Dr. Peter Pavlovic, [ppt@cec-kek.be](mailto:ppt@cec-kek.be).

The CSC expert meeting to devise a churches' contribution to NATO's new Strategic Concept takes place in Brussels on 8-9 June (contact: Ms Elina Eloranta, [elo@cec-kek.be](mailto:elo@cec-kek.be)). A Dialogue Seminar on the social dimension (poverty and social exclusion) of the Europe 2020 Strategy is scheduled for 9 July. As usual, the Dialogue Seminar is a joint endeavour of CSC, COMECE and the European Commission. (For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann, [dht@cec-kek.be](mailto:dht@cec-kek.be)). CSC will also organise a consultation on poverty in Brussels at the end of September. That event is part of the co-operation framework between CSC, Caritas Europa, COMECE and Eurodiaconia during the European Year on Poverty (contact: [dht@cec-kek.be](mailto:dht@cec-kek.be)). Furthermore, CSC is involved in the organisation of the next event of the Wealth, Poverty and Ecology process of the World Council of Churches. This meeting is scheduled to take place in Hungary from 8 to 12 November (contact: [ppt@cec-kek.be](mailto:ppt@cec-kek.be)).

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### Church and Society Commission

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

*This publication informs CEC members on European developments and related CSC activities. Members are welcome to use this publication as a channel to inform on their respective work. For comments or further information on the issues as well as to subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact [csc@cec-kek.be](mailto:csc@cec-kek.be). CSC Updates on European Affairs are also available on the CEC website at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/news/europe-updates/>*

**Edited by Elina Eloranta**  
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Conference of European Churches  
General Secretariat

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Our ref: GENSEC-2010-074

**TO:**  
CEC Member Churches  
Associated Organisations  
Aid Agencies  
Members of Central Committee

Geneva, June 2009

Dear Esteemed Church Leaders,  
Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ,

This comes to you with greetings from the Officers and staff of CEC and to bring to you some up-dates regarding the life of CEC.

▪ **General Secretary**

In May you received information regarding our General Secretary, the Venerable Colin Williams, indicating that he will be moving on to a post back in the Church of England in mid-July. Colin will then become the Team Rector of the Ludlow Team Ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. Colin has been with CEC since 2005, and we wish him well in his return to pastoral ministry and say thank you to him for all of his years of service working for CEC.

▪ **Presidium and Central Committee Meetings**

By the end of 2009, CEC had to face a deficit of around 200'000 € due to the Lyon Assembly. The accounts of the yearly activities were nearly balanced as foreseen by the Budget Committee and adopted the previous Central Committee.

At its first working meeting in Geneva (16-19 December 2009) the new CEC Central Committee, elected at the Lyon Assembly, took into consideration the deficit of CEC following that Assembly and asked the Senior Management Team "to make an analysis of possible measures to reduce the expenses by 150'000 € for the Presidium in spring 2010". Another important decision taken by the Central Committee was in relation to the CEC working programme for 2009-2013. In this respect the CEC Commissions and the General Secretariat were requested to adapt the proposed working priorities in a more coherent way along the recommendations of the Lyon Policy Reference Report "and in the light of that to make concrete proposals in advance of the meeting of the CEC Presidium in spring 2010".

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The Senior Management Team worked on a concrete plan of reduction of 150'000 € in the 2010 CEC budget, a reduction that has been accepted by the CEC Presidium at its meeting in Warsaw (25-27 April 2010). The Presidium, in follow-up to the Central Committee, received the revised CEC work programme in the form of a matrix and suggested a further discussion on the strategic objectives for the work of CEC during the next period of time.

With the reduction of the costs adopted by the Presidium, CEC expects to recover an important part of the Assembly deficit by the end of 2010. CEC will have to further cut in 2011 and by the preparation of the budget for that year all these aspects should be taken into consideration.

The next Central Committee will be held in Soesterberg, The Netherlands, from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2010.

• **CEC Minutes**

You will be able to find the Minutes from the Presidium, Albania, 8-10 February 2008, the Presidium, Cyprus, 6 October 2009, the Central Committee, Cyprus, 6-11 October 2008, the Presidium, Lyon, 13 July 2009, the Central Committee, Lyon, 13-14 July 2009, and the Central Committee, Lyon, 20 July 2009 on the CEC website. For all of these, please go to the Extranet page on the CEC website at: [www.ceceurope.org/extranet/](http://www.ceceurope.org/extranet/), the *Username* for the login is: *mchurches* and the *Password* is: *minutes*, please be sure to use all lowercase letters.

• **CEC Revision Working Group**

The CEC Revision Working Group, established at the CEC 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in July 2009 in Lyon to undertake a revision of CEC including constitutional, legal and decision-making aspects of the organisation, has been hard at work. This group met so far twice (Helsinki-Finland, 5-6 November 2009 and Berlin-Germany, 6-7 February 2010). Please visit the website of this group with updates: <http://www.ccrevision.dk>

• **Lyon Assembly**

The final report from the Assembly in Lyon is now available on the CEC Website, [www.ceceurope.org](http://www.ceceurope.org), go to the History & Assemblies tab then go to the bottom of that page for the link to the report. Please note that this Report will be printed in English only and sent to you in the coming months.

• **Church and Society Commission (CSC)**

The new Church and Society Commission of CEC met in Hagenau near Strasbourg-France from 28 May to 1 June 2010. The Commission reflected on the role of religious symbols in the public sphere and noted that many conflicts over religious matters come from a lack of communication and an inability to address concerns arising from the diversity in our society today. They reminded all of us that human rights and social commitment are at the heart of our churches' calling. Please find enclosed the press release from this meeting as well as the CSC 2009 Annual Report.

• **Churches in Dialogue Commission (CID)**

The new Churches in Dialogue Commission of CEC also met for the first time at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. This commission reflected on the visions of unity in the churches today. The members of the Commission discussed together matters of faith and listened to each other with respect for the differences and diversity represented there. They also remind us that differing



visions on unity challenge ecumenism today; this raises an issue for unity based on the truths of faith. Please find enclosed the press release from this meeting.

▪ **Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)**

The events and work for the year-long Migration 2010 continue. Please go to the website of this Commission to see what has been going on, their reports and information on their upcoming events at: <http://migration2010.eu>. Please find enclosed a joint statement from CEC and CCME on the World Refugee Day as well as the CCME Activity Report 2009 and the CCME Resettlement Newsletter.

▪ **Director of the Churches in Dialogue Commission**

As I will be retiring from the position of Director of the Churches in Dialogue Commission of CEC in October, the position opening notification has been sent to all of you and been posted on the homepage of the CEC website at [www.ceceurope.org](http://www.ceceurope.org), the second item in the middle of the page. Please note that the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> of June, so there is still time for receipt of applications for this position.

Thank you for attending to this letter and its attachments, and for circulating them to the appropriate persons in your constituency. CEC is living through a challenging time of transition, and we appreciate all of your prayers as we go on this journey together.

We value greatly your support, interest and participation since all that we undertake aims to enable the fulfillment of service to the world in Christ through faithful unity.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Viorel Ionita  
CEC Acting General Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Press Release from the CSC Commission meeting
2. CSC Annual Report 2009
3. Press Release from the CID Commission meeting
4. CCME Activity Report 2009
5. CCME Resettlement Newsletter
6. CEC-CCME Joint Statement on World Refugee Day

