



Churches Together for Peace

Annual Report 2024

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INTRODUCTION

by the President



During 2024, the Conference of European Churches (CEC) extended the voices of churches by promoting ecumenical dialogue and cooperation among churches in Europe, and beyond.

CEC continued to honour its legacy as a peacebuilding organisation, founded in 1959 in the aftermath of World War II. It remained committed to promoting peace with justice, ecumenical unity, and deepening dialogue with Europe's political institutions, while being

based in Brussels.

The 2024 Annual Report shows the many ways in which CEC was called to speak truth, deconstruct violent narratives, and side with justice. We hope these pages remind you of our shared responsibility to uphold human dignity and solidarity, fostering peace for all.

In 2024, CEC advanced its Pathways to Peace initiative, bringing together churches and communities impacted by the war in Ukraine. It also raised the voice of churches in advocating for the rights and dignity of people in Armenia and Belarus. CEC professed protection of holy places of worship.

Responding to the changing realities of European societies, CEC joined hands with our Catholic brothers and sisters to begin revising the Charta Oecumenica. This effort seeks to renew the landmark ecumenical document, so it may continue to guide European churches on their common pilgrimage — shaping the present and future of Europe together with youth and people of faith.

As we review the past year, and learn more about the programmatic activities of CEC, we commit to continue supporting churches in Europe and advancing a vision of just and lasting peace.

H. E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain
CEC President

INTRODUCTION

by the General Secretary



In July 2024, I began my role as General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches. Having previously worked in the Brussels office from 2011 to 2018, I returned to find both CEC and the European context significantly changed. This Annual Report highlights how CEC is engaging with many of today's pressing challenges.

One key area is the Pathways to Peace initiative, which supports dialogue and cooperation with churches in Ukraine amid ongoing war. The suffering caused by the conflict continues daily. In response, CEC is helping facilitate theological reflection on just peace — a conversation made more urgent by Europe's evolving political landscape, including the appointment of a European Commissioner for Defence. This work echoes CEC's founding mission during the Cold War: to be a voice for peace and justice in Europe.

I also welcome the recent consultation on updating the Charta Oecumenica. The strong engagement from churches and partners shows a clear commitment to ecumenical cooperation across national and confessional lines, in a context very different from that of the early 2000s.

In these complex times, I am encouraged by the commitment of our Member Churches and the support of the CEC Secretariat, Presidency, and Governing Board. Their openness and engagement provide a strong basis for our shared work ahead.

Rev. Frank Dieter Fischbach
CEC General Secretary



Pathways to Peace

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PATHWAYS to PEACE



CEC's Pathways to Peace initiative focuses on justice, peace and reconciliation in Ukraine. During 2024, the programme was developed further by the Pathways to Peace Steering Group which met in Brussels in January 2024 to promote dialogue and action.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Pathways to Peace serves as a coordinated response of the European church fellowship, implementing events and projects, facilitating exchange among European churches on peace, and highlighting Ukrainian church voices.

The Pathways to Peace Steering Group, which gathers representatives of CEC Member Churches and resource persons from the Ukraine

region, worked on strengthening a network of church leaders, intellectuals, and academics in preparation for peace in Ukraine. They discussed how churches may advocate for the protection of destroyed, damaged, or looted religious sites in Ukraine, enhancing an ecumenical vision for just peace.

"Pathways to Peace aims to prepare for peace," said Dr Pavlo Smytsnyuk from Ukraine, a member of the Steering Group and a Mary Seeger O'Boyle Associate Research Scholar at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies of Princeton University. "We need to be ready to build peace and face the consequences of the war."



PATHWAYS to PEACE

CEC visits Ukraine

A CEC delegation, during a visit to Ukraine, met with church leaders and government officials, offering solidarity as well as strengthening relations and dialogue. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, CEC has prioritised peacebuilding in the war-torn country. The delegation, led by CEC President Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, held several meetings in Berehove, Lviv, and Kyiv from 8-10 April. “We are here to testify that our Ukrainian brothers and sisters are not abandoned and not forgotten. We are here with you and we are close,” said Archbishop Nikitas.



“We are here to testify that **our Ukrainian brothers and sisters** are not abandoned and not forgotten.”

Following the visit, a statement issued jointly by CEC and UCCRO condemned the ongoing Russian aggression on Ukraine, conveyed solidarity to those impacted by the war, and called for just and lasting peace in the region.

PATHWAYS to PEACE



European Consultation on Just Peace

In December 2024, a European Consultation on Just Peace, held in Warsaw, Poland, highlighted the complexity of the concept and the importance of aligning shared vocabulary with shared understanding for effective peacebuilding. By bringing together diverse perspectives from Ukrainian and European church leaders, as well as international ecumenical organisations, the event facilitated meaningful dialogue and strengthened the collective commitment to just peace.

About 80 participants explored theological, ethical, and practical

aspects of just peace amid Russia's aggressive war on Ukraine, focusing on truth, justice, and reconciliation. His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany of Kyiv and All Ukraine, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, thanked European churches for their humanitarian and spiritual support to Ukraine. He drew attention to the over thousand days of aggression against Ukraine, exacerbated by the misuse of religion to justify war. He stressed the need for dialogue that yields tangible outcomes and mutual accountability.

UCCRO shared insights with the consultation as well.

Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets, Vice-Chairman of the UCCRO, and Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society, reflected on how Ukrainian churches perceive the concept of just peace.

"For over a thousand days, our people have been courageously defending their homeland, their homes, and the right to life," he said. "Every day is a miracle!"

As a direct outcome of the consultation, CEC issued a heartfelt plea for a Christmas ceasefire in Ukraine, urging all parties to embrace the season of hope and humanity.



PATHWAYS to PEACE

Reflections on war in Ukraine

CEC Programme Officer for Theology and Studies Ms Katerina Pekridou contributed to discussion in an event hosted by the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) - Commission on EU External Relations, held in March 2024, in Brussels.

Pekridou shared reflections on the war in Ukraine, introducing CEC initiative Pathways to Peace, highlighting the significance of “just peace” for churches. “Essential to the work of reconciliation is justice. Christian literature has emphasised three kinds of justice: restorative, retributive and structural. Retributive justice, which holds accountable the wrongdoers for their actions, which is the task of the legally constituted state,” said Pekridou.

CEC affirmed its commitment to peacebuilding at the annual European Conference and General Meeting of the Church and Peace, held in October 2024 in Brussels. The gathering brought together key voices to address the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine and explore peaceful alternatives to militarised security.

CEC also shared insights during a conference titled “Is there a Just War? European Values in Times of Aggression,” held in October 2024



as part of the EEAS European Future Talks 2024 in Rome. Organised by COMECE and the EEAS, the event was hosted in collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

The conference gathered diverse voices to explore the complex issue of “just war” within a European context, reflecting on whether the concept holds relevance in times of heightened aggression.

PATHWAYS to PEACE

Condemning violence, promoting peace Middle East

In August 2024, CEC expressed deep concern over the escalating violence in the Middle East and also expressed solidarity with the MECC. In a letter addressed to Dr Michael E. Abs, the Secretary General of the MECC, CEC President H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, conveyed the dismay and consternation felt by CEC in response to the increasing acts of violence in the region.

In October 2024, CEC reiterated this concern with another show of solidarity. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, in a second letter to Abs, offered prayers and reaffirming CEC's unwavering support amidst the escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Archbishop Nikitas stated that the fears shared in CEC's previous letter to MECC had now become "distressing reality." He pointed to the devastation felt by people across the Middle East who "mourn the dead and injured, live in fear and terror, lose their homes and are forced to flee," while the "spiral of hatred and violence continues."

In November 2024, Abs addressed the CEC Governing Board during its meeting in Brussels. Joining online from Beirut, Abs shed light on the grave challenges facing the Middle East and called upon European



churches to support and pray for the region in the ecumenical spirit. He spoke of a region under siege for over a century, burdened by political unrest, instability, and insecurity. "The Middle East is witnessing the rise of discrimination and deep political divisions. Economic conditions are deteriorating, forcing many, especially Christians, to emigrate," he said.

**"The Middle East is
witnessing the rise of
discrimination and
deep political divisions."**

PATHWAYS to PEACE

Condemning violence, promoting peace Armenia

In November 2024, CEC urged its member churches and communities across Europe to join in a day of prayer for peace in Armenia. This initiative called for solidarity with Armenians, seeking justice, the protection of refugees, and the release of those unjustly detained amid recent conflicts.

Initiated by His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, this day of prayer reflected a commitment to supporting those affected by ongoing tensions, and to unite the Christian community in a collective expression of hope and support for Armenians.

“With deep concern, we are following the distressing reports from Armenia,” said His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, President of CEC. “The recent escalation in violence and the forced displacement of people from Artsakh is profoundly troubling.”



“The recent **escalation in violence** and the **forced displacement of people from Artsakh** is profoundly troubling.”

PATHWAYS to PEACE

Protecting sacred sites and cultural heritage

CEC highlighted the theme “Security, financial, political and legal protection of worship places and cultural heritage” at its 11th Summer School on Human Rights. The event, held in July 2024 in Malaga, Spain, was hosted by the Ecumenical Centre Los Rubios. Part of CEC Pathways to Peace initiative, the summer school focuses on peacebuilding in Europe and advocating for the protection of religious and cultural sites. Participants received advanced training on crisis management and security for worship places and cultural heritage.

CEC also highlighted protection of sacred sites and holy places at the G20 Interfaith Forum in August 2024.

“Protecting sacred sites is not just about preserving history; it’s about honouring the spiritual heritage that binds our communities together,” said H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, president of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). He contributed to discussions at the G20 Interfaith Forum and PaRD Annual Forum, which focused on the theme “Leave No One Behind: The Well-being of the Planet and its People” from 19 to 23 August in Brasilia.



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PATHWAYS to PEACE

Message of peace

CEC actively participated in the international event “Living Hope for the Earth: Justice – Peace – Creation,” organised by ACK Germany in September 2024 in Dresden. The gathering addressed global challenges, including peacebuilding, environmental justice, and care for creation.

CEC Vice President, Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter of the Church of England, attended the event and was both encouraged and challenged to consider the systemic changes needed for climate justice. She stressed the importance of “rediscovering the immense treasure of the Christian faith, including the virtues of contentment, the call to live in a communal rhythm, and the command to love people and use money, not the reverse.”

Easter message

The CEC Easter message focused on peace amid darkness. “These days when darkness seems to abide in the hearts of many and wars rage across the world, we turn to Christ and the glory of His Resurrection. May the peace, joy and love that shines forth from the empty tomb, come to abide in the hearts of all people everywhere,” reads the message on part.



Christmas prayer for peace

CEC President H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain shared a Christmas prayer for peace, which read, in part: “This Christmas, we join with the churches of all traditions, across Europe and beyond, in celebrating the birth of our Saviour. Together, we rise above dismay, uniting in spirit of fellowship and love.”



DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



In 2024, CEC brought forth the significance of Christian values for Europe's future. With the June 2024 elections prominently in the public spotlight, CEC expressed the concerns of churches with regard to ongoing consequences of war, migration, climate change, economic, health and energy crises in Europe and the world, and the difficulty faced by European citizens to respond to such a reality.

CEC stressed the need to redefine the framework of priorities for a sustainable future for Europe. All the programmatic work rested on the foundation of a vision of influencing the European political landscape, raising voices from grassroots, and strengthening democracies.

From emphasizing the need to protect civilians, to protecting holy sites and traditions, the relevance of Christian values for the European Union was brought in to sharp focus. Those working with the European institutions were helped to see Christianity's role and impact in the political debate.

In 2024, CEC brought a prophetic voice of faith—a voice loud enough to be heard.

DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Meeting with EU weighs Middle East situation

In January 2024, religious leaders meet with the EU to weigh the situation in the Middle East. Archbishop Emeritus Dr Antje Jackelén from the Church of Sweden represented the Conference of European Churches during the special high-level meeting. Jackelén offered her reflections to the meeting, which drew Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders together with EU policymakers. The vice president of the EU Commission, Margaritis Schinas, clearly underlined the importance of consulting with religious leaders. “There was a major concern related to Europe facing unprecedented levels of hate based on religion and racism—hate that has nothing to do with genuine religious belief but instead uses religion as a force,” explained Jackelén.



Contributing to European Commission's high-level meeting

CEC highlighted the concerns of European churches in the European Commission's high level meeting with religious leaders hosted by Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission in Brussels in January 2024.

CEC Vice-President Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter stressed the need to address issues related to ecology, politics, and mental health that are also part of the European way of life.

She highlighted the importance of democracy and the role of the churches in engaging with EU. “CEC is at the heart of churches and faith communities, who are important contributors to the European project of reconciliation, promoting universal values of human dignity, sanctity of life, equality, respect for all, including minorities and caring for the environment,” she said.

Rev. Dr Agnes Pángyánszky, Lutheran Church in Hungary, who also represented CEC, highlighted the significance of education, and the need for a stronger dialogue and process to address conflicts that are posing challenges to the region. “It is vital to dialogue further about our agendas and our hearts and our souls, and also about our words and our prayers,” she said.

The Article 17 TFEU Annual High-Level meeting brought together religious leaders to reflect on the theme “The European Way of Life in times of instability.”

DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



European churches contribute to Article 17 Dialogue Seminar

The significance of the 2024 European elections, and the role of churches in addressing contemporary challenges and encouraging voter engagement, was highlighted by Dr Hillie van de Streek, who serves as General Secretary of the Council of Churches in the Netherlands, representing CEC at the Article 17 TFEU Dialogue Seminar. "As European churches, we too must encourage voter engagement by taking a clear stance. We must call upon our church members and people of faith to vote for a party that defends our fundamental European values, as listed in Article 2 of the Treaty. We must speak in a time that we renunciate our task as churches in Europe if we keep silent," said Van de Streek.

Cooperation between churches and political actors

CEC participated in a conference addressing the theme "Christian churches and political actors: which conditions for which cooperation?" The conference was held in Paris in March 2024. It was organised by the three partner faculties of ISEO - Higher Institute of Ecumenical Studies, including Theologicum, Institute of Orthodox Theology of Saint-Serge and Protestant Institute of Theology of Paris, together with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law of the Institut Catholique de Paris.

DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



CEC Governing Board meets MEP Vangelis Meimarakis

The CEC Governing Board met with Mr Vangelis Meimarakis, MEP and Co-Chair of the EPP Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue. The meeting, held in November 2024 at the European Parliament in Brussels, provided a platform to discuss the role of European churches in addressing urgent social and political challenges. CEC President H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain expressed deep gratitude to Meimarakis and emphasised CEC's commitment to fostering dialogue, peace, and reconciliation. Highlighting the diversity of CEC's membership and Christianity's contributions to European history, culture, and society, Archbishop Nikitas remarked: "For a stronger Europe, we must work together towards just peace. The beauty of Christianity lies in its diversity, which unites churches and communities beyond differences."

Contributing to European Parliament hearings and seminars

CEC contributed to a discussion on combating hate speech during a hearing titled "Why Words Matter: An Interreligious Perspective to Combating Hate Speech," held at the European Parliament in November 2024. Dr Elizabeta Kitanović, CEC Programme Officer for Advocacy and Dialogue, presented key insights from the CEC publication, *Alternative to Populism: A Human Rights Perspective*, focusing on the legal protection of religious minorities in the public sphere. The event, co-organised by the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe, the OSCE Office for ODIHR, and KAICIID, brought together representatives from European institutions, religious organisations, and advocacy groups.



DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



During a European Parliament seminar in December 2024, CEC brought a message that all generations must work together as equals. “Fair intergenerational dialogue is a core element in the fabric of our societies,” was the key statement expressed by the Vice-president of the European Parliament Antonella Sberna, who hosted a seminar under the title “The Importance of Intergenerational Dialogue in Addressing Europe’s Future Challenges.”

Henriette Greulich, chairperson of the World Student Christian Federation for Europe, delivered a message on behalf of CEC emphasizing that intergenerational dialogue is about mutual learning. Her presence was one of many examples of CEC promoting youth and young voices in important debates.

Working with ecumenical partners

Throughout 2024, CEC worked with ecumenical partner organisations to deepen dialogue with political institutions and make Christian values heard.



DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



Belgium to the EU, in January 2024, in Brussels, to discuss the priorities of the Belgian EU Presidency. CEC and COMECE expressed concern about the misuse of religion, misinformation, societal polarisation, populism and extremism, especially in view of the 2024 elections of the European Parliament.

In its contribution to the meeting, the delegation noted that churches in the EU are committed to dialogue, and they work jointly to ensure that respect for the values of human dignity, democracy, solidarity, freedom, equality, and the rule of law are at the forefront of EU actions and policies both globally and in Europe. “Joint efforts for justice, peace, and respectful cooperation among countries, as well as different societal groups and religions in Europe, are more important than ever in the current situation,” reads the contribution.

EU Presidencies: meeting with Belgian and Hungarian leaders

Ecumenical delegations representing CEC and COMECE remained a significant presence during 2024, meeting with EU leaders to bring the voices of churches into sharp focus for policymakers. Together, CEC and COMECE represent a membership of around 380 million citizens throughout EU Member states, and they are strongly committed to the Christian ideals of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

An ecumenical delegation representing CEC and COMECE met with Ambassador Willem van de Voorde, Permanent Representative of



DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

A CEC-COMECE delegation also met with Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén in June 2024, in Budapest, to discuss concerns and perspectives in view of the Hungarian EU Presidency.

European churches highlighted the need to recommit to the founding values of the European Union, with a particular emphasis on unity and solidarity as guiding principles for the forthcoming EU strategic agenda.

“Christian values, shared by a majority of European citizens, can provide orientation and a guarantee of a safe approach to the changes we face, as well as contribute to overcoming societal gaps and strengthening the cohesion on the continent,” reads a contribution from the delegation. “An effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights is key to building a fairer and more inclusive European Union, with high standards in decent working conditions, as well as broad social protection and safety nets.”



“Christian values, shared by a majority of European citizens, can provide orientation and a guarantee of a safe approach to the changes we face.”

DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Christian values influenced European elections

The significance of Christian values for Europe's future, especially since European elections were held in June 2024, was highlighted during 2024.

Representatives of European churches, EU officials, ecumenical organisations and Catholic NGOs working with the EU met in January in Brussels during a gathering organised by CEC, COMECE, and IAO.

Then in March 2024, heads of four European organisations, representing diverse Christian churches and entities, issued a joint declaration ahead of the 2024 European elections, affirming their commitment to work together with the European institutions, MEP candidates and political parties to promote a positive European agenda that takes its inspiration from Christian values, strengthening Article 17 TFEU dialogue.

The joint declaration, issued in March 2024, was signed by CEC, COMECE, IAO and Together for Europe.

The declaration emphasises the importance of recognising Christian values as the foundation of the European project. Churches, therefore, advocate for the integration of Christian values into political platforms and pre-election campaigns, and simultaneously call for a stance against the misuse of religion for political ends. Finally, the declaration encourages the EU to implement Article 17 of the Treaty on the TFEU, which foresees an open, transparent and regular dialogue between Churches and the EU.



DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

In May 2024, church representatives and politicians gathered in Thessaloniki, highlighting Christian values, what it means to the churches and how these values can reflect in European politics and society amid growing secularisation.

The conference was organised by CEC in cooperation with IOA, COMECE, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki, and the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

“We are united in spirit, and we support the efforts of all who aspire to see Christian values in European society,” said CEC President Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain. “The idea of erasing Christian values, traditions and language inevitably means erasing our own identity.”



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CHARTA OECUMENICA

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CHARTA OECUMENICA

Revision process evolves with valuable input

A joint working group from the CEC and the CCEE met in March in Lodz, Poland to update and revise the ecumenical Charta Oecumenica document.

The Charta Oecumenica is a joint CEC and CCEE document. It was signed by the presidents of the two organisations in 2001 and it seeks to uphold and develop fellowship amongst churches. It marked the beginning of the century by calling the churches in Europe to dialogue, unity and action, and particularly to their common responsibility of realising peace and justice in Europe.



The aim of the working group is to revise the current Charta Ecumenica and update areas to reflect the changing circumstances in European society, as well as among Christians. The goal is to preserve the document's relevance in today's world.

CEC and CCEE then held an online event in September 2024 to advance the revision of the Charta Oecumenica, focusing on key elements that will shape the updated document.

The online webinar stimulated the consultation process and invited CEC and CCEE constituencies, as well as a broader ecumenical public to discuss the first draft.

In November 2024, the joint CEC-CCEE working group concluded a meeting in Istanbul, hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to advance the revision of the Charta Oecumenica.

CHARTA OECUMENICA

Churches and ecumenical organisations were invited to join the consultation, which was open from 1 September until 31 December 2024. Their feedback will be essential for shaping the Charta Œcumenica. Early contributions from churches and ecumenical bodies have already provided valuable insights for refining the document.



A collage of diverse hands stacked together, symbolizing unity and human rights. The hands are of various skin tones and are arranged in a circular pattern, with some hands having rings. The background is a solid light beige color.

HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

HUMAN RIGHTS

Freedom of religion and belief

CEC contributed to a discussion on freedom of religion or belief at the meeting of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty held in Brussels in March 2024.



In May 2024, the CEC president His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain highlighted the relevance of human dignity and rights at the first meeting of the newly established Joint Commission on the Social Problem of Human Trafficking.

The meeting, held between the representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece, was hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the blessing of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and took place at the Patriarchal Residence.

HUMAN RIGHTS

European churches call for renewed commitment to human rights

Observing Human Rights Day in December 2024, CEC leaders expressed gratitude for progress made in protecting human rights over recent decades—yet also deep concern over increasing instances of violations and neglect of fundamental human rights in the world today.



“Brutal offenses, systemic injustices, and the erosion of the rule of law and democracy not only threaten individuals but also undermine the foundation of societies built on justice, solidarity, and peace.”

“Brutal offenses, systemic injustices, and the erosion of the rule of law and democracy not only threaten individuals but also undermine the foundation of societies built on justice, solidarity, and peace,” said CEC President H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain. “European churches, as part of their mission to serve and protect the vulnerable, cannot remain silent in the face of such challenges.”

A person's hands are holding a smartphone in the foreground, displaying a news application. The phone screen shows a red header with the word "NEWS" and a hamburger menu icon. Below the header, there's a section titled "Latest Stories" featuring a large image of a group of people. The background is a blurred laptop screen showing a website with a grid of images and text. A bright light source is visible in the upper left, creating a warm glow. Two overlapping geometric shapes, a yellow trapezoid and a dark blue trapezoid, are positioned on the left side of the image, serving as a design element for the text.

COMMUNICATIONS

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COMMUNICATIONS

Exploring truth and ethics in the digital age

CEC participated in the 2024 European Christian Internet Conference (ECIC), held in September, hosted by the World Council of Churches in Bossey, Geneva. The conference, themed “What is Truth? – Ethical and Practical Issues in the Use of AI,” brought together a diverse group of communication professionals to address the complexities of artificial intelligence in the digital age.



ECIC has been at the forefront of integrating digital advancements with Christian values. This year's event attracted a wide range of participants, including online pastors, digital strategists, content creators, and web and social media managers, all collaborating to tackle pressing ethical concerns surrounding AI.

Shining light on European churches' aspirations for just peace

As a European consultation organised CEC unfolded in Warsaw in December 2024, communicators from Europe and beyond drew together to document the stories and testimonies from Ukraine and in the region—all in search of a “just peace.”

As insights were shared at the consultation, communicators distributed them via social media, video clips, press releases, and photos.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pathways to Peace video series

CEC published monthly feature interviews from the CEC constituency, especially from Ukraine, along with other member churches of CEC in Europe, impacted by the war and involved in peacebuilding efforts. The interviews are original testimonies highlighting how people see Christian hope amid war.

For example, in October 2024, Dr Andrii Smyrnov, professor at the National University of Ostroh Academy and member of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, reflected on Christian hope and prayer for peace in Ukraine. He highlighted the role of CEC and European churches in standing with Ukraine.

“Pathways to Peace is a dialogue focused on achieving just peace through God’s mercy and love,” said Smyrnov on the video.



“Pathways to Peace is a dialogue focused on achieving just peace through God’s mercy and love.”



FINANCE

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FINANCE

CEC continues to be deeply appreciative of the membership contributions that enable us to provide hope and seek justice amid challenging times. Thanks to the deep commitment from Member Churches, CEC has deepened its dialogue with European political institutions, enhanced the ecumenical vision of a just peace, preserve and deepen fellowship among churches, and advance human rights.

CEC also received generous support from individuals, congregations and parishes, and church-related organisations and foundations.

During 2024, in total, CEC's asset and liability balance amounted to 2.548.643,76 €.

Please continue to support and pray for CEC during 2025 and beyond.





APPENDICES

ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

ABBREVIATIONS

CCEE

Catholic Council of European Bishops' Conferences

COMECE

Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union

EEAS

European External Action Service

EPP

European People's Party

KAICIID

International Dialogue Centre

IAO

Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy

MECC

Middle East Council of Churches

MEP

Member of Parliament

ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

TFEU

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

UCCRO

Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several lit candles. The candles are white and have yellow-orange flames. They are arranged in a row, with some in the foreground and others slightly behind. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a peaceful atmosphere. The candles are set against a dark background, which makes the light from the flames stand out.

MEMBER CHURCHES

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MEMBER CHURCHES

Albania

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

Armenia

Armenian Apostolic Church

Austria

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria

Evangelical Church H.C. in Austria

Old-Catholic Church of Austria

United Methodist Church in Austria

Belgium

United Protestant Church in Belgium

Bulgaria

Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria

Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Bulgaria

Croatia

Baptist Union of Croatia

Church of God in Croatia

Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia

Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia

Reformed Christian (Calvinist) Church in Croatia

Cyprus

Church of Cyprus

Czech Republic

Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Old-Catholic Church in the Czech Republic

Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia

Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic

United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic

MEMBER CHURCHES

Denmark

Baptist Union of Denmark

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Estonia

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Orthodox Church of Estonia

Finland

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Orthodox Church of Finland

France

Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France

Malagasy Protestant Church in France

Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine

United Protestant Church of France

Germany

Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany

Protestant Church in Germany

Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptist Union)

United Methodist Church in Germany

Greece

Church of Greece

Evangelical Church of Greece

Hungary

Baptist Union of Hungary

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary

Reformed Church in Hungary

United Methodist Church in Hungary

Iceland

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland

MEMBER CHURCHES

Ireland

Church of Ireland

Methodist Church in Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Salvation Army – UK and Ireland Territory

Italy

Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy

Evangelical Methodist Church in Italy

Waldensian Church in Italy

Latvia

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia

Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad

Liechtenstein

Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania

Luxembourg

Protestant Church of Luxembourg

Protestant Reformed Church of Luxembourg

Netherlands

Mennonite Church in the Netherlands

Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands

Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Remonstrant Church

North Macedonia

United Methodist Church Macedonia

Norway

Church of Norway

MEMBER CHURCHES

Poland

Baptist Union of Poland

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland

Old-Catholic Mariavite Church in Poland

Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church

Polish Catholic Church (Old-Catholic)

United Methodist Church in Poland

Portugal

Evangelical Methodist Church in Portugal

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal

Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church

Romania

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania

Reformed Church in Romania (Kiralyhagomellek District)

Romanian Orthodox Church

Transylvanian Reformed Church

Russia

Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia

The Russian Orthodox Church (suspended its membership in 2009)

Serbia

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia

Serbian Orthodox Church

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia

United Methodist Church in Serbia

Slovakia

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia

Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia

Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia

MEMBER CHURCHES

Slovenia

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession
in the Republic of Slovenia

Spain

Spanish Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

Sweden

Church of Sweden
Uniting Church in Sweden

Switzerland

Protestant Church in Switzerland
Old-Catholic Church of Switzerland
United Methodist Church in Switzerland

Ukraine

Reformed Church in Transcarpathia
Orthodox Church of Ukraine

United Kingdom

Baptist Union of Great Britain
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Church of Ireland
Congregational Federation
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches
Methodist Church in Britain
Methodist Church in Ireland
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Salvation Army – UK and Ireland Territory
The Scottish Episcopal Church
Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide

MEMBER CHURCHES

The Church of The Lord Worldwide – Aladura

International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate

European Baptist Federation

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Russia
and Other States

Moravian Church – European Continental Province

Salvation Army European Zone, International Headquarters

United Methodist Church – Nordic & Baltic Area

A photograph of a church organ with numerous brass pipes of varying sizes, arranged in a tiered fashion. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the metallic texture of the pipes. The background shows the dark wooden structure of the organ case and the ceiling of the church, which features a geometric pattern of beams.

NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

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NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

Austria

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria

Belgium

Consultation of Christian Churches in Belgium

Czech Republic

Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic

Denmark

National Council of Churches in Denmark

Estonia

Estonian Council of Churches

Finland

Finnish Ecumenical Council

France

French Protestant Federation

Germany

Council of Christian Churches in Germany

Hungary

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary

Ireland

Irish Council of Churches

Italy

Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

The Netherlands

Council of Churches in the Netherlands

NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

Norway

Christian Council of Norway

Poland

Polish Ecumenical Council

Portugal

Portuguese Council of Christian Churches

Romania

Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania

Slovakia

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia

Spain

Spanish Committee on Cooperation between the Churches

Sweden

Christian Council of Sweden

Switzerland

National Council of Churches in Switzerland

United Kingdom

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Churches Together in England

Churches Together in Wales



ORGANISATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

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ORGANISATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

Church and Peace

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

Conference of European Clergy

Conference of European University Chaplains

Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women

Eurodiaconia

European Alliance of YMCAs

European Forum of Christian Men

The European YWCA

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) -
Europe and Middle East Section (EMES)

Intereuropean Commission on Church and School

International Association for Christian Education

European Consultation on Just Peace

International Prison Chaplains Association - Europe

Oikosnet

Protestant and Anglican Network for life-long
learning in Europe - EAEE

Union of Evangelical Free Churches

World Student Christian Federation (Europe)

Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)



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GOVERNING BOARD

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PATHWAYS TO PEACE STEERING GROUP

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