



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Resilient hope *in the* risen Lord





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Introduction

CEC's 2025 Annual Report illustrates how churches, together, have continued to witness the way toward resilient hope founded in the Gospel of Easter. As Europe—and the world—face challenges that have proven, while not intractable, certainly complex, CEC has responded by expanding its Pathways to Peace initiative, deepening unity, and engaging in substantive dialogue with European political institutions. The year 2025 showed us that prayers, dialogue, and action can make a difference.

Through CEC's Pathways to Peace initiative, we were invited to participate in many conferences amid the ongoing war against Ukraine. The ecumenical conference "Resisting Empire, Promoting Peace," held in Helsinki, Finland, in December 2025, offered a strong theological critique of the Russian World ideology and its misuse of Christian teaching. The conference statement, titled "Churches Confront the 'Russian World' Ideology," was adopted by the CEC Governing Board in March 2026, and received positive feedback from many church actors and organisations.

We also welcomed a historic step towards Christian unity: the Updated Charta Oecumenica. This joint document marked a milestone in the ecumenical journey of European churches, renewing their commitment to walk together in dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared witness in response to the challenges of our time.

CEC's dialogue with European institutions showed that the European Commission gives still attention to the voice of churches. CEC, working closely with its partners, advanced the idea that churches and faith-based organizations are reliable and distinctive dialogue partners for the EU institutions. Together with the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union as well as with national church councils, CEC held valuable meetings with EU presidencies in Denmark and Poland.

Engagement with CEC member churches has deepened during 2025. A significant example of this trend is an invitation by the Christian Council of Sweden to participate in the centenary commemoration of the 1925 Universal Christian Conference on





Life and Work in Stockholm. Throughout 2025, CEC contributed to many workshops and conferences, ceremonies and services. Another significant example was a gathering in Nyberg in September 2025, convened by CEC and the National Council of Churches in Denmark, focusing on the role of Christian citizenship and the responsibility of churches in engaging with public life amid shifting politics, renewed security concerns, and the ongoing call to peace. We remember with deep appreciation the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark and the ceremony of remembrance that CEC was founded in 1959 in Nyborg—now commemorated with a special plaque.

Finally, and very importantly, these complex times are also times of decreased funding and resources for so many faith-based organizations. That is why I am greatly encouraged and inspired by the steadfast commitment of CEC Member Churches, donors, and contributors of all kinds. Your open hearts and minds keep us all moving together as we show the way toward resilient hope.



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



Rev. Frank Dieter Fischbach
CEC General Secretary

Pathways to Peace



CEC's Pathways to Peace initiative focuses on promoting justice, reconciliation, and peace in Ukraine, following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022.

Pathways to Peace develops cooperation between church leaders, intellectuals, and academics in preparation for peace in Ukraine. It engages in dialogue with European institutions, addressing crucial political concerns, and advocating for the protection of destroyed religious sites in Ukraine.

During 2025, new facets of Pathways to Peace emerged, even while its original emphasis flourished.



Pathways to Peace

Nordic bishops visit Ukraine

A visit by Nordic bishops to Ukraine brought moments of solidarity amid war and crises. The bishops were reconnecting with Ukrainians—including ecclesial as well as state representatives.

Dr Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, a member of the CEC Pathways to Peace Steering Group, was part of the delegation that travelled to Ukraine.

“Meeting with Ukrainian colleagues – pastors, relief workers, and community mobilizers – and simply seeing them again in real life was a joy and very meaningful,” said Jørgensen, who is Academic Secretary for the Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, a Member Church of CEC.





CEC president meets with UCCRO delegation

A delegation from the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) met with CEC President His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, in January 2025, at his residence in London.

Archbishop Nikitas outlined CEC's efforts to advocate for justice, peace, and reconciliation in Ukraine. He also shared insights on interfaith dialogue and religious life in the United Kingdom.

The UCCRO delegation thanked CEC for its support and efforts to amplify Ukrainian voices in ecumenical and political discussions.

Confronting “Russian World” ideology

A statement, “Churches Confront the ‘Russian World’ Ideology,” released by the ecumenical conference on “Resisting Empire, Promoting Peace,” outlined clear actions churches can take toward peace and reconciliation and affirmed a strong theological critique of the ideology and its misuse of Christian teaching.

In December 2025, about 90 church leaders and representatives of churches, national councils of churches, ecumenical partners, and scholars gathered in Helsinki, Finland, for the conference, organised by CEC in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Orthodox Church of Finland.

The statement underscores that Russia’s war against Ukraine—fuelled by the “Russian World” ideology—is a military, political, and humanitarian assault that threatens both the lives of millions and the democratic foundations of Europe.

“The ‘Russian World’ ideology denies the national identity of Ukrainians and neighbouring nations, as well as their right to self-determination,” reads the statement. “The Russian Orthodox Church continues to provide quasi-theological and institutional support for the invasion, thereby silencing dissent within its own clergy and other members and promoting so-called ‘traditional values’ to justify Russia’s actions.”



Calling for prayers and action

Marking three years of Russian invasion

CEC president H.E. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain issued a statement in February 2025 marking the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. "In the face of immense suffering and injustice, the Ukrainian people continue to show unwavering resilience in their fight for freedom and independence," said Archbishop Nikitas. "Now more than ever, our solidarity must be matched by concrete action for a just and lasting peace."

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Urgently appealing for just peace

CEC endorsed an urgent appeal from UCCRO, calling the global community of believers to act for truth, justice, and peace in Ukraine.

The appeal was made during a Global Interfaith online meeting, “Hear our cry for justice,” held in July 2025, International Criminal Justice Day, organised by UCCRO and the Schuman Centre for European Studies, Netherlands.

Quoting the appeal, the religious leaders of Ukraine described “a desperate cry concerning the humanitarian and spiritual catastrophe unfolding in Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation’s aggressive war.”





Underlining responsibility

In August 2025, CEC expressed deep concern over high-level meetings of US President Donald Trump with the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine, as well as with European leaders. In a statement issued by Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, President of CEC, churches underlined the urgent responsibility of political leaders in the face of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine.

“CEC urges political leaders to take decisions that will put an end to the killings and establish a just and lasting peace in Ukraine,” Archbishop Nikitas said.

Preserving Armenia's heritage

CEC expressed its deep concern regarding the current situation in Armenia and the protection of its religious and cultural heritage, especially in the context of recent developments affecting Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

CEC General Secretary, Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, participated in the international conference “Preservation of Armenian Religious, Cultural and Historical Heritage in Artsakh/ Nagorno-Karabakh,” held in May 2025 in Bern, Switzerland.

“CEC follows with serious concern the challenges faced by Armenia, where we have an important Member Church,” said Fischbach. “It was a privilege to participate in this important conference, to listen to moving testimonies and expert contributions, and to show our solidarity with the Armenian people and churches. Protecting cultural heritage is essential to preserving identity, memory and justice.”



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2025 highlights

Sharing insights

Ms Katerina Pekridou, CEC Programme Officer for Theology and Studies, participated in the Nordic-Baltic Ecumenical Secretaries Meeting hosted by the Christian Council of Sweden and focusing on the theme “The Ecumenical Year 2025.”

Pekridou also contributed to a symposium on “Security in Europe: Religious Dimensions of War and Moral Responsibility for Peace,” held in Munich. The event was organised in the context of the Munich Security Conference, in cooperation with Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Ukrainian Catholic University Lviv, and the University of Notre Dame USA.

“In an increasingly complex and violent world, churches and individual Christians, along with other communities of living faiths and people of no faith, have come to recognise that working for peace constitutes a primary expression of our common responsibility for life in the world. This responsibility is grounded on the essential goodness of all human beings and the whole of God’s creation,” she stated.





Advancing dialogue

CEC contributed to advancing dialogue by supporting the International Workshop on Healing of Wounded Memories, held in Vilnius, Lithuania. Organised by PRO ORIENTE, in cooperation with Renovabis, the workshop gathered church leaders, theologians, and communication experts under the theme: “Ecumenical Challenges in the Digital Age – Context, Experiences, Practice.”

A key voice at the workshop was Dr Pavlo Smytsnyuk from Ukraine. He is a member of CEC’s Pathways to Peace Steering Group and Petrach Fellow at the George Washington University. Reflecting on Christian theology and the legacy of wounds, he remarked:

“Wounds hold a special significance in Christian theology and imagination. When the Risen Christ appears to Thomas, the apostle is invited to place his fingers into the Lord’s wounds... The veneration of martyrs reveals not only the values to be cherished but also, and more importantly, who the ‘other’ is that one should beware of.”

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, CEC General Secretary, participated in the 13th European Remembrance Symposium and International Conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. The event, titled “The Spirit of Helsinki Then and Now,” was organised by the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity.

In his remarks, Fischbach described the Helsinki Final Act as “a pan-European document and a political process that embodies bridge-building and cohesion in Europe – aligning closely with the vision and mission of the Conference of European Churches.”

Reflecting on ways forward

Prof. Petr Kratochvíl, CEC Governing Board Member from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, reflected on Pathways to Peace initiative and current geopolitical challenges at the 2025 Virtual General Assembly.

He noted that “the transformation of global politics has accelerated dramatically and not always for the better,” urging churches to reassess how they respond to conflicts and justice in a complex and shifting environment.

CEC made a strong contribution to the Ecumenical Week in Stockholm, held under the theme “Time for God’s Peace.” Through its leadership and initiatives, CEC highlighted the role of European churches in addressing questions of solidarity and peace at a time of war and global insecurity.

CEC President Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain took part in the panel “In Pluribus Unum: Developing an Ecumenical Hermeneutic to Overcome the Division from 451 and Beyond.”

“It is a blessing and honour to represent CEC in this historical gathering in Stockholm. It allowed another generation to dedicate itself to cooperation and a shared vision. We give a common witness to the world that we can dialogue, face challenges together and grow in our efforts for unity,” said Archbishop Nikitas.

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Amplifying voices

Voices from countries most directly affected by war and repression were heard in Europe's wider ecumenical fellowship. One of these voices was Dr Natallia Vasilevich, a Belarusian Orthodox theologian, human rights activist, and an expert at the OSCE ODIHR Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief. A member of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and member of the CEC Pathways to Peace Steering Group, she is among the founders of Christians Against War — the largest Christian anti-war media resource in Eastern Europe, in Russian language.

Christians Against War grew out of Christian Vision, created by Belarusian Christians in 2020 during protests against election fraud and state violence. “Since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, we started posting on Christian Vision media,” Vasilevich recalled. “By March, as the war seemed to be lasting, we decided to create a new project. Telegram plays a special role in Eastern Europe as an uncensored platform, which made it possible to create media really fast. Soon after, we also launched a website to keep all news, articles, reflections, and monitoring in an archive.”

Also in September, H.E. Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili was a presenter at the meeting of the European National Councils of Churches and CEC Member Churches in Nyborg, Denmark, organised by CEC together with the National Council of Churches in Denmark.



Songulashvili, a lifelong advocate for religious liberty and human rights, serves as Metropolitan Bishop of Tbilisi and Senior Pastor of the Peace Cathedral. He is also Professor of Comparative Theology at Ilia State University, a Bible translator, and a peace-builder active across the Middle East.

“As Georgians, we are grateful that the world finally awoke in the aftermath of Russia’s brutal assault on Ukraine,” Songulashvili said. “What for decades had been ignored or underestimated could no longer be denied.”

CEC contributed to an international conference on Orthodoxy in Imperial and Post-Imperial Context held at the University of Tartu, co-organised by the Volos Academy for Theological Studies and the Orthodox Church of Estonia.

CEC staff member Katerina Pekridou, Programme Officer for Theology and Studies, presented on Theology under Empire: Christian Complicity and Resistance in the Context of Russia’s War against Ukraine.

She observed that both political and religious leaderships employ spiritual imagery to frame the war as a civilisational and metaphysical struggle. “When religion is used to sanctify violence, it ceases to serve the Gospel of peace and becomes an instrument of domination,” Pekridou noted.

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Viewing—and understanding—together

“Ukraine: Whole, Broken, Burnt, Renewed”

Andrej Strocaŭ is the formerly anonymous artist whose illustrations were at the heart of an animated short film about Ukraine, screened at the CEC General Assembly in Tallinn, 2023. Nearly two years later, Strocaŭ could publicly associate his name with his work, as he left Belarus for Lithuania. The two-and-a-half-minute film, animated by Samuel Pfeffer, titled: “Ukraine: Whole, Broken, Burnt, Renewed,” drew a deep emotional global response.

“The film is existential and universal; it’s about the war and fires that destroy life itself,” said Strocaŭ.

“Pathways to Just Peace”

In May 2025, a newly released video, “Pathways to Just Peace,” offered a compelling array of voices, all of which contributed to the ongoing and complex answer to this often painful question.

An outcome of the European Consultation on Just Peace, organised by CEC in December 2024, the video captures key insights, reflections, and testimonies on how churches and ecumenical partners are responding to war and conflict, and working together to promote a vision of just peace grounded in Christian values.

The diversity of voices and images in the video broadens and deepens this vision. As CEC President Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain notes, “we come from different places, different understandings.”



The Charta Oecumenica got a makeover in 2025—and churches across Europe were involved in very positive ways.

While it's a complex document, at its heart the Charta has a straightforward aim: to preserve and develop fellowship among churches. The original Charta Oecumenica was a joint document developed by CEC and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE). Signed by the presidents of the two organisations in 2001, it became a foundational document for ecumenism in Europe. And it made a difference at the grassroots—even for people who haven't heard of it.

Charta Oecumenica

Updated version honed and released

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“The Charta changed relationships quite a bit and opened up new church agreements,” she said. “In some regions, it even contributed to the mutual recognition of baptism.”

Nearly 25 years later, CEC and CCEE jointly asked the question: how does this document still speak to us? The two organisations decided together that it was time to update the Charta so it might speak into ecumenism—and to the needs in the world—today.

The Charta is divided into articles that move into commitments by the churches. “It makes very practical and useful recommendations for ecumenical conversations and cooperation,” said Schlenker. “It was always meant as a tool and a resource.”



Consultative process

The first draft of the revised Charta Oecumenica was released in March 2024 after being started by CEC and CCEE. During 2025, the drafting committee—comprised of three members of each organisation plus consultative experts—received more than 450 pages of responses coming from more than 70 churches and church bodies from all parts of Europe.

“We had a really wide response—which we didn’t expect—and that was very encouraging,” said Schlenker. “In addition, these responses were really constructive and very clear so they influenced the final document significantly.”

Historic step toward Christian unity

With a historic step towards Christian unity, CEC and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences launched the Updated Charta Oecumenica in November 2025, in Rome. This joint document marked a milestone in the ecumenical journey of European churches, renewing their commitment to walk together in dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared



witness in response to the challenges of our time.

The updated Charta was officially signed by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, President of CEC, and Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius, President of CCEE. Together, they affirmed the renewed dedication to continue building bridges between churches in Europe.





CHARTA
OECUMENICA

Guidelines for the Growing Cooperation
among the Churches in Europe
2008

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“This Charta Oecumenica is a call to conscience and cooperation,” said Archbishop Nikitas. “Our commitment to one another as churches is not abstract—it is grounded in shared faith, lived out amid pain, division, and hope. In a fragmented and secular Europe, the Charta urges us to rediscover the strength of our communion and the urgency of our mission. We must proclaim the Gospel together, uphold human dignity, and work side by side for justice, peace, and care for creation. This is our ecumenical vocation—not just to speak of unity, but to live it.”

Archbishop Grušas emphasised that the updated Charta comes at a crucial time in Europe’s journey. “Our churches are called to be signs of unity and hope—not only in words but in action. This Charta equips us to respond together to the wounds of war, displacement, and the ethical challenges of new technologies. It reminds us to walk humbly, confront past failings, and create spaces of healing and reconciliation. It also calls us to listen to the voices of young people and involve them in shaping the path ahead. We are stronger when we stand together.”

This newly updated version—launched in the year marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea—reflects the evolving social, spiritual, and ecological landscape of Europe. It addresses the pressing needs of today’s world, including the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, the embrace of migrants and refugees, the urgent call to safeguard creation, and the deepening of relationships with Jewish and Muslim communities.

The document also offers a Christian reflection on the ethical dimensions of new technologies, and it amplifies the role of youth as active contributors and leaders in ecumenism. A central focus throughout is the commitment to offer a united Christian voice in the public sphere—one grounded in compassion, justice, and shared responsibility for the future of Europe.

Archbishops Nikitas and Grušas presented the revised Charta Oecumenica to His Holiness Pope LEO XIV during a private audience at the Vatican.

Pope Leo underlined the importance of revisiting the Charta twenty-five years after its first signing, stating, “Certainly, the challenges Christians face on the ecumenical journey are constantly evolving.”

**“ This Charta
Oecumenica is a call
to conscience and
cooperation ”**











Dialogue with European Institutions

In 2025, CEC deepened its dialogue with European institutions, expressing the hopes and concerns of churches with regard to just peace, citizenship, inequality, and other issues that affect the daily lives of countless Europeans.

CEC also stressed the need for a new European security architecture as well as fair migration and asylum policies. More than ever, CEC influenced the European political landscape at high levels, amplifying voices from grassroots that called for strengthening democracies and social cohesion.

Solidarity with Belarus

Churches in Belarus are facing growing repression following the disputed presidential elections, warned Rev. Frank Dieter Fischbach, CEC General Secretary, in January 2025. Highlighting the persecution of clergy from Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, and Protestant communities, he said, “where democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are violated, churches and religions inevitably bear the consequences.”

The European Parliament and the European Commission also condemned the elections, calling them a “sham” and rejecting their legitimacy. Leading MEPs criticised widespread irregularities and the lack of transparency during the vote.



Strengthening dialogue

Shaping the role of churches

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, CEC General Secretary, took part in the Plenary Assembly of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), held in Nemi, Italy, in March 2025. He welcomed dialogue at the meeting and underlined the vital role of churches in shaping Europe's future steadfast in hope.

COMECE is a long-standing Catholic partner of CEC in the framework of the Article 17 Dialogue with the European Union.

“I greatly appreciated the exchange with the members of the Assembly, including the spiritual dimension of our time together,” said Fischbach. “It was a privilege to share about the work of CEC, especially in these times of profound change in Europe.”

In his remarks, Fischbach drew parallels between the founding of CEC in the aftermath of World War II and the present moment. “CEC was born in a time that called for peace, reconciliation and bridge-building—across the Iron Curtain. Today, similar challenges call for renewed commitment.”



Reflecting on security and Europe's future

CEC contributed to the 25th International Conference “The Role of Christians in the Process of European Integration – A Lonely Europe?” which brought together political leaders, academics, church representatives, and civil society to debate the meaning of security, democracy, and European values.

Hosted by the European People's Party Group in the European Parliament and the Tadeusz Pieronek Foundation, in cooperation with the Robert Schuman Foundation, the Polish EPP delegation, and COMECE, the event took place in Kraków in September 2025. One of the central sessions, “What does a safe Europe mean for Christians?” explored theological, ethical, and social dimensions of safety in Europe today.



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**Gospel continually expands
the circle of concern to include
the neighbour, the stranger,
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Representing CEC, Katerina Pekridou, Programme Officer for Theology and Studies, reflected on the biblical roots of the concept of security and its relevance for today's societies. She underlined that the Christian tradition does not promise a life free of risk, but rather calls for compassion, service, and solidarity even in vulnerable circumstances.

Christian faith does not ignore the importance of safety of our country, or the region — it takes seriously our duty to care for ourselves and those entrusted to us. But the Gospel continually expands the circle of concern to include the neighbour, the stranger, even the enemy.

Pekridou concluded by noting that true safety is not only about protection from harm, but living a life a life of dignity and abundance. Fostering a genuine sense of security within society, means living in free, safe and just communities and a sustainable environment, access to healthcare, education and the arts, dignified work, solidarity and care for the most vulnerable.

Christian citizenship in times of change

CEC and the National Council of Churches in Denmark convened a meeting of the European National Councils of Churches and CEC Member Churches in September 2025 in Nyborg, Denmark. The gathering focused on the role of Christian citizenship and the responsibility of churches in engaging with public life amid shifting politics, renewed security concerns, and the ongoing call to peace across the continent.

Participants affirmed that Christian citizenship in Europe must be understood as inclusive and responsible engagement in society. Rooted in the values of the Gospel, Christians are called to participate actively in public life, taking responsibility not only for themselves but also for the wellbeing of others. At the heart of this commitment, the participants stressed, lies the call to uphold human dignity and build resilience in communities, particularly in times of crisis.

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach said, “Our churches are confronted with growing secularisation and shrinking public space for religion. In this context, Christian citizenship means standing for human rights and freedom of religion or belief, developing a public theology that makes the voice of the churches heard, and contributing to European integration as a peace project. This meeting was an important step in exploring how we can renew our common witness at a time of conflict and change.”





Sharing insights at high levels

CEC highlighted the value of honest and respectful dialogue during a high-level meeting hosted by Magnus Brunner, European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration.

The meeting in Brussels, held in November 2025, brought together Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist leaders to reflect on the theme “Responding to the Polarisation of our Societies.”

CEC President Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain; Pavel Pokorný, Synodal Senior of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren; and Rt Rev. Martyn Snow, Lord Bishop of Leicester, Church of England, contributed to the discussion.

Archbishop Nikitas reflected on how the tone of public conversation has become more divisive and harsher in recent years, and urged the EU to invest and fund programmes to detect and understand hate speech better in other languages and how AI is used.

He urged preserving space for honest and respectful dialogue. “Religious leaders, educators, parents, and all public voices share a duty to promote understanding, rather than hostility and hatred,” he said. “Overcoming hate is not only a legal or technological challenge; it is a moral and spiritual one, calling each of us to repentance, renewal of conscience, and a return to our true humanity in God’s image.”

Synodal Senior Pavel Pokorný addressed the growing anxiety about a world that is perceived as complex and threatening. “In this anxiety, people seek support, which they mistakenly find in identifying with a group that displays power,” he said.



Contributing to European Commission Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness

In November 2025, CEC contributed to the forthcoming European Commission Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness, set to be adopted by the first part of 2026.

CEC's input reflected a vision of a resilient society based on the protection of human dignity and human flourishing—a vision supported by values which underpin intergenerational care that are central to Christian ethics and Judeo-Christian heritage.

The CEC contribution also expressed appreciation for the consultative character of the process, which has involved several stages of gathering input from citizens, faith-based groups, civic organizations, and others.

“The unique contributions of the churches—from grassroots to international levels—place them in a position to provide valuable insights for intergenerational justice,” read the CEC contribution. “Of particular importance are church perspectives on the relationship between short- and long-term goals and on the mediation between material and spiritual growth.”

Investing in social cohesion

During a Dialogue Seminar held in December 2025, entitled “Beyond the numbers: the contribution of Article 17 TFEU to an EU Multiannual Financial Framework grounded in ethics, solidarity and inclusion,” CEC urged European Institutions to invest in social cohesion, and to recognize churches as strategic partners.

David Jakobsson, Senior Policy Advisor for the Church of Sweden, represented CEC during one of the panel discussions, entitled “How the MFF can lead to a more equitable, competitive and sustainable social model.”

Jakobsson emphasised social cohesion, climate action, and rural development. “These areas are interconnected,” he said. “Social cohesion strengthens democracy and rural vitality, while climate protection links to the circular economy, energy efficiency, and strategic independence.”

CEC’s input elaborates on principles that should underpin a future EU strategy, including respect for inclusive governance and participatory democracy; care for a healthy planet; esteem for a resilient and fair society respecting its diverse segments; and navigating digitalization and artificial intelligence safely, harnessing opportunities while managing risks.

“Today’s democracies often operate within short-term horizons, with electoral cycles and immediate interests hindering long-term planning,” notes the CEC contribution. “Yet, there are ways in which existing systems can ensure the inclusion of future generations perspective.”

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EU Presidencies: meeting with Polish and Danish leaders

Poland

A delegation from the CEC and the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) met with H.E. Mr Adam Szłapka, Polish Minister for European Union Affairs, in Warsaw. The meeting took place in April 2025, in the context of Poland's ongoing Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The delegation shared a joint reflection highlighting churches' views on the main policy priorities of the Polish EU Presidency. Discussion focused on promoting a just and lasting peace in Ukraine and a new European security architecture, as well as on ensuring fair migration and asylum policies and a credible, citizen-centred and merit-based EU enlargement process.



The delegation reaffirmed churches' commitment to the European project, underlining the need to strengthen internal unity and solidarity within and outside of Europe's borders. In the face of global and regional instability, CEC and COMECE highlighted the need to pursue value-based policies rooted in human dignity, justice and mutual respect.

Denmark

A delegation from COMECE and CEC met with Morten Dahlin, Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, in Copenhagen in November 2025, in the context of Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

During the meeting, the ecumenical delegation presented the central concerns of European churches regarding the priorities and activities of the EU Presidency. Topics discussed included the war in Ukraine; the need to ensure humane migration and asylum policies rooted in respect for human dignity; the advancement of a credible and citizen-centred EU enlargement process; the strengthening of democracy and social cohesion within the EU.

Significant attention was devoted to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The church leaders reaffirmed their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and called for continued unity within the EU in order to achieve "a sustainable, honest and just peace that fully respects international law and the aspirations of the people of Ukraine, as well as those across Europe, to live in peace."

They encouraged the Danish EU Presidency to support efforts towards a European Peace Strategy to strengthen the EU's integrated approach to peacebuilding, as well as to promote the future reconstruction of Ukraine.

During the meeting with Minister Morten Dahlin, the delegation also called for fair and humane EU migration and asylum policies that guarantee respect for human dignity and fundamental rights. In this context, the delegation reiterated the need for "a broad alliance between public authorities, civil society and churches" to support migrants, safeguard their dignity and facilitate their integration into host societies.

Communications



CEC participated in the European Public Communication Conference held in July in Brussels. The event, hosted by the European Committee of the Regions, is Europe's largest annual gathering of public communication experts and is jointly organised by EU institutions.

Communications

Engaging in discussions on ethical use of AI

CEC participated in the European Public Communication Conference held in July in Brussels. The event, hosted by the European Committee of the Regions, is Europe's largest annual gathering of public communication experts and is jointly organised by EU institutions.

The conference explored the theme “Beyond Words – A Story of Trust,” bringing together communicators, leaders, and change-makers to examine trust in public communication, the role of social media, and the impact of artificial intelligence.

“It is important for CEC to stay informed and well-trained in using modern digital tools, including AI and social media, while ensuring ethical standards guide our work,” said CEC Communications Coordinator Naveen Qayyum. “The conference provided practical insights into building trust with audiences and avigating digital platforms responsibly in a rapidly changing environment.”



Countering disinformation

CEC participated in the European Christian Internet Conference (ECIC) held in Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2025. The conference theme, “Leading in the Age of Misleading: The Role of Churches in Countering Disinformation,” addressed the urgent need for churches to communicate with integrity amid pervasive disinformation. The event was hosted by the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

“ It is important for CEC to stay informed and well-trained in using modern digital tools, including AI and social media, while ensuring ethical standards guide our work ”

Communication and media specialists from churches and ecumenical organisations across Europe gathered at ECIC. They explored how Christian institutions can counter misleading content, build resilience, and uphold standards of truthful, ethical communication.

CEC Communications Coordinator Naveen Qayyum presented the short film Pathways to Just Peace, an output of CEC's Pathways to Peace initiative. She remarked: "This media project strengthens and amplifies the voices of churches from Ukraine and beyond, promoting a dialogue on just peace. It brings together churches that may hold different theological or political understandings of what just peace means, yet share a common commitment to dialogue and reconciliation. In doing so, we are contributing to countering propaganda and disinformation that are so prevalent online and across social media."





Peace through storytelling

A small team of communicators made a big push for peace by covering the ecumenical conference, “Resisting empire, promoting peace: Churches confront the Russian world ideology” held in Helsinki in December 2025.

The event was organised by CEC in cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Orthodox Church of Finland.

The communications team provided a well-rounded storytelling framework that documented the conference proceedings in ways that bring the intense dialogues to life for churches across Europe and the world.



CEC
Conference of European Churches

KOTKA
ARTHUR
1880

PYHÄSSÄ ASUSSA SI... HUKKAKESI NOUSSE ETEESI NIINNU...

Finance



CEC expresses deep gratitude for membership contributions that allow us to share the voice and witness of the European churches, to strengthen hope for peace and justice in a troubled world. With the continued commitment of Member Churches, CEC has expanded its Pathways to Peace initiative, increased the visibility of its dialogue with European political institutions, and strengthened engagement among churches, ecumenical organisations, and peacebuilders.



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We are especially grateful to the Foundation for Hope and Prosperity for its recurring support of CEC activities and ongoing contribution to our work.

We extend particular appreciation to churches that supported our specific events during the year, including the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the Orthodox Church of Finland, and the Romanian Orthodox Church. Their partnership and generosity made important contributions to CEC's work and fellowship.

During 2025, CEC's total asset and liability balance amounted to EUR 2,509,917.48.

Please continue to support and pray for CEC during 2026 and beyond.



Appendices

- Member Churches
- National Councils of Churches
- Organisations in Partnership
- Governing Board
- Governing Board Members
- Pathways to Peace Steering Group
- Staff
- Contact



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

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

Georgia

Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia

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

Ireland

Church of Ireland

Methodist Church in Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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

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

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

Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation
Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches
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
The Church of The Lord Worldwide – Aladura
Assyrian Church of the East

International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate

European Baptist Federation

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

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe



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

Ecumenical Council of Finland

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

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

United Kingdom

Churches Together in England

United Kingdom

Churches Together in Wales



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

Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)

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

Intereuropean Commission on Church and School

International Association for Christian Education

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)



Governing Board

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Ecumenical Patriarchate
President

Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter

Church of England
Vice-President

Bishop Frank Kopania

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- Rev. Claire des Mesnards, United Protestant Church of France
- Rev. Dr Vilmos Fischl, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary
- Rev. Anders Borre Gadegaard, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark
- Rev. Fr Garegin Hambardzumyan, Armenian Apostolic Church
- Rev. Dr Triin Käpp, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church – until May 2025
- Rev. Bettina Kenst, Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania
- Prof. Petr Kratochvil, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
- Ms Prof. Pamela Slotte Russo, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- Ms Tova Martensson, Church of Sweden – since November 2025
- Ms Maria Mountraki, Orthodox Church of Finland
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- Dr Charles Reed, Church of England
- Rev. Dr Karin Sarja, Church of Sweden
- Rev. Prof. Dr Cristian Sonea, Romanian Orthodox Church
- Rev. Klaas van der Kamp, Protestant Church in the Netherlands
- Ms Kieryn Wurts, European Baptist Federation



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- Very Rev. Protopresbyter Emmanouil Papamikroulis, Church of Greece
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- Ms Judith Kaiser, Protestant Church in Germany
- The Rt. Revd Philip Mounstephen, Church of England
- Rev. Mathilde Porte, United Protestant Church of France
- Rev. Dr Petr Jan Vins, Old-Catholic Church Czech Republic



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Photo credits

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Publication design

Torsten Creative



