

Europe 2011



Ethical Contributions in a Time of Crisis



Annual Report 2011
of the Church and Society Commission
of the Conference of European Churches



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Introduction

Rev. Serge Fornerod, Moderator of the Church and Society Commission of CEC

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Church and Society Commission

When Martin Buber wrote his book “I and thou” in the 1920s, the world was recovering from World War I. There was much optimism about a new paradigm for a civilisation built on the perspective of sound human relations: two subjects, equal in rights, peacefully entering into a relationship to be built. In Buber’s thinking, dialogue is not just two people talking to each other, nor is it simply a tool for exposing or imposing one’s view. It is also more than a relationship between “I and it”. Dialogue has an anthropological dimension. Being human means to be able to recognize the other as someone different but as worthy as I am. This quality of mankind has a theological ground. God is the “I” and we are the “Thou”. Because God called us to be, because He talks to us, because He gave us names, we are enabled to dialogue with Him and with each other.

In the last Church and Society Commission (CSC) annual report, we stressed the fact that CSC looks for a substantial dialogue with the European Institutions. In this report, you will find several examples of how CSC has tried to put this understanding of dialogue into practice with the EU Institutions on a range of various issues, along with our Member Churches, in order to better understand what they expect from us. During our plenary meeting in 2011 in Brussels, we had the opportunity to meet high ranking civil servants of the EU bodies and MEPs. It struck me how during these meetings dialogue really took place: suddenly we and our guests realized that we were not gathered to criticize one another’s work or to instruct each other on how to do it better, but we were looking for common ground where churches and EU representatives could address common concerns together from different points of view. CSC stands for a culture of substantial dialogue among churches themselves and between churches and political stakeholders in Europe. I hope you’ll enjoy discovering some snapshots of our work in this report.

Visit CEC-CSC on our website <http://csc.ceceurope.org>





Foreword

Rev. Rüdiger Noll, CSC Director and Associate General Secretary of CEC

The financial and economic crisis continued to dominate the European agenda in 2011. On 28 September 2011 the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, delivered his State of the Union Address in front of the European Parliament. He opened his speech indicating the magnitude and the different dimensions of the crisis: “We are facing the biggest challenge in the history of our Union. The crisis is financial, economic and social. But it is also a crisis of confidence; a crisis of confidence in our leaders, in Europe itself, and in our capacity to find solutions.”

This analysis was also largely shared by the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and CEC Member Churches: the crisis has reached such a level that the Union itself and the European project are at stake. And it is not only a financial and economic crisis; it is also a crisis in implementing the Union’s own values and principles.

In December 2011, just prior to yet another of the many decisive meetings of the European Council, the Church and Society Commission issued a public statement (cf. CEC press release 11/30e), in which it urged European Leaders to take immediate and effective action. The statement emphasizes: “Reducing the present debt cannot be achieved only by austerity measures which affect the already vulnerable people in our societies – migrant communities, the young and the old, the low paid and the unemployed.

The voice of the people protesting in the streets in so many European countries needs to be listened to. The European social model, appreciated on so many occasions before, must prove its viability especially in moments of crisis.”

At a time when the Union had to focus almost exclusively on financial stability and governance issues as well as on triggering economic growth, the churches, in addition, put their finger on other aspects of the crisis: the growing social gap in European societies, the lack of transparency and of people’s participation, the global dimension, the costs for the environment and future generations.

Justice, Transparency, Solidarity, Participation and Sustainability: these were key values which guided the work of the Church and Society Commission in addressing some short- and middle-term aspects of the crisis as well as in addressing other issues.

In a nutshell, I want to already mention in this foreword a couple of the CSC’s achievements in 2011:

- Under the title “Strengthening the Social Dimension in National and European Policies”, CSC together with Eurodiaconia organised the first forum for churches and diaconal institutions in order to facilitate cooperation in strengthening the social dimension under the EU 2020 Strategy. The national semester reports are an important point of entry in this

regard. The forum will become an annual feature in the CSC calendar.

- The implementation of Human Rights is an important pre-condition for democracy and people’s participation. In 2011 CSC finalised its Human Rights Manual which is especially designed to target the churches’ involvement and offer hands-on training material.
- People’s participation in the democratic process also stood at the centre of church activities during the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies and the CSC consultation on “Education for Democratic Citizenship”, which brought together Member Churches representatives as well as officials from the Council of Europe and the EU. Subsequently, CSC was granted observer status in the respective Committee of the Council of Europe.
- Justice is an issue which needs to be addressed in a global perspective. “Climate justice” is the paradigm selected as the key topic for the ongoing dialogue between the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) and CSC. The results will be fed into the global debate at the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2013.
- Justice, religious freedom and the role of religion in societal transformation processes were also in the focus of relations with churches and NGOs in the Middle East during and after the revolutionary changes. Consultations included members of the European

Parliament and other EU Institutions, who are challenged to find partners in the Middle East for a real dialogue in order to appropriately respond to the new situation.

- And finally, together with the EKD representation in Brussels and our Roman-Catholic partners, CSC continued to point out the churches' position on EU legal affairs, such as the Transparency Initiative or a proposed new Directive on Data Protection.

All this was achieved at a time when the Conference of European Churches, along with its Commissions, is itself going through a revision process. At the end of 2011 the CEC Revision

Working Group finalised its Consultation Document for further discussion among Member Churches. It is hoped that the effectiveness of the Commissions' work will be maintained under whatever renewed vision, mission and structure to be adopted in 2013.

The Church and Society Commission, the members of the Commission and the Executive Committee as well as the staff, wish to express their thanks to all those who have contributed to the work of the Commission and of CEC, in Working Groups, Task Forces and through offering their expertise and experience in the processes highlighted in this Annual Report. As always, nothing of this would have been possible without the important

financial contributions of Member Churches and partners to the work of the Commission.

This Annual Report – as usual – gives a glimpse of the work of the Church and Society Commission over the past year. More about our activities can be found on the CSC section of the CEC website: <http://csc.ceceurope.org>





The Financial and Economic Crisis - The EU at a Crossroads

The financial and economic crisis has been the most influential factor of life in the EU in 2011. The number of summits in which EU leaders tried to find a solution to the crisis grew far beyond the usual four sessions a year. Towards the end of the year negotiations reached a climax and a deal was finally reached by most Member States, called the “Fiscal compact Treaty”. The substance of the new treaty concerns fiscal austerity and legally-binding spending limits. The treaty still needs to be ratified by those Member States which will, in the end, decide to follow the new rules.

The crisis raised a number of fundamental questions for the EU going far beyond considerations of the economic functioning of some of the Member States most touched by the crisis. The crisis ruthlessly revealed the inseparable links between economy and politics, and the main question to be answered by the EU is not about a possible economic default of one or more Member States, but about the kind of community which the Union generates.

The economic lesson from the crisis has become clear. The level of debt of most EU Member States is unsustainable and it reveals the sad truth that they have lived on debt to an intolerable extent. It is a depressing conclusion for the EU as a whole, most of its Member States and its citizens that prosperity achieved was mainly at the expense of a sound budget and that states are unable to clear debts in the near future.

Debts have to be settled and the way for this process has to be found. The EU has prescribed a cure of austerity and the coming months will show whether this will be sufficient. However, the political corollary of the crisis has become manifest already at this stage. The decision of some Member States not to follow the majority in the application of austerity measures has been accompanied by the increasingly accepted realisation that existing political mechanisms allowing the EU its economic functioning are not sufficient. The crisis brought to the table with the utmost urgency the question of further political integration of the Union. Only by further strengthening the Union and making decisive steps to a full fiscal and political Union can the framework

be created which in the future will allow an effective response of the Union to external shocks similar to the current financial crisis.

The crisis is not progressing in vacuum. Economy and politics are not the only arenas where the impact of the crisis needs to be considered. Unfortunately the social impacts of the crisis have been neglected for most of the year by the mainstream of political negotiations. CSC has raised its voice on several occasions over the past year in response to various aspects of the crisis. For churches in Europe it is important to underline that the crisis cannot be averted at the expense of those who suffer most: the unemployed, marginalised, people losing their jobs,



the poor and those not even having the minimum income to live in dignity. Although settling of existing debts is unavoidable, austerity measures cannot be the only response to the current crisis. Daily experience of the social impacts of the crisis and close contact with its most vulnerable victims urge churches in Europe to raise their voice in saying that economy, politics and social agendas and their mutual effects on each other have to be considered together.

The current crisis is far from over. The perspective for the year 2012 is a continuation of the EU's hectic search for an effective formula to solve the crisis. CSC will continue monitoring and doing advocacy work in this area. In

cooperation with CEC Member Churches which are in many cases actively involved in the work for economic and social justice, we will continue our dialogue with the EU. CSC will be guided by the words of its moderator, Rev. Serge Fornerod, who during the Plenary session of the Commission in May 2011, underlined the importance of a dialogue involving churches and the EU institutions, in particular in times of financial and economic crisis. To that he added: "Constructive solutions require strong efforts from the Institutions and the churches at the same time. Only with common

efforts can this material and spiritual crisis be overcome."





The Churches' Commitment to Human Rights and the Freedom of Religion or Belief: inside and outside Europe



The implementation of freedom of religion or belief inside and outside Europe was already an important issue on the agenda of the Conference of European Churches and the Church and Society Commission in 2010, not in the least due to the atrocities committed on religious grounds in different parts of the world. As these atrocities continued and the European Institutions looked for an adequate response, the issue remained a priority for CSC and for many of the CEC Member Churches in 2011. Relations to the newly established European External Action Service (EEAS), the diplomatic representation of the European Union in other parts of the world, were of special importance in this regard.

In September 2011, the Church and Society Commission submitted a proposal to the EEAS indicating how churches and religious organisations in Europe could best cooperate in the field of human rights, in particular in regard to freedom of religion or belief. The submission and subsequent meetings with EEAS staff and European Parliamentarians recommended several inter-religious initiatives as preventive

measures and asked for the EEAS to develop a coherent approach to the issue in establishing Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief for its diplomatic service. The submission further suggested cooperation in the field of inter-religious initiatives, involvement of religious communities in the dialogue, monitoring the implementation of human rights and staff training.

The annual meeting of Church and Society Secretaries in Europe in 2011 also made freedom of religion or belief one of its main topics. It proved important to draw on the long-standing experience that churches in Europe have in this field and it showed that involving other religious communities and their experts is an indispensable pre-requisite to addressing the issue. The discussion with representatives from a broad number of churches in Europe and other partners established several parameters for addressing the issue:

- Churches stay committed to the universality and indivisibility of all human rights for all people at all times and in all contexts. Freedom of religion

or belief needs to be reflected in the framework of implementing all human rights.

- It remains of utmost importance to combat an instrumentalisation of religious communities for political purposes. The inter-religious dialogue is an important mechanism in this regard and needs the support of the religious communities themselves as well as of the political institutions and governments. Training and education for that purpose – as promoted by the CSC Human Rights Manual - play an important role.
- Work on social cohesion and the accommodation of the “other” in society are important pre-requisites to the implementation of freedom of religion or belief.
- Addressing freedom of religion or belief in other religions of the world needs to have the full implementation of human rights in Europe itself as its basis. Best practices need to be shared as widely as possible.
- Instead of looking at religion only as a cause of conflict, it is important to highlight the positive contributions religions have made and are making in society.



It is against this background that the Church and Society Commission seeks the dialogue with political institutions. In 2011, many encounters between the Church and Society Commission and Members of the European Parliament and other political institutions took place. The CSC Working Group on Human Rights met with representatives against the European Commission against Racism and Xenophobia of the Council of Europe. The CSC Director joined a consultation on freedom of religion or belief of Members of the European Parliament in Beirut and continues to participate in an Arab-European dialogue on the role of religion in societal transformation processes, initiated by the German Protestant Academies and the Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services in Cairo (CEOSS). Trainings on the basis of the CSC Human Rights Manual are to contribute to further create awareness and to implement standards on the national level inside and outside Europe.

In addition, in December 2011 CSC, in cooperation with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), the Protestant Academy of Bad Boll and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation organised a consultation on the churches' approach and understanding of human rights. Starting from a theological discussion on the understanding of "human dignity" from different confessional perspectives, the consultation confirmed the active involvement of churches in implementing human rights as codified, for instance in the Universal Declaration and the European Human Rights Convention.

Presentations held at these events and conclusions of these events as well as CSC contributions are available on the CSC website: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/human-rights/>.





Education for Democratic Citizenship



In a globalised world it is becoming increasingly important for people to develop language skills and intercultural skills. In 2010 the European Commission launched the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020). One of the Commission's four strategic goals for the coming years is to "promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship" – in other words, education for democratic citizenship. The Commission also encourages democratic citizenship through a) policy development (promotion of research and sharing of best practice), and b) mobility programmes, enabling large numbers of people to study, work and teach in other EU countries and beyond. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/how-to-participate/doc485_en.htm.

The Council of Europe's (CoE) programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) was already launched at the CoE's Strasbourg Summit in 1997. Education is seen as playing a major role in promoting the organisation's core values and as a defence against racism and intolerance. The basic text is the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7). In November 2012, there will be an important conference to review the implementation of Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Member States. Implementation depends on cooperation with governments, schools, teachers, parents and NGOs – including the churches. Faith groups are specifically mentioned in the Charter as potential partners. The Euro-

pean Resource Centre (the Wergeland Centre) has been set up in Norway. There is plenty of scope for cooperation with the churches. (<http://www.coe.int/edc>).

The European Commission and the Council of Europe closely cooperate in EDC activities. This was underlined by representatives of both Institutions at the Church and Society Commission European Conference held from 5 to 7 October 2011 on “Education for Democratic Citizenship: A Role for the Churches?”. Attended by 30 delegates from CEC Member Churches and Associated Organisations from all over Europe, it was the first step of the implementation of one of the two CSC priorities in the field of education, as adopted in the CSC Education Strategy in 2010. The other priority in education is the ET 2020 Strategy.

Feed-back from participants in the conference confirms the inspiration which they drew from it. The conference created a dynamic process motivating participants to share best practices and to increase the involvement of churches in Education for Democratic Citizenship. Several participants have already begun to network and to develop joint projects, for instance in the fields of theology, media work and education. The CSC Working Group on Education wants to build its further activities on this process. A questionnaire completed by participants before and during the meeting aimed at fostering further cooperation and monitoring its results.

The conference also strengthened the exchange between European churches and the European Institutions in this field. As a result of the conference and the encounters with representatives of European political organisations, the Church and Society Commission was granted observer status in the Committee of Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) of the Council of Europe and is invited to the meeting of national coordinators on Education for Democratic Citizenship in 2012.

For further information consult the CSC website: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/education/>.





Strengthening the Social Dimension in European and National Policies

In 2010 the European Council decided on the new Europe 2020 strategy, which replaced the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs (2000-2010). Europe 2020 aims at ensuring “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” for Europe. It defines five targets, which the EU and the Member States should have reached in 2020. These targets include one on “poverty” and one on “employment”: 20 million people should be lifted out of the risk of poverty by 2020 and 75% of people between 20 and 64 should be employed.

The EU implements the 2020 strategy in two ways: On the one hand Europe 2020 is a main element of the European Semester. The European Semester is the name of the cycle of reports and recommendations feeding into the Member States national policies. It is launched by the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) which

gives a forecast of the economic trends and proposes consequent orientations to Member States. Member States use these orientations when drafting their National Reform Programmes (NRPs). These NRPs present how and in which way the Member States contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 EU targets. The Commission and the Council underlined that stakeholders should be involved in developing the NRPs. The NRPs are analysed first by the Commission and then the June European Council which, on their basis, presents Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) to every Member State. CSRs have to be considered in the 2nd half of the year in the planning of the national budget for the following year. The first European Semester was realised in the 1st half of 2011.

On the other hand, the Commission has elaborated seven “flagship initiatives” to

support the 2020 strategy at European level. These initiatives announce key actions and reinforce existing activities in several areas linked to the implementation of the overarching Europe 2020 target, such as education and employment (“Youth on the move” and “New skills and jobs”) and social inclusion (“European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion - EPAP”).

Obviously these aims are even more difficult to achieve in this time of deep crisis. The priorities of the EU policies are very clear: First the financial markets have to be stabilised; next growth has to be stimulated; this will lead to the creation of jobs and in the end social inclusion can be achieved.

The CSC Plenary meeting in 2011 in Brussels decided to work on this subject: There is no doubt that the European



Semester will have a strong impact on social policy on European and national levels, especially for those Member States which have to deal with austerity programmes. And the European Semester requires that civil society and social actors participate in defining the NRPs and that their deliberations, demands and experiences be included.

Therefore, CSC invited Member Churches, together with Eurodiaconia and its member organisations, to a conference in November 2011 in Brussels (<http://csc.ceurope.org/issues/social-and-economic-issues>).

The main aim of the conference was to give information on the Europe 2020 strategy, its targets and its process of implementation by the European Semester, but it also asked how churches and diaconal organisations could influence this important political process.

The participants came from twelve different states, so that a broad range of experiences and national and regional situations was represented.

The conference closed with a proposal about how churches could improve their advocacy and lobby governments at the national level. A timetable of actions was presented as a guideline for when and how organisations could help to influence social policy in the framework of the European Semester. The proposal included a list of questions to ask national governments and suggestions about forming an alliance or platform with other social NGOs/organisations in order to have a stronger voice. Finally it was agreed to hold a similar conference in 2012 to evaluate members' experiences of the past year and to prepare for the next European Semester.

CSC would like to focus in the coming years on the development of Europe 2020 and the European Semester. On CSC's side there is the conviction and will to get more Member Churches actively involved, so that churches have a common but also differentiated voice on social policy in Europe – at home and in Brussels.

Last but not least, CSC has become a member of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EPAP) and was invited several times in 2011 to participate in working groups and conferences of the European Commission. CSC took part in the First Annual Convention of the EPAP in Krakow, Poland, and contributed to the consultation on child poverty. In 2012 the European Commission will publish a recommendation on this important topic.





In Brief



Call for Climate Justice

The consultation on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in Europe took place in November 2010 in Budapest (Hungary). The Final document of the consultation under the title “Call for Climate Justice” has been a substantial contribution of CEC and churches in Europe to the World Council of Churches project. The statement underlines:

The world is confronted with urgent challenges. The global impacts of climate change are the greatest threat to the future of our planet. The concurrence of climate change, limitation of fossil fuels, climate change induced migration, food crisis, water crisis, energy crisis, biodiversity crisis and the 2008-2009 financial and economic crisis, deepening the debt crises affecting individuals and states, might be an indicator that the whole sys-

tem of production, consumption, profit maximisation, poverty and ecological destruction prevailing in industrialised countries runs into a deep and open-ended transformation crisis. The concurrence of these crises calls for urgent action. Climate justice should be the guiding principle for these changes.

The proceedings of the conference have been published as a joint CSC/CEC & WCC publication. The outcomes of the meeting are an invitation for churches in Europe to respond to the call, to offer their comments and contributions, and to accompany the process with concrete activities in their respective settings. CSC will be pleased to receive any comment or reaction to this invitation.

► The book can be ordered through the CSC office.



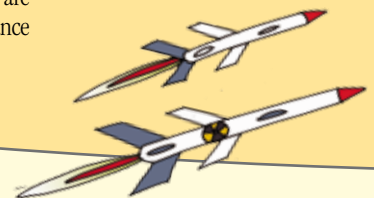
Nuclear disarmament

In 2011 CSC continued to pursue progress in nuclear disarmament. The year 2010 ended with NATO's Lisbon Summit adopting a new Strategic Concept, which endorsed the goal of “creating the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons” but failed to translate this into tangible policy. Finalisation was left for NATO's Defense and Deterrence Posture Review, launched as a follow-up to the Lisbon Summit and intended to be concluded by the NATO Summit in Chicago on 21-22 May 2012. In

March 2011, CEC together with the World Council of Churches and the U.S. and Canadian Councils of Churches approached the leaders of NATO, the U.S. and Russia with a letter setting out concrete proposals on how the Alliance together with Russia could move forward (visit CSC website on nuclear disarmament). Ecumenical delegations also continued meeting with relevant officials and politicians to make the case. The churches, among others, reiterated their belief that ending “nuclear sharing“, the stationing

of some 200 U.S. tactical nuclear weapons (TNW) in five European countries, would enhance the credibility of NATO's non-proliferation policy, as it would end doubts about its members' compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty which prohibits any transfer of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon states. They also encouraged NATO to commit itself to the new U.S. policy which holds that nuclear weapons will not be used against non-nuclear weapon states that are party to the NPT and in compliance

with its obligations. Russia, which still has larger arsenals of TNW than NATO, was urged to make steps of its own. NATO and Russia should not make ending their Cold War postures dependent on each other. Major challenges lie ahead and churches in Europe can play a key role in increasing pressure on NATO (and the EU as well) for supporting President Obama's policy towards a world without nuclear weapons.



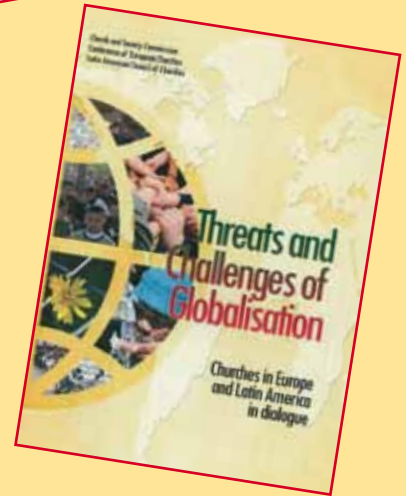
Threats and Challenges of Globalisation - Churches in Europe and Latin America in dialogue.

Outcomes of the first round of the dialogue between CSC/CEC and CLAI which took place in 2009-10 have been published as a joint publication of CSC with the Latin American Council of Churches – CLAI. The document is the result of a dialogue which contributed to trust-building and

overcoming of differences in a number of discussed themes and is a joint contribution to a wider ecumenical debate.

We invite the Member Churches of CEC to reflect on the outcomes of the dialogue. The text underlines that: “CSC/CEC and CLAI wel-

come with pleasure the involvement of churches, church-related organisations and individuals on both continents, as well as the larger ecumenical family. We hope to receive comments and reactions to this text and in this way nurture the next stages of our joint commitment”.



Dialogue Seminar on Roma Inclusion

On 27 June 2011, CSC of CEC, COMECE and CCME met with the European Commission at a high level dialogue seminar on Roma inclusion. The seminar looked at the contribution of churches to the EU strategy for Roma inclusion and the challenges for Roma inclusion relating to education.

During the event, churches welcomed the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020 which had been adopted by the 27 Member States the previous week. They did state, however, that a long-term perspective is missing from the framework and stressed that while some changes such as

access to services, education and housing should be immediate, some deeper societal changes could take more time to realise. It was highlighted that one major obstacle that prevents many Roma from accessing social and health services is the lack of appropriate documentation and that the problem of statelessness needed to be tackled from the social perspective.

Guest speakers included European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, László Andor. He stressed that the inclusion of Roma is not only a moral necessity but an economic one also. He acknowledged the leading role the

Hungarian Presidency had taken in the EU strategy on Roma inclusion; however, the Member States, he said, were primarily responsible for the success of the strategies. He also acknowledged the role of churches which are “major social actors in the field of Roma integration: we need to work together and we count on your support”.

Presentations from the churches and Eurodiaconia members helped to communicate to the EU Institutions their work on reconciliation processes and actions promoting the inclusion of Roma. Innovative and creative actions and methodologies for Roma inclusion were also



encouraged. It was also highlighted that churches can be of importance in the public debate on Roma inclusion when forming opinions locally. Churches and diaconal organisations concluded by stressing that most Roma are EU citizens and that EU Member States need to respect their fundamental rights.

European Sunday Alliance founded

The European Sunday Alliance (ESA) is a network of national Sunday Alliances, trade unions, civil society organisations and churches, church organisations and religious communities committed to raise awareness about the unique value of synchronized free time for our European societies. The Alliance was launched on 20th June 2011 during a conference in Brussels. Today it consists of around 85 members and supporters. CSC is a founding member and a member of the its steering committee, which

brings together representatives from the trade unions, CSC, COMECE (our Catholic partner organisation), the national Sunday Alliances and other civil society organisations.

Free Sundays and, in general, decent working hours are the focus of ESA's campaigns. In the Founding Statement attention is drawn to aspects of life/work balance and social cohesion that depend on a vast majority of people having their legal free time simultaneously. In 2011 ESA has been working on three main

issues: it pursued the discussion on the revision of the EU Working Time Directive advocating the inclusion of one work-free day per week, in principle Sunday; it discussed and examined the opportunities of a European Citizens Initiative, which will come into force in the EU in 2012; ESA supported national and regional initiatives which advocate work-free Sunday and enhanced the visibility of such efforts on a European level. For further information please visit the website: www.europeansundayalliance.eu





CSC Goes Public

January

- Joint press release with COMECE: “Bringing Europe Closer to its People” - Churches Meet with the Hungarian EU Presidency.

March

- Press release: “Churches urge NATO to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons”.
- Letters to NATO about its nuclear policy.
- CSC Discussion Paper on Family Policies.
- CSC-CLAI Paper on Globalisation.
- Letter to Baroness Ashton, European External Action Service.

April

- Publication: Final Report on the PWE Consultation
- Publication: Budapest Call for Climate Justice

May

- CALL press release: “Patriarch Daniel: Churches have to strengthen Civil Society in Crisis Times” - CALL Network meets at the Romanian Patriarchate in Bucharest.
- Press release: “A Culture of Dialogue for the Common Good” - CEC’s Church and Society Commission to meet in Brussels.
- Press release: “Churches and the EU in Dialogue” – CSC Plenary meeting in Brussels.
- Press release: “A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity” - Religious Leaders meeting the EU Presidents.

June

- Joint press release with COMECE: “Roma Inclusion: A Need, a Challenge and a Duty” – Dialogue Seminar with the European Commission.

July

- Press release: “Faithfulness to ones’ own identity, respect for others and solidarity” - Churches mark the beginning of the Polish EU Presidency.
- Press release: “People must be at the centre of the European integration process” - Churches meet Polish EU Presidency.

September

- Founding Statement of the European Sunday Alliance.
- CSC Submission to the European External Action Service on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

November

- Summary Draft Report of the Conference on Education for Democratic Citizenship.
- Joint press release with Eurodiaconia: “Working towards a strong Social Dimension of Europe 2020” - Launch of the Second European Semester (Brussels).

December

- Press release: “European concerted action required now - People’s needs first”
- Press release: “European churches commit to dialogue and reflection on human rights and dignity” - Human Rights Consultation in Bad Boll and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe.



CSC Main Events 2011

January

- Meeting with CEC Associated Organisations (Brussels)
- Visit of a group of American Students (Strasbourg)
- Meeting with the Hungarian EU Presidency (Hungary)

February

- Follow-up meeting on the document «European integration - a way forward» (Budapest)

March

- Meeting with Diaconia Representatives from Romania (Brussels)
- Visit of German Landeskirchen Adult Trainers (Strasbourg)
- Visit of Council of Church of Aargau and its President (Strasbourg)
- Visit of House of Bishop's Europe Panel, Church of England (Brussels)

April

- Visit of a group of youngsters from Enskede Arsta, Church of Sweden (Brussels)

May

- 2nd Assembly of the CALL Network (Bucharest)
- Plenary Meeting of the Church and Society Commission (Brussels)
- Religious Leaders meeting with the EU Presidency (Brussels)

June

- Dialogue Seminar on Roma Issues (CSC-COMECE-BEPA)

July

- Churches meet Polish EU Presidency

September

- Visit to CEC Member Churches in the Czech Republic

October

- Conference on Education for Democratic Citizenship (Strasbourg)
- Annual Meeting of Europe Secretaries (Strasbourg)

November

- CSC-ED Conference on Europe 2020 - Launch of the Second European Semester (Brussels)

December

- Human Rights Consultation in Bad Boll (jointly with Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe)





Members and Staff of the Church and Society Commission of CEC

The Commission

Rev. Ewan Aitken
Church of Scotland

Ms Kristina Barnett
Methodist Church in Ireland /
Irish Council of Churches

Dr. theol. Lubomir Batka
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Slovakia

Rev. Christine Busch
Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Laura Casorio
Waldensian Church and Italian Protestant Federation

Prof. Jean-François Collange (Member ex-officio)
Union of Protestant Churches of Alsace and Lorraine

Rev. Jan Dus* (Co-Moderator)
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Rev. Serge Fornerod* (Moderator)
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim
Romanian Orthodox Church

The Rt. Rev. Rusudan Gotsiridze
Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia

Mr Adam Hátori
Reformed Church in Hungary /
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary

H. E. Metropolitan Arsenios of Austria
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba* (Co-Moderator)
Orthodox Church of Greece

Ms Rachel Lampard
Methodist Church of Great Britain

Dr. Aila Lauha
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. Dr. Guy Liagre
United Protestant Church of Belgium

Dr. Joanna Matuszewska
Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland

Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan
Armenian Apostolic Church

H. G. Bishop Porfyrios of Neapolis*
Orthodox Church of Cyprus

Dr. Charles Reed*
Church of England

Rev. Raag Rolfsen
Church of Norway

Ms Liv Södahl
Mission Covenant Church of Sweden

Dr. Verena Taylor*
Protestant Church in Austria

Mr Kees Tinga
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Rev. Silke Tosch
Union of Evangelical Free Churches
in Germany (German Baptist Union)

** Members of the Executive Committee*



The Staff

Rev. Rüdiger Noll

Director, Brussels

Ms Véronique Dessart

Support Staff, Brussels

Ms Elina Eloranta

(until mid-September 2011)

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Véronique Engels

Support Staff, Brussels

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach

(since 1st March 2011)

Executive Secretary (Brussels)

Rev. Richard Fischer

Executive Secretary, Strasbourg

Rev. Laurence Flachon

Executive Secretary, Brussels

OKR'in Katrin Hatzinger

Associate Staff, Brussels (EKD)

Ms Lois Hough-Stewart

Support Staff, Brussels

Mag. Elizabeta Kitanovic

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Marie-Madeleine Linck

Support Staff, Strasbourg

Rev. John Murray

Associate Staff, Strasbourg

Rev. Dr. Peter Pavlovic

Study Secretary, Brussels

Ms Charlotte Vanderborght

Accountant, Brussels

Farewell to Ms Elina Eloranta

After close to five “professionally and personally highly enriching” years, as she describes it, Ms Elina Eloranta’s mandate as Executive Secretary within the Church and Society Commission has come to an end.” Seconded by the Church of Sweden and her own church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, she played a pivotal role in keeping the CEC membership abreast of European political developments and on CSC activities over these years. Among many other tasks she particularly cherished promoting Christian-Muslim dialogue and the nuclear disarmament strand of NATO and the EU’s nuclear weapons policies. She attended many events, but the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in 2007 and the CEC Lyon Assembly in 2009 were “the most unforgettable”. In short, the Political Scientist really enjoyed her immersion in the ecumenical world and hopes to be able to serve it “in one way or another” also in the future even if her professional plans now relate to foreign and security policies.

Welcome to Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, of German nationality, representing the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) started his work as Executive Secretary at the Church and Society Commission in Brussels on 1st March 2011.

His portfolio covers social, employment and economic affairs. He is working with the European Institutions as well as maintaining the close relationship of the Community of Protestant Churches with CEC bodies. Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach is the successor of Rev. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann who was representing CPCE for the last 5 years. From 1992 to 1994 Rev. Fischbach was member of staff in the Brussels office of the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD). He then worked as Executive Secretary on European affairs for the Protestant Churches of North-Rhine Westphalia from 1994 to 1996. During his time as Reverend of a parish near Bonn and Cologne he worked as a study secretary on European social affairs at the former Evangelische Sozialakademie Friedewald from 2001 to 2004.

“I am really looking forward to coming back to the Brussels working arena after some years and bringing my expertise to the team of the Church and Society Commission of CEC. I know that many new challenges in the social, economic and employment fields are waiting to be addressed by the CEC member churches. Making the voice of European churches on social, economic and employment issues heard in the European Institutions will be among the first priorities of my work,” said Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach.

The Church and Society Commission of CEC welcomes the competencies which new staff bring to the CSC team. They will serve the CEC member churches and facilitate their communication with the European Institutions in the social and economic fields.





CSC Working Mechanisms

Education

Ms Hanna Broadbridge
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark

Mr Vincent Dubois
United Protestant Church of Belgium

Mr Maximilian Karrasch
World Student Christian Federation-Europe

Rev. Dr. Daniel Schmid-Holz
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Mr Peter Schreiner
Evangelical Church in Germany + ICCS + IACE

Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Wünsch
Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania

Dr. Kostas Zorbias
Church of Greece

EU Legislation

Dr. Altana Filos
Greek Evangelical Church

Ms Lena Kumlin
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr. Gianni Long
Italian Protestant Federation + Waldensian / Methodist / Baptist

Dr. Joanna Matuszewska
Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland

Prof. Dr. David McClean
Church of England

Mr Fredrik Nilsson Björner
Church of Sweden

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Robbers (Adviser)
Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stotz
Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Ilaria Valenzi
World Student Christian Federation-Europe

N.N.
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Globalisation

Ms Elvira Gömböcz
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary

Drs. Jacob Houtman
United Protestant Church of Belgium – until December 2011

Mr Carl-Henrik Jacobsson
Church of Sweden – until June 2011

Mr Nicolas Kazarian
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Dr. Tamas Kodacsy
Reformed Church in Hungary

Prof. Chris Lefebvre
United Protestant Church of Belgium – since January 2012

Rev. Dr. Ulrich Möller, OKR
Evangelical Church in Germany

Rev. Raag Rolfsen
Church of Norway / Ecumenical Council

Mrs. Sofia Svarfar
Church of Sweden – since June 2011

Mr Rob van Drimmelen
APRODEV

Human Enhancement

Prof. Dr. Stavros Baloyannis
Church of Greece

Dr. Theo Boer
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Dr. Andrea Dörries
Evangelical Church in Germany

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Körtner
Protestant Church in Austria

Prof. Karsten Lehmkuhler
Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace & Lorraine

Rev. Dr. Brendan McCarthy
Church of England

Ms. Miriam Szurman
Lutheran Church in Poland



Human Rights

Rev. Peter Ciaccio

Italian Protestant Federation + Waldensian / Methodist / Baptist

Mr Georgios Ioannou

Orthodox Church of Cyprus

Ms Kati Jääskeläinen

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Dr. Peter Krömer

Protestant Church in Austria

Rev. Thorsten Leißer

Evangelical Church in Germany

Social Issues

Rev. Cornelia Coenen-Marx, OKR'in

Evangelical Church in Germany

Dr. Alexander Heit

Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Mr Vladimir Moravec

Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Mr Alexandru Gabriel Negoita

Romanian Orthodox Church

Ms Sofia Nordenmark

Church of Sweden

Ms Natallia Vasilevich

World Student Christian Federation-Europe

Dr. Donald Watts

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Rev. Matthew Ross

Church of Scotland

Mag. Martin Schenk

Protestant Church in Austria

Ms Elena Timofticiuc

Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania)





Our Resources

The audited accounts (income and expenditure) of the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) for the budgetary year 2011 were closed with a positive result of 1.218,54 € (total income: 1.013.314,05 €). The financial volume compared to the accounts of 2010 has decreased by 117.550,00 €, which can largely be explained by less seconded staff made available to the Church and Society Commission by Member Churches.

Compared to 2010, membership contributions were maintained. Thanks to additional earmarked contributions CSC has been able to implement particular projects which could not have been achieved otherwise. The

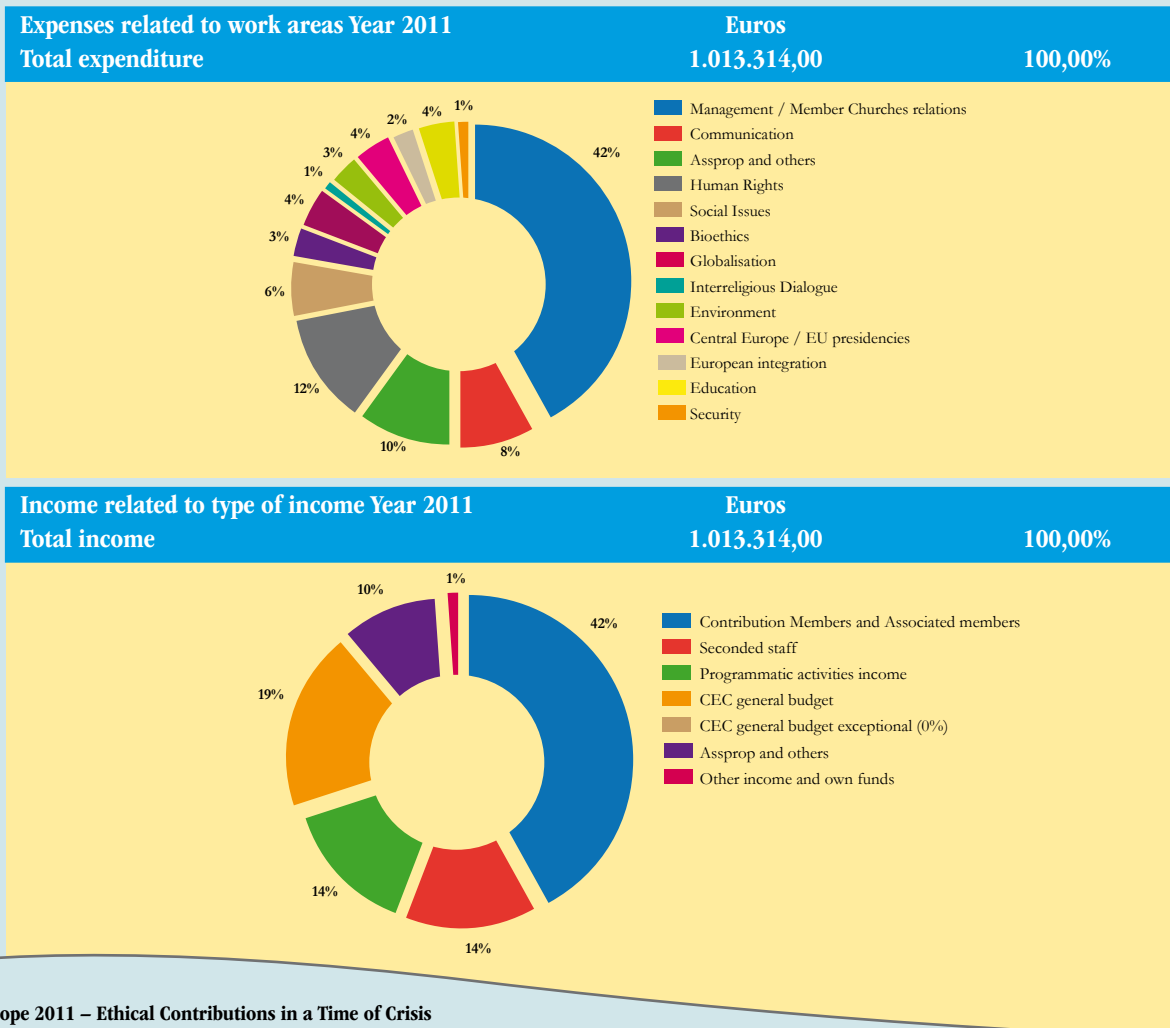
Church and Society Commission is grateful for all these contributions without which much of the work would not have been possible.

The Commission wants to express its special thanks to the Church in Rhineland and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, to the Conference of Churches Along the Rhine and the Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine, the Church of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as well as to the Evangelical Church in Germany for having supported the work by making seconded or associate staff available. Many churches have contributed with in-kind contributions in hosting meetings or covering

the costs for their participants.

The accounts of the Church and Society Commission were closed on 31 Dec 2011 with a positive result of 1.218,54 €. This was made possible by the many contributions to the work of CSC, combined with a very prudent administration of the available resources.

CEC and CSC also made great efforts over the past years to make their accounting system more transparent by relating costs and income to specific programmatic activities. The following charts show the different sources of income and their allocation to specific working areas.



Plenary 2011

A Culture of Dialogue for the Common Good

“Culture and Contents of the dialogue between the churches and the European Institutions” was the main theme of the 2011 Plenary meeting of the CSC of CEC which took place in Brussels on 25-28 May. In the Lisbon Treaty, the European Institutions commit themselves to an “open, transparent and regular dialogue” with the churches as well as with the communities of faith and conviction. “For us, this article in the European Treaty is not first and foremost about establishing new structures, it is about developing a culture of dialogue on issues of common concern,” said Rüdiger Noll, Director of the Church and Society Commission. “How can we engage in a real dialogue as a give and take? How can we identify the right level on which the churches and the communities of faith and conviction can make a positive

contribution towards the common good? These are the type of questions, which we want to address in the meeting”, he added.

Many churches in Europe have a long-standing experience in fruitful dialogue with political institutions on the national and European level. The churches see themselves and act as advocates for the common good from a faith-based perspective, rather than as lobbyists of their own interests. “Churches represent a large segment of the European society, but they do not only represent faith convictions and values, they also make substantial contributions to several sectors of public life”, said the moderator of the CSC of CEC, Rev. Serge Fornerod. Drawing on these experiences the Church and Society Commission will en-

ter in a common reflection on the future of the dialogue on the European level with representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the newly established European External Action Service.

The Plenary addressed the present financial and economic crisis in Europe and globally. During a discussion with the representatives of the EU Institutions churches presented some examples of what they have to offer to overcome the crisis.

As part of its usual business the Church and Society Commission reviewed and evaluated the work done by the Commission particularly in relation to Europe’s social agenda, issues related to globalisation, and the implementation of human rights and nuclear disarmament.





CEC Member Churches & Associated Organisations

CEC Member Churches



Albania

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania



Armenia

Armenian Apostolic Church



Austria

Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria
Old-Catholic Church of Austria
Reformed Church of Austria
United Methodist Church in Austria



Belgium

United Protestant Church in Belgium



Bulgaria

Baptist Union of Bulgaria
Pentecostal Assemblies of Bulgaria
United Methodist Church in Bulgaria



Croatia

Baptist Union of Croatia
Church of God in Croatia
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Croatia
Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Croatia
Reformed Christian 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 A.C. 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
Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada)
Orthodox Church of Estonia



Finland

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland
Finnish Orthodox Church



France

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of France
Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches of France
Malagasy Protestant Church in France
Reformed Church of France
Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine



Georgia

Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia



Germany

Catholic Diocese of the Old-Catholics in Germany
Evangelical Church in Germany
Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptist Union)
United Methodist Church in Germany
Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran Church Abroad
Lithuanian Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany



Greece

Church of Greece
Greek Evangelical Church



Hungary

Baptist Union of Hungary
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of 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



Liechtenstein

Evangelical Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein



Lithuania

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Lithuania



Luxembourg

Alliance of Protestant Churches in Luxembourg



Macedonia

(Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
United Methodist Church in the FYR of Macedonia



Netherlands

Mennonite Church in the Netherlands
Old-Catholic Church of the Netherlands
Protestant Church in the Netherlands
Remonstrant Brotherhood



Norway

Church of Norway



Poland

Baptist Union of Poland
Evangelical Church A.C. 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 of Portugal
Evangelical-Presbyterian Church of Portugal
Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church



Romania

Evangelical Church A.C. in Romania (Sibiu)
Evangelical-Lutheran Church A.C. in Romania (Cluj-Napoca)
Reformed Church in Romania (Kiralyhagomelleki – Oradea District)
Reformed Church in Romania (Transylvanian District)
Romanian Orthodox Church



Russia

Euro-Asian Federation of the Unions of Evangelical Christians-Baptists
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
Russian Orthodox Church (suspended its membership in 2008)



Serbia/Montenegro

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and Montenegro
Serbian Orthodox Church
Slovak Evangelical Church A.C. in Serbia
United Methodist Church in Serbia



Slovak Republic

Evangelical Church A.C. in Slovakia
Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
(*Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands & Slovakia*)



Slovenia

Evangelical Church A.C. in the Republic of Slovenia



Spain

Spanish Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church



Sweden

Baptist Union of Sweden
Church of Sweden
Mission Covenant Church of Sweden
United Methodist Church of Sweden Annual
Conference



Switzerland

Evangelical-Methodist Church in Switzerland
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches
Old-Catholic Church of Switzerland



Ukraine

Reformed Church in Transcarpathia



United Kingdom

Baptist Union of Great Britain
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom
Council of African and Caribbean Churches
Methodist Church of Great Britain
Presbyterian Church of Wales

Salvation Army UK Territory/Ireland
Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide
United Reformed Church

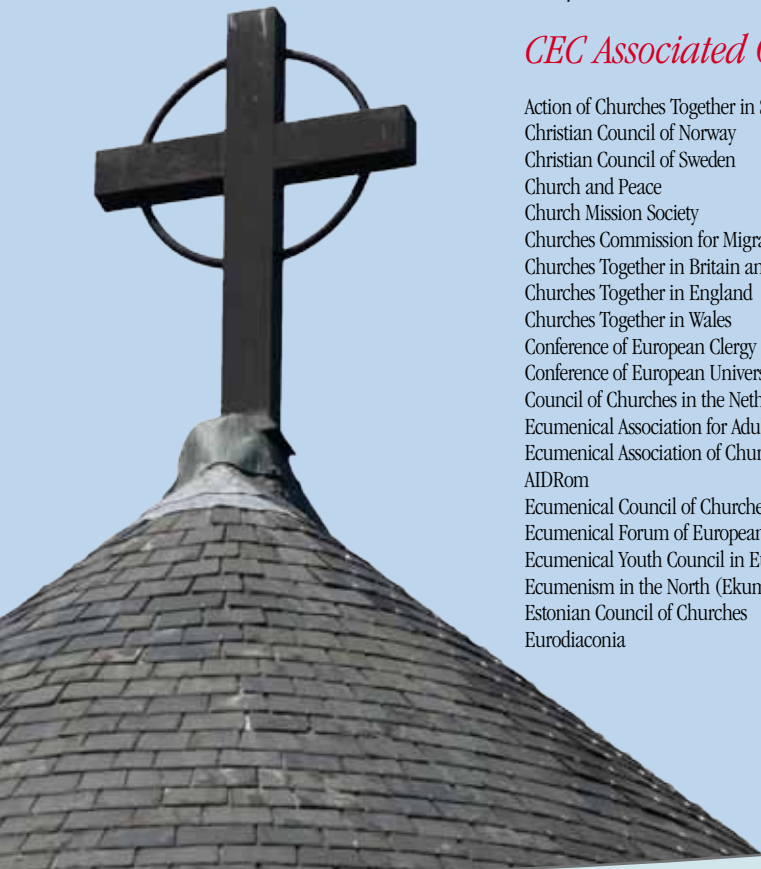
International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate (Turkey)
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Russia and Other
States (Russia)
Moravian Church in Continental Europe – Brüder
Unität (Germany)
Salvation Army – International Headquarters /
Europe Zone (Denmark)
United Methodist Church – Nordic and Baltic Area
(Denmark)

CEC Associated Organisations

Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Christian Council of Norway
Christian Council of Sweden
Church and Peace
Church Mission Society
Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Churches Together in England
Churches Together in Wales
Conference of European Clergy
Conference of European University Chaplains
Council of Churches in the Netherlands
Ecumenical Association for Adult Education in Europe
Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania /
AIDRom
Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
Ecumenism in the North (Ekumenik I Norden)
Estonian Council of Churches
Eurodiaconia

European Baptist Federation
European Contact Group on Urban Industrial Mission
European Forum of Christian Men
European YWCAs
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in
Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein
Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
Finnish Ecumenical Council
French Protestant Federation
Intereuropean Commission on Church and School
International Association for Christian Education
International Prison Chaplains' Association – Europe
Irish Council of Churches
Oikosnet Europe – EAALCE
Portuguese Council of Christian Churches
Spanish Committee on Cooperation between the
Churches
Union of Evangelical Free Churches
World Student Christian Federation (Europe)
YMCA Europe (European Alliance of YMCAs)





Who We Are

The Church and Society Commission 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 40 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.

The CSC was established in 1999 as a result of an integration process between CEC and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS), both of which had a long-standing record of working in the field of church and society.

CEC was founded in 1959 as a bridge-building organisation between the churches in Eastern and Western Europe.

1984 can be regarded as the founding date for EECCS, which was established as a representation of churches vis-à-vis the European institutions.

Following this integration process, the CSC received a special status within CEC. Its work programme as well as its working mechanisms and methods are determined by a 24-person Commission in agreement with CEC's Central Committee.

The Commission Plenary meets once a year and elects the CSC Executive Committee. In consultation with the General Secretary of CEC, it can make public statements on issues within its remit. The CSC has secretariats in Brussels and Strasbourg and maintains strong links with the CEC headquarters in Geneva. The Directorate of the CSC is based in Brussels.

Mandate and Methods

Our mandate

- Study and examination of Church and Society questions in a socio-ethical perspective such as EECCS and CEC have undertaken up to now (for example: peace, justice and the integrity of creation, reconciliation, churches and governments);
- Monitor the European institutions: European Union, Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in relation to themes such as the European integration process, democratisation, establishment of the rule of law, human rights and minority questions, European security, economic and social questions, the environment;
- Deal with the specific responsibility of the churches in the Member States of the European Union for the internal policies of the EU.

How we work

- The Church and Society Commission (CSC) monitors developments in the European institutions and makes inputs to the institutions on behalf of its Member Churches.
- CSC acts through its working groups which study church and society issues and engage Member Churches in consultations and projects on specific topics.
- CSC closely cooperates with other church-related organisations and NGOs such as CCME, Eurodiaconia, APRODEV and COMECE.
- CSC bases its actions on its work programme through flexible and ad-hoc working mechanisms and methods. More information on <http://csc.ceceurope.org>.
- In the implementation of its agenda, regular communication between CSC and its Member Churches and the institutions is of crucial importance.

Working groups have been established for the following priority areas until the next CEC Assembly 2013:

- Education
- EU Legislation
- Human Rights
- Social Issues

CSC also addresses the following themes with appropriate working mechanisms:

- Globalisation (Task Force)
- Human Enhancement (Preparatory Group)

Acronyms

A.C.	Augsburg Confession	EEAS	European External Action Service
AGS	Annual Growth Survey	EECCS	European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society
APRODEV	Association of WCC-related Development Agencies	EKD	Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland
ASSPROP	Association des Propriétaires	EP	European Parliament
CALL	Church Action on Labour and Life	EPAP	European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion
CCME	Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe	ESA	European Sunday Alliance
CDPPE	Committee of Educational Policy and Practice	ET	Education and Training
CEOSS	Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services	EU	European Union
CLAI	Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias	IACE	International Association for Christian Education
CoE	Council of Europe	ICCS	Intereuropean Commission on Church and School
COMECE	Commission of Bishops' Conferences in the European Community	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
CPCE	Community of Protestant Churches in Europe	NATO	North-Atlantic Treaty Organization
CSRs	Country Specific Recommendations	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
EAAALCE	Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe	NRPs	National Reform Programmes
ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network	TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
EDC	Education for Democratic Citizenship	TNW	Tactical Nuclear Weapons
		UN	United Nations
		WCC	World Council of Churches

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On the basis of our Christian faith, we work towards a humane, socially conscious Europe, in which human rights and the basic values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance and solidarity prevail.

(Charta Oecumenica)

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