



GENSEC-2015-263

# Conference of European Churches General Secretariat

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**Rev. Meletis Meletiadis**  
President of the Synod  
Greek Evangelical Church

**His Beatitude Hieronymos II**  
Archbishop of Athens and All Greece  
Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of  
Greece

Brussels, 3 July 2015

## Open letter to the Churches in Greece

We write to you with profound concern over the European Union's future. The EU was founded on the idea of sharing, cooperation and solidarity. From its own founding, the Conference of European Churches has also supported a vision for the continent guided by these values. Recent developments and the current discussion about the future of Greece inside or outside of the Eurozone and its future relation to the EU make clear that what is at stake in these days is not only the future of one country, but future of the European project as such.

On behalf of CEC, we express solidarity with your people in this difficult moment and offer support to the CEC member churches in Greece. The diminishing of living standards, in particular for those who are poor or who are living on their pensions below the poverty line as well as those who are on the margins of society, is unacceptable in the Union based on sharing and solidarity. Equally unacceptable is the lack of vision offered to young people coupled with unemployment. The dignity of persons, created according to Christian faith in the image of God, is in all circumstances to be protected.

On behalf of CEC we call on political leaders of the Union to strengthen even more their efforts, without regard of the outcomes of the referendum on Sunday, for keeping Greece in the European Union and to find mechanisms for addressing the substance of current difficulties; in particular the mechanisms for debt relief, currently the major burden for unfolding the future of Greece. We urge leaders of the Union together with leaders in Greece to find a common ground for the future of Greece inside the Eurozone and inside the Union.

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### Brussels

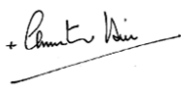
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With the prayer of the Churches of Europe in this difficult time

Yours sincerely in Christ,



**Rt Revd Christopher  
Hill KCVO, DD**

President



**H. E. Metropolitan  
Emmanuel of France**

Vice-President



**Very Rev Karin  
Burstrand**

Vice-President



**Rev. Dr Guy Liagre**

General Secretary

Copy to

Rev. Dimitrios Boukis – General Secretary, Greek Evangelical Church

Very Rev. Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis, CEC Governing Board member