

What future for Europe?

In this titled open letter CEC is addressing many of the problems relevant for the European community and points out several of the topics that should, in its view, be of particular concern for the member churches.

Out of those our attention, that is that of the Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland, was drawn to pointing out how the today's European Union has strayed from the ideals that were the foundation of the vision leading to its conception. These beginnings, however conceived to create a space of unimpeded commerce and common bureaucracy to facilitate the functioning in this common entity, were based on solidarity and subsidiarity that were to create levelled field for all, to make the strong help the economically weak, to facilitate the exchanges and not to subordinate it to a soulless and alienated from those roots bureaucratic machinery.

It seems thus meet to stress this historical divergence of the goals and their realization. We find also very important the accentuation of the importance of the role of the churches in rebuilding the trust in the values fundamental for the EU, especially, that as the letter says, the diaconal work is the essence of the Christian testimony and the ministry to others. It is the simple and honest way leading to justice, equality, etc. We value thus especially the paragraph saying: 'An important function of diaconia is working both with, and on behalf of, those whom it seeks to serve. This role encompasses identifying and challenging injustices at every level—locally, nationally and internationally. It means addressing the huge disparities of income and wealth which mark the globalised economy. But it also means advocating the cause of those who are excluded because of race, gender, faith, ability or age. It points to the need for all to change in order that all may live in dignity. Diaconia also has a ministry and a duty to address all injustices covering the vast territory from unjust use of force to injustices against nature and God's Creation. Such activity goes back to the foundational values of modern culture and rests on our fundamental belief in the equality of people before God, and of

people as made in the image of God.'

And also: 'The European Union cannot survive as a beacon of hope if the law of the market is the only guiding principle.'

Therefore and because of the attachment of our church to the common values that the European community of nations, cultures, religions and denominations is a carrier of, we strongly support the ideas expressed by CEC in its open letter and we are glad to see that they were articulated loudly in a clear, understandable way.