



## **Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

## **CCME Activity Report 2000**

**The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, CCME, is an ecumenical agency working on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and anti-racism and anti-discrimination in Europe. CCME is an Associate Organisation of the Conference of European Churches and cooperates closely with the World Council of Churches. CCME keeps its members informed on relevant European developments in its areas of concern in relation to the European Union and the Council of Europe. It coordinates church activities in these fields on a European level. CCME lobbies on behalf of migrant and refugee concerns with European institutions, and promotes integration and anti-discrimination.**

Since the European Union's Amsterdam Treaty came into force, the EU has competence on a wide range of issues related to refugees' and migrants' concerns. Article 13 of this Treaty states that the EU is to take measures against discrimination on various grounds, including racism. On this basis new legislation is being drafted in the EU which affects persons living in EU member states, but also in neighbouring countries and world-wide. So, lobbying the European institutions, both the EU and the Council of Europe, has gained in importance.

### **ACTIVITIES in 2000**

In 2000, following the decisions of the CCME Assembly at Järvenpää in 1999, three Working Groups were established to allow broader participation and exchange. The Working Groups cover:

1. Monitoring European Migration and Asylum Policies
2. Churches' work with migrants, refugees and displaced persons
3. Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination

Each Working Group met twice in 2000. CCME also participates actively in the NGO Platform on Migration and Asylum in Brussels which coordinates NGO activities at the EU. It also participates, with official observer status, in the Migration Committee of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

CCME works closely with Roman Catholic and other Christian organisations in Brussels. Together with the International Catholic Migration Commission, it issued a background information document on "The Consequences of EU Enlargement for Migration and Asylum Policies in Central and Eastern Europe, taking the examples of the Czech Republic and Poland", written by Robert Scheunpflug and Lynette Tan. This paper is available on request, preferably by e-mail. Contacts were established with churches in the Czech Republic and Poland and this was followed up, e.g. in a seminar on enlargement at the German Protestant Academy of Mülheim/Ruhr in September and a visit to the Czech Republic in October.

In October 2000 CCME participated, also on behalf of the Conference of European Churches, in the preparations for and holding of the European Conference against Racism, as well as the preceding NGO Forum in Strasbourg, France. A statement was also issued on this occasion. See News.