



## Report

15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCME  
 Aegina (Greece)  
 31 October - 4 November 2002

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*Participants to the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCME arrived on 31 October in Athens and participated in the Opening Conference on "Irregular Migration: a Challenge to European Migration and Asylum Policies" on 1st November 2002 in Athens which was jointly organised with the Church of Greece and addressed by His Beatitude Archbishop Christodoulos and the Greek Minister of Interior Mr. Konstantinos Skandalidis. A conference report is available as a separate document.*

*After the conference, participants proceeded to Aegina Island.*

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

### **I. Opening**

Rev. Martin Affolderbach, Moderator of CCME, opened the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCME. He expressed CCME's gratitude to the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece for the invitation and thanked everybody involved in hosting the assembly.

Rev. Protopresbyter Stephanos Avramides, Secretary of the Synodical Committee on Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian relations of the Church of Greece, welcomed all participants and expressed his pleasure about the fact that CCME was holding its assembly in Greece. He underlined that the Church of Greece highly appreciates the work of CCME, e.g. towards the EU institutions as well as in the different working groups. He concluded by thanking everybody who was involved in the preparation of the assembly (see Appendix 1: Address by Rev. Protopresbyter Stephanos Avramides, Secretary of the Synodical Committee on Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Relations at the Opening of the Fifteenth General Assembly of CCME).

### **II. Welcome and roll call**

Martin Affolderbach welcomed guests, observers (present in accordance with art. 6.3. articles of association) and secretariat. He then proceeded to the roll call of voting delegates, establishing who is exercising the voting rights in accordance with articles 6.2. and 6.4. of CCME articles of association (results see Appendix 2b: List of Delegates exercising the voting right). As only one member was absent, 95,8 % of the members were duly represented. Martin Affolderbach then briefly introduced the documents for the meeting which had been mailed to the delegates.

### III. Adoption of the assembly agenda

The agenda for the assembly was unanimously adopted.

### IV. Election of Nomination Committee

Martin Affolderbach introduced the proposal of the ExCom for the composition of the Nomination Committee. The Assembly unanimously appointed Naboth Muchopa, Cristian Popescu, Ulla Schmidt and Martin Affolderbach (as moderator) as members of the Nomination Committee.

Martin Affolderbach explained that the Nomination Committee would be happy to receive suggestions for the elections of the Executive Committee until 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 13.30. The size of the ExCom was briefly discussed as article 7.1. of the articles of association leaves the decision to the General Assembly to elect 3 to 5 ExCom members in addition to moderator and treasurer. The assembly expressed a preference for the maximum allowed number of ExCom members.

### V. Election of General Rapporteurs

Martin Affolderbach presented the proposal to appoint Doris Peschke and Torsten Moritz as general rapporteurs. This was unanimously accepted.

### VI. Presenting new members

The organisations, which had joined CCME as new members since the 14<sup>th</sup> assembly, were invited to present themselves. Gabriela Leu gave a short presentation of the history and current work of the Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA) and Michael Bubik introduced work and history of the Diakonie – Protestant Refugee Service Austria. Martin Affolderbach explained that the ExCom had (after having notified the CCME members) provisionally accepted these organisations as members and that it was now for the General Assembly to approve this decision. The General Assembly unanimously approved the ExCom decision and welcomed the new members.

Cristian Popescu gave a short update on the situation of the Ecumenical Commission for Refugees in the Czech Republic, which had become CCME member at the last General Assembly.

### VII. Presentation and discussion of the activity report 1999-2002

Doris Peschke gave a brief oral presentation of the activity report 1999-2002 (document GA 2002-2). Various speakers expressed their great satisfaction with the work accomplished over the last three years. A discussion emerged around the issue of the relations between CCME and

MPG. Thanasis Apostolou, one of the two CCME representatives on the MPG board gave a brief overview of MPG's work over the past years, e.g. organising a policy dialogue with stakeholders in migration and the work on the anti-discrimination legislation. He explained that MPG after an evaluation of its work and profile envisaged structural changes.

It was decided to come back to this issue later in the discussion of the work programme. Some questions were asked regarding CCME contacts in Eastern and Central Europe. Doris Peschke gave a short overview of the existing contacts and underlined that a more pro-active approach would be needed to develop these contacts further.

Having received the activity report, the General Assembly unanimously discharged ExCom of its responsibility (with exception of the treasurer, who was discharged later).

### VIII. Presentation and discussion of the financial report 1999-2002

Doris Peschke conveyed the apologies of the treasurer Simo Repo, who due to other commitments could not be present. She presented the financial report 1999-2002 on behalf of the treasurer. Doris Peschke underlined that CCME financially managed at a low but steady level the last three years and thanked donors as well as members who had financially supported CCME in different ways over the last years. However, it was underlined that CCME had, due to a lack of funds, not been able to hire the additional (part-time) executive staff, which would be badly needed to cope with the different tasks that CCME needed to deal with. In the discussion speakers expressed their unhappiness about the lack of financial support from the side of MPG and CEC to CCME. Upon a request by the delegates, Doris Peschke briefly explained the reserve policy (restricted reserve) of CCME.

Having received the financial report, the General Assembly unanimously discharged the treasurer of his responsibility, thus the whole ExCom was discharged by the Assembly.

### IX. Report on the evaluation of the agreement between CCME, CEC and WCC and Recommendation of the implementation group

Martin Affolderbach introduced the subject by recalling the history of the cooperation agreement between CCME, CEC and WCC. He drew the delegates' attention to the relevant assembly documents (GA 2002-4 and GA 2002-5) and underlined that the discussion on the findings should take place in the working groups. However there would be time for questions of general clarification in plenary.

Subsequently, a general discussion developed in plenary. Concern was expressed about how CEC had in recent years contributed to the work

done by CCME, how CEC was represented at the CCME General Assembly and how this generally reflected CEC's commitment to the cooperation with CCME. A number of delegates also expressed uneasiness about possible prospects of further integration: namely the extra burden this integration could put on CCME staff, the possible loss of a high public profile which CCME currently enjoys after an integration as well as the somewhat unclear feeling of ownership which a majority of CEC member churches might have towards CCME.

In reactions, it was pointed out that CEC had been undergoing a very difficult time since the agreement was signed and thus been limited in its possibilities to support CCME financially, the representation at this CCME assembly with three persons as well as the resolution by the CEC Central Committee of June 2002 however were clear signs of commitment from the CEC side. The CEC Central Committee had requested a thorough analysis on the impact of an integration on CEC's organisation and structure as well. Regarding a possible integration, it was pointed out that such a process would need extra financial resources to be successful.

#### **X. Presentation draft work programme**

Doris Peschke briefly introduced the draft work programme 2003-2005 (assembly document GA 2002-6), highlighting the different priorities, ongoing tasks and projects foreseen for the period. It was decided that the detailed discussion on the programme would take place in the working groups.

#### **XI. Presentation of the draft budget 2003-2005**

Doris Peschke introduced the draft budget for 2003-2005 (assembly document GA 2002-7). She drew the delegates' attention to the fact that both income and expenditure side for 2003 were substantially increased due to the projects included in the budget. In general terms, a core funding of approximately 120.000-150.000 EUR through membership fees would be needed. It was decided that the detailed discussion on the budget would happen in the respective working group.

Delegates in view of the draft work programme and draft budget expressed their concern how the ambitious work programme could be implemented with the limited staff resources.

#### **XII. Introduction into the working group papers**

The three working groups presented the work done over the last 3 years, referring to the respective documents (assembly documents GA 2002-8, GA 2002-9, GA 2002-10).

Leena Björstedt introduced the report of WG 1 on "Position and trends – Monitoring European Asylum and Migration Policy". She underlined the strong focus of the group work on monitoring EU legislation with regard to migration and asylum and national legislation and stressed the usefulness of this exercise.

Thanasis Apostolou introduced the report of working group 2 on "Church-related work with refugees, displaced persons and migrants". He especially drew the delegates' attention to the recommendations, which the working group had formulated under point 6 of its report and underlined the fruitful dynamic of the group work as well as the added value of meeting in different locations and relating to the hosting organisations/churches.

Naboth Muchopa introduced the report of working group 3 on Anti-racism and anti-discrimination. He recalled some of the organisational difficulties, which the group had encountered. Drawing the delegates' attention to the recommendations under 7b) he underlined the importance of the work of extending solidarity to those affected by racism.

#### **XIII. Installation of the working groups**

Doris Peschke introduced the mandate and composition of the assembly working groups, namely

- Assembly working group 1 on migration policy,
- Assembly working group 2 on anti-racism, anti-discrimination and migrant churches,
- Assembly working group 3 on the evaluation of the agreement of co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC,
- Assembly working group 4 on finance, working programme and funding

Moderators and rapporteurs were appointed for all four groups. The Nomination Committee would work parallel to these working groups.

### Sunday 3rd November

After participating in the morning worship and an exposure to Aegina, the General Assembly started its afternoon session with the reports and recommendations from the assembly working groups. Pat White in her position as chair reminded everybody of the narrow timeframe and the need to be brief in presentations and discussions.

#### XIV. Conclusions of the assembly working groups

Marja-Liisa Laihia presented the recommendations of the General Assembly working group 1 on Migration policy (see Appendix 3: Assembly Working Group 1 on Migration Policy), which had mainly dealt with the report of the CCME working groups 1 and 2 (1999-2002). She underlined the fact that the General Assembly working group felt that both reports were worth to be published and made available to a broader audience. However, the working group proposed to merge the papers and that members of the group would contribute to some editorial work to avoid overlaps and to condense the findings into recommendations for further work of churches and related NGOs. The assembly received the report. The working group had put a few points as priorities:

- Task force could be set up if there is a need in the joint project with APRODEV.
- Trafficking project: we see a potential to expand the project later on by adding new Christian partners and applying more funding.
- It should be up to the General Secretary to invite task forces according to needs.
- Working Group 1 should continue monitoring European migration policy and the legislation. This Working Group could possibly deal with the issue of new member countries.
- There could be a second working group on church related work, which could divide its task in half: a group of specialists assisting the General Secretary and a small group who could visit member churches.

Jac Franken presented the report of the General Assembly working group 2 (anti-racism, anti-discrimination and migrant churches). Some discussion emerged around the formulation of "further developing communication" as mentioned in the report. While a number of speakers expressed satisfaction with the current state of communication, others underlined the need for better public relation work and the difficulty of communication with countries where no or only weak national structures are in place.

Several speakers commented on the report of the assembly working group by underlining their conviction that anti-racism and anti-discrimination should be a priority of work in the next years.

Several questions emerged regarding the possible continuation of the working groups, which were in place between 1999 and 2002 and the question of who will prioritise work and decide upon working structures over the next years (reference: bullet points 3 and 7 of the report of Assembly working group 2). Assembly working group 2 thus at a later point introduced an amendment to clarify these issues. This amendment was carried with 1 abstention and the amended report of the assembly working group was received (see Appendix 4: Assembly Working Group 2 on anti-racism, anti-discrimination and migrant churches).

As the conclusion of working group 3 were a separate agenda item, please refer to point XV. (XV. Decision on next steps in the cooperation with CEC)

Goos Minderman introduced the report of assembly working group 4 (see Appendix 5: Assembly Working Group on Finance, work programme and funding). He explained the general rationale that core business of CCME and non-core business should somehow be distinguished in the budget, that this however under given circumstances was not possible. After some considerations the group had however come to the conclusion that - all in all - additional staff in the CCME office was needed and extra funding for this was a priority. Extra staff could enhance the activities in the field of information, communication and project development. It would in this context be desirable to have a mission statement for CCME on basis of which fundraising could happen.

A discussion developed around the idea of developing a mission statement. Various speakers underlined that they found it a good idea to have such a paper and that developing such a statement should be a participatory process. The following resolution was tabled:

#### Resolution:

*For the budget and the programme, we need a basic general policy paper of the CCME (mission, strategy, targets and actions). We lack criteria to determine what is a core task or not for CCME. From this paper we could clearly derive the core-tasks (to be financed). These criteria must be part of the Activity report which the ExCom will present to the next General Assembly.*

This resolution was unanimously accepted. The report as such was received.

## **XV. Decision on next steps in the cooperation with CEC**

Leena Björstedt presented the report of assembly working group 3 and its finding, the draft resolution on the agreement of co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC. She reminded the assembly of the history of cooperation between CCME, CEC and WCC so far. Leena Björstedt also reported that concerns had been expressed in the working group regarding a further integration. It had for example been mentioned that a stronger commitment of CEC towards the work done by CCME would be deemed necessary.

Leena Björstedt also shared the reflection of the assembly working group on a few other issues, namely the need to establish a priority in networking efforts: here a priority should be given to networking among churches. She also reported that the group felt that the ExCom should decide upon future working structures (e.g. working groups, task forces) but that a group on EU legislation would be very much needed. She also echoed reservations about the term "migrant churches" which had been expressed in the working group.

A discussion emerged around the draft recommendation, especially around the issue of "developing mutual confidence" (draft resolution 2 b) between CEC and CCME. A controversial discussion followed. At a later point it was suggested to amend the resolution (2 b would now read "The discussion should be accompanied by continuing, intensified and more effective co-operation between the two bodies"), This amendment was carried with one abstention. The amended version was then carried (see Appendix 6: Resolution on the Evaluation of the Agreement of Co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC (as amended and adopted).

## **XVI. Relation CCME-MPG**

The assembly discussed the relationship with the Migration Policy Group (MPG). Thanasis Apostolou informed the Assembly on the discussion and process of evaluation and changes within MPG. Doris Peschke explained the need to find a position how and especially with how many persons CCME would like to be represented on the MPG board. Currently two persons nominated by CCME are members of the MPG board (consisting of 5 persons altogether). However this composition of the MPG board could be changed in the future and CCME needed to find its position on the issue. A controversial discussion developed. During this discussion, a number of speakers recalled that MPG had originally been founded by CCME with the promise to secure extra funding for CCME activities and help with project development for CCME, but had so far failed to deliver in this respect. It was along this line argued that CCME should try to establish a closer link with MPG and insist to see how MPG could be of help with CCME funding and projects.

Other speakers shared the recollection why MPG was founded and the assessment that MPG had developed away from CCME, but underlined that CCME could not force a closer relationship upon MPG, especially as MPG was a formally independent organisation.

As a result of the deliberations two different motions concerning the future relationship with MPG were brought forward by Arriën Kruyt (Appendix 7a: motion on relationship with MPG (as drafted by Arriën Kruyt and adopted by the General Assembly)) and Annemarie Dupré (Appendix 7b: motion on relationship with MPG (as drafted by Annemarie Dupré and not adopted by the General Assembly)). They were at a later point put to vote with the following result:

Motion by Arriën Kruyt 25 votes

Motion by Annemarie Dupré 13 votes

The motion drafted by Arriën Kruyt was thus adopted.

## **XVII. Decision on the Work Programme 2003-2005**

The General Assembly proceeded to a general discussion of the work programme 2003-2005 (document GA 2002-6). A discussion developed around paragraph 9.1. referring to the further relations with CEC. Keith Jenkins suggested an amendment to this paragraph of the work programme. This amendment was carried with one abstention. The amended work programme was then unanimously carried (see Appendix 9: CCME Work Programme 2003-2005 as adopted ).

## **XVIII. Elections of the Executive Committee**

Martin Affolderbach recalled the distribution of votes in the assembly (see Appendix 2b: List of Delegates exercising the voting right). He also informed the delegates that the Austrian representative had by written confirmation mandated him to exercise the Austrian votes. The number of votes in the assembly was thus 47 votes in total.

Naboth Muchopa introduced the delegates to the election process itself, as stipulated in the articles of association 7.1. and 7.4. The exact number of ExCom members was briefly discussed and it was unanimously reaffirmed that in addition to the moderator and treasurer 5 ExCom members would be elected. CEC and WCC would continue to nominate one ExCom member each, so that the ExCom would consist of 9 persons altogether.

Naboth Muchopa then asked whether the assembly wished a secret ballot. As several delegates expressed their wish for a secret ballot, it was decided that voting would be done through secret ballot.

The Nomination Committee then presented its proposal for the elections of the ExCom. The suggestions were:

As moderator: Annemarie Dupré, Italy  
 As treasurer: Goos Minderman, Netherlands  
 As members: Jac Franken, Netherlands  
 Ralf Geisler, Germany  
 Marja-Liisa Laihia, Finland  
 Antonios Papantoniou, Greece  
 Benz Schär, Switzerland  
 Pat White

As substitute: Naboth Muchopa

It was explained that the person not elected as ExCom member could afterwards stand as candidate for being substitute member.

All candidates shortly introduced themselves. The assembly then proceeded to the votes.

#### VOTING RESULTS

Moderator: Annemarie Dupré

"Yes" votes 46 "No" votes 0 Abstention 1

Annemarie Dupré was thus elected new moderator of CCME. She accepted the election.

Treasurer: Goos Minderman

"Yes" votes 45 "No" votes 0 Abstention 1 Invalid 1

Goos Minderman was thus elected as new CCME treasurer. He accepted the election.

Members of the ExCom

Jac Franken	10 votes
Ralf Geisler	43 votes
Marja-Liisa Laihia	41 votes
Antonios Papantoniou	44 votes
Benz Schaer	41 votes
Pat White	43 votes

All persons with the exception of Jac Franken were thus elected as new members of the CCME ExCom. They all accepted the election.

Election of substitutes:

Jac Franken	22 votes
Naboth Muchopa	25 votes

Naboth Muchopa was thus elected as first substitute and Jac Franken as second substitute member of the ExCom. They accepted the election.

#### XIX. Decision on the budget 2003-2005

The assembly took note of the draft budget 2003-2005. Doris Peschke underlined that the ExCom would need to adjust the budget on an ongoing basis in view of real income and expenditure. Goos Minderman underlined that this will be done regularly. The increase for salaries and office costs were reduced from 5 % to 2 % annually.

The budget was unanimously adopted (see Appendix 8: Budget as adopted by the General Assembly November 2002).

#### XX. Closing

Martin Affolderbach thanked all delegates for their contributions, their patience and cooperation during the assembly and declared the assembly closed.

Annemarie Dupré expressed the most heartfelt thanks to Martin Affolderbach for the work he has done as CCME moderator. This was echoed by applause from the delegates. Thanks were expressed also to all ExCom members, particularly to Joël Le Billan, Duca de Bruijn, Simo Repo for their service on the ExCom of CCME as well as to Keith Jenkins as an observer and adviser of the CEC Church and Society Commission. Gratitude was expressed once again to the Greek hosts of the Assembly for ensuring a smooth running of the assembly and choosing such a marvellous sight. Thanks were also expressed to His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Hydra, Spetses and Aegina, Bishop Ephraim for being present at the Assembly on Sunday and hosting the lunch. The CCME Secretariat was thanked for the preparations of the Assembly.

The evening celebration echoed these expressions and the Assembly closed with an experience of Greek hospitality and Greek dances.

Brussels, 17 January 2003

Annemarie Dupré  
Moderator

Doris Peschke  
General Secretary

Torsten Moritz  
Rapporteur

**Appendix 1: Address by Rev. Protopresbyter Stephanos Avramides, Secretary of the Synodical Committee on Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Relations at the Opening of the Fifteenth General Assembly of CCME**

In the name of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and of the local Bishop, the Most Reverend Metropolitan Ephraim of Hydra, Spetsae and Aegina, who unfortunately was not able to be with us here today, I welcome you to the island of Aegina and express to you my very best wishes for all success in your General Assembly. We regret that we were not able to host you at the Inter-Orthodox Conference Centre of our Church where the Seventh CCME General Assembly took place in 1982. The Centre is currently undergoing extensive renovation and it is our hope that sometime in the near future we shall have the pleasure of welcoming you there. I also hope that here in the warm and hospitable facilities provided by the Danae Hotel you will have a pleasant stay and that time spent here will be both creative and productive. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Antonios Koukoulis of the Danae Hotel for the special rates he has offered to our Church in order that we might hold the General Assembly here.

As Secretary of the Holy Synod's Committee on Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Relations, I also wish to congratulate the CCME and its Executive Committee on the important work that it has accomplished up to now and which I believe and trust will be continued by the New Executive Committee that will result from this Assembly.

Our Church follows with great interest and satisfaction the work that is being done. We are greatly satisfied by the high quality and the diplomatic formulation of the Reports which from time to time the CCME, in collaboration with the other church organisations based in Brussels, has submitted to the European Commission, and in which it comments upon the Commission's proposals for the issuance of Council Directives, as for instance in the *"European Commission's Proposals for a Council Directive on the right to residents"* or the *"EU Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the right to family reunification"*. Whoever studies these commentaries comes to the conclusion that one cannot overlook these evaluations without consequence, since they are a contribution characterised by a very good knowledge of the issues, by a responsible and comprehensive approach, and by balanced and realistic counter-proposals.

Also the work of the three CCME Working Groups, in which our Church participates with a representative in each:

- The working Group monitoring European Migration and Asylum Policies,

- The Working Group on Church related Work on Migrants, Refugees, and Displaced Persons,
- And the Working Group on Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism, which deals with the phenomena of Racism and Discrimination, phenomena unacceptable for a Christian and humane Europe

convinces us that those who participate of those groups, some of whom are present among us, are committed to their work, know the issues well and handle the problems with responsibility and realism. For this reason I believe that both the work of the CCME to date in its entirety and yesterday's Conference constitute a successful and significant contribution to the issue that today holds all of Europe's attention: Migration and illegal Immigration.

I hope that the views and the proposals put forth at yesterday's Conference and broadcast live by the Radio Station of the Church of Greece, a Station that has a very broad listening audience not only in Greece but even among Greeks who live abroad, will be taken into serious consideration by the Greek Presidency and will be well received by Greek civil society.

In conclusion, I should like to thank, on behalf of the Church, all those who in any way laboured to prepare and organise the Conference and the General Assembly, and especially the staff of the CCME and the Integration Centre for Migrant Workers of the Holy Synod and wish you all success in your deliberations and in the work of the Assembly.

## Appendix 2a: List of Participants

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## Appendix 2b: List of Delegates exercising the voting right

Country	Member Associate organisation or	Name of Delegate	Votes	Total votes
Austria	-DIAKONIE- Protestant Refugee Service Austria	Mr Michael Bubik	3	3
Belgium	-Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique	Mrs Tetty Rooze	3	3
Czech Republic	-Ecumenical Commission for Refugees in the Czech Rep.	Mr Cristian Popescu	3	3
Finland	-Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	Mrs Marja-Liisa Laihia	3	3
France	-Fédération Protestante de France -CIMADE	Mr Jean Marc Dupeux	3	3
Germany	-Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (EKD) in -Diakonisches Werk der EKD	Dr Martin Affolderbach Dr Ralf Geisler Mr Klaus- Dieter-Bastin	1 1 1	3
Greece	-The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece	Dr Antonios K Papantoniou Mrs Maria Papantoniou Mrs Artemis Kalavanou	1 1 1	3
Italy	-Federazione delle Chiese Evangeliche in Italia (FCEI)	Dr Annemarie Dupré	3	3

Country	Member or Associate organisation	Name of Delegate	Votes	Total votes
Netherlands	-Council of Churches in the Netherlands	Mr Thanasis Apostolou	1	3
		Dr. G. Minderman	1	
	-Samen op Weg-Kerken	Rvd Jac Franken	1	
Norway	-Church of Norway	Dr Ulla Schmidt	3	3
Romania	-Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)	Mrs Gabriela Leu	3	3
Spain	-Comité Español de Cooperación entre las Iglesias (CECI)		<b>Not represented</b>	
Sweden	-Church of Sweden	Mrs Leena Björstedt	1	3
		Rev. Daniel Calero Davyt	1	
	-Christian Council of Sweden	Mrs Leena Björstedt	1	
Switzerland	-Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (FSPC/FEPS)	Mrs Christina Burger	3	3
United Kingdom	-Churches' Commission for Racial Justice	Mrs Pat White	1	4
	-Methodist Church of Great Britain	Mr. Naboth Muchopa	1	

Country	Member or Associate organisation	Name of Delegate	Votes	Total votes
	-Council of African Caribbean Churches	Senior Apostle James Abiodun Ozigi	1	
		Rev Esme Beswick	1	
	-Conference of European Churches (CEC)	Mr Cristian Popescu	1	2
		Rev Pauline Kimba-Smith	1	
	-World Council of Churches (WCC)	Dr Elizabeth Ferris	2	2
<b>Total votes</b>				<b>47</b>

### Appendix 3: Assembly Working Group 1 on Migration Policy

We have looked at the two papers

- 1) European Migration policy - trends and challenges (which is actually not a report but a paper)
- 2) The recommendations given in the working group report on Church related work with refugees, displaced persons and migrants

We found some overlapping and need of editorial work.

We think both documents are worth publishing and recommend to the Executive Committee to consider how and to whom to distribute them. The documents could be shortened and merged together or then a short introductory letter could be sent to the member churches with a note that the complete documents are available on the CEC website.

It should also clearly be stated that the working group 2 has prioritised the work among undocumented persons.

We would like to make some additions to the analysis of migration trends:

- Migration trends often change very rapidly, e.g. transit countries become receiving countries, the Roma leave and return, trafficking. States may not be capable of providing the necessary services. These changes often cause the governments to put pressure on NGOs and churches to act more and adjust their aid programs to the new demands.

We also recognize that the political culture in general is changing. There is unrest and concern in the society on many issues and this affects the politicians as well the other way around.

Our discussions led to some more challenges to the churches:

1. A crucial question is whose role is it to help, especially in the situation when the state is not fulfilling its responsibility. We came to the conclusion that churches and NGOs need to remind the state of its responsibility, but at the same time continue providing the basic humanitarian aid to the people who desperately need it.
2. The churches can work even with limited resources. There is expertise in the churches which can be contributing to the state (legal aid, training...). Also participation in joint forums concerning the situation of migrants is valuable.

We identified some clear needs:

1. How can the churches help each other in rapid change situations? It may be that the new CCME members need the exchange of experience and skills about how to change direction and adjust the work to the new demands. Also lobbying skills may be needed. It is also important to build up contacts with the Eastern European countries in efforts to deal with trafficking.
2. Churches should continue producing statements in support of different international conventions (The Migrants Rights Convention etc.).

3. The churches are in favour of family reunification as well as of temporary permits. We are aware that there is a conflict zone in this area. On the other hand people cannot be deprived of this basic need and support, but is it feasible (realistic) to plan and work for family reunification if it is clear that the person cannot stay long in the country? If the Government clearly has bad policy on the residence permits causing insecurity among migrants who just hang on with a wish to settle down with their families, there is a definite need for churches to lobby.

(This matter could be worked further in a working group)

4. Churches should be active in promoting reciprocal relationships in addressing various social, economical, cultural issues. If there is a trust relationship between the churches and migrant communities, we may be frank in addressing our partners in dialogue and cooperation.

Some additions to the recommendations in the working group report:

1. Already in some countries changes are being made in legislation, which may contradict fundamental human rights. In this situation the church activists helping undocumented migrants are in the danger of being branded criminals in front of the law. The churches are challenged with the question of if and how to support undocumented migrants.

We did have some reservations about the integration of undocumented migrants and could not agree on that point. We agreed however that the churches have the moral responsibility to provide basic human provisions (food, shelter, medical care) and to help people gain their self-respect as well as to take their own responsibility to consider the prospects for future. It is also important that the churches support and back those individuals working with undocumented migrants.

2. We recommend that the advocacy and lobby issues be combined. Some clarifications:
  - There are also other reasons for churches to engage in lobbying (human rights)
  - There are clear gaps in the legislation that need to be filled. The churches should lobby for legislative changes and not be satisfied with the expectation always to fill the gaps.

#### Appendix 4: Assembly Working Group 2 on anti-racism, anti-discrimination and migrant churches

Pat White, moderator

Daniel Calero and Jac Franken: rapporteurs

\* In general we accept the working program, but consideration should be given to the capacities of member churches to participate and contribute and to CCME in relation to staffing, time and budget.

\* We consider it necessary that for the different activities, task forces projects etc. in the working program (more) specific targets and timetables are formulated before they are carried out.

\* The three working groups have finished their work and reported and made recommendations for follow-up.

The working programme in 9.2. wants more flexible task forces alongside one or two permanent working groups.

We propose that the Ex Com is mandated to decide whether for the realisation of the recommendations of the three former working groups one or two new "permanent working groups" or a number of "more flexible task force" should be formed.)

\* The Ex Com should make an effort to obtain the participation and contribution of the members in each of the activities and can try to delegate -where possible and appropriate- the work and the leading role of task groups to the members.

\* For CCME to establish strong communication lines between the members as a means of sharing good practices around strategic anti racism and anti discrimination activities is essential.

\* We warmly support the budget line on migrant churches and in the context of globalisation suggest that it explores what the opinions and ideas of the African independent churches are on the position and development of migrant churches in Europe.

In 6.8.1 we amend the text: '... exchange and work among and with migrant churches...' In 6.8.3 next to a consultation also visits, exchanges, networking, national meetings etc. are possible with the focus on supporting local work with migrant churches.

It would be helpful to have material available on the work of and work with black and migrant churches.

\* We consider anti-racism and anti-discrimination a priority for CCME and the member churches

We propose that the Ex Com takes up the two thematic priorities and the first and second methodological priority as stated in the recommendations of WG 3 (see assembly document GA 2002-10).

#### Appendix 5: Assembly Working Group on Finance, work programme and funding

1.

Instead of making the budget the guide for the program, we tried to make the programme leading the finances. From our perspective and with our knowledge, we could not set priorities for CCME. Further, we agreed that CCME should stay an ambitious organisation and we believe that on all proposed points, activities are necessary (although perhaps not on all points with the same intensity and energy).

2.

For the budget and the program we need a basic general policy paper of CCME (mission, strategy and targets). We lack criteria to determine what is core-task or not for CCME. From this paper we could clearly derive the core-tasks (to be financed). These criteria must be part of an activity report, which the ExCom will present to the next General Assembly.

3.

We make a difference between the core-business (or structural administrative force) and the projects. The core-tasks must be paid out of membership fees (and structural sponsors). No structural costs must be paid out of incidental funds.

4.

The main conclusion of the group was that not too many people and organisations know what CCME's goals and functions are. You cannot have a successful lobby without the clear support of the members and their members. You cannot ask for money if you are not known. The whole financial chapter therefore starts with communication and information.

5.

Considering that we hope for new members in Eastern Europe, it is regarded realistic to calculate some costs for their costs and travel expenses to CCME assemblies and working groups.

6.

Regarding the structural expenses, in discussion and after advise of the members of CCME-staff, we decided that for the presented program, we need the following staff:

- 40% general; secretary
- 25% lobbying
- 35% policy making and advising

- 50% information and communication
- 50% developing projects and implementation
- 100% administration and support

These points mean that we will at least need an extra funding of about 40.000 to 50.000 Euro annually. If this money is not found, the activities on project development and communication are brought back to a minimum. We think that this is not acceptable because of the need stated in point 4.

7.

Regarding the funding of the structural expenses, we propose the following recommendations:

- a. The most realistic way is the membership fees:
  - are there new members to be approached? E.g. Denmark?
  - are there members who could pay more?
- b. Look at the system of contribution for the CEC. How the system of membership fees is organised in the CEC and apply that system to the CCME-figures.
- c. Anticipate the merger with CEC: calculate membership fees for all CEC-member churches on the basis of 300% staff, as mentioned above.

8.

We suggest a small support group for the treasurer on fundraising and finance. Once a year in Bruxelles. And thereby we think of a small group of the main contributors of CCME. This group is searching ways to expand the funding up to the 300% as mentioned above. A proposal shall be handed to the ExCom.

#### **Appendix 6: Resolution on the Evaluation of the Agreement of Co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC (as amended and adopted)**

1. The Assembly of CCME notes:
  - (a) The recommendations of the Implementation Group for the Agreement of Co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC as formulated on 3 May 2002;
  - (b) The resolutions of the Central Committee of CEC held at Morges 2-9 June 2002.
2. The Assembly agrees that further discussions should be undertaken between CEC and CCME with a view to establishing the conditions under which a merger between the two bodies could take place. The following principles should apply to these further discussions:
  - (a) Sufficient time should be allowed for the process so that decisions are not taken under unnecessary pressure.
  - (b) The discussion should be accompanied by continuing, intensified and more effective co-operation between the two bodies  
 In this context CCME asks CEC to set in motion, as soon as possible, the evaluation of the impact of a merger on the organizational development and structures of CEC referred to in the resolution of the Central Committee and to investigate how CEC can increase the contribution of staff time to CCME to bring it closer to the 20 per cent target referred to in the agreement of co-operation between CCME, CEC and WCC (14 January 2000).
  - (c) Both parties should express their commitment to the carrying out of the CCME mandate on the basis of the current Articles of Association and to this end CCME asks the CEC Assembly in Trondheim to include a statement of commitment in the future Work Programme of CEC and to encourage the member churches to engage with issues of migration, asylum, refugees and racism.
  - (d) Recognizing that these discussions will impose a considerable time commitment on the staff of both bodies which will bear particularly heavily on CCME's smaller staff- CCME asks CEC to make a joint approach with CCME to member churches and organizations to secure the extra resources necessary to facilitate the process.
3. The Assembly agrees that, in order to enable a decision to be taken as to whether appropriate conditions for a merger can be established, the following issues should be included in the agenda for the discussions:

- (a) Amendment of CEC's byelaws to ensure the maintenance of CCME's identity, mandate and specificity;
  - (b) A provision for participation in the work of a future Commission by present members of CCME which include, *inter alia*, national councils of churches, church-related agencies and councils of migrant or black majority churches, which are sometimes not yet members of CEC;
  - (c) The guarantee of a separate budget line for CCME within the CEC budget accompanied by strong efforts of CEC to seek funding from the member churches or from other sources for CCME-related projects;
  - (d) Necessary changes in the structure of CCME to enable it to function as a Commission of CEC;
  - (e) Ensuring that the official observer status which CCME presently has at the Council of Europe can be maintained;
  - (f) A convergence of the employment conditions of CCME and CEC staff members;
  - (g) Affirmation of CCME/the new Commission's location in Brussels;
  - (h) Clarity about the use of the name CCME and the name of the new Commission;
  - (i) Agreement on the process and legitimacy of public statements made by CCME in the name of CEC;
  - o) An investigation of how workloads could be redistributed and relationships could be developed between different parts of CEC in the event of a merger.
4. The Assembly requests CEC to agree to the establishment of a joint negotiation group consisting of one or two members of the CCME Executive Committee and the General Secretary and an equivalent number of persons on the part of CEC. It requests the group to consult the WCC and to submit a report setting out solutions to the issues referred to in paragraph 3 above and, if appropriate, a draft agreement for a merger to the next CCME General Assembly in 2005 and to the CEC Central Committee.

**Appendix 7a: motion on relationship with MPG (as drafted by Arriën Kruyt and adopted by the General Assembly)**

The assembly of CCME asks:

1. The Ex Com to appoint two members on the board on the board of MPG.
2. The Ex Com instructs those two members to work on a practical agreement between CCME and MPG in collaboration with the General Secretary of CCME.
3. A report about the relations between MPG and CCME for the next General Assembly.

**Appendix 7b: motion on relationship with MPG (as drafted by Annemarie Dupré and not adopted by the General Assembly)**

The assembly asks the Ex Com to negotiate with MPG on a new agreement of collaboration. It should insist to have at least 1 person on the board. Clear forms of cooperation should be agreed.

The Ex Com should report on the new agreement and the relationship and co-operation during the period until the next assembly.

**Appendix 8: Budget as adopted by the General Assembly November 2002**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Salaries and related costs	139.000,00 €	139.000,00 €	141.780,00 €	144.615,00 €
Rent and upkeep of office	17.000,00 €	17.500,00 €	17.850,00 €	18.207,00 €
Equipment and services	2.500,00 €	3.000,00 €	3.060,00 €	3.120,00 €
Telephone/Postage	4.800,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.100,00 €	5.202,00 €
Photocopies	2.400,00 €	2.400,00 €	2.448,00 €	2.497,00 €
Office supplies	2.000,00 €	4.000,00 €	4.080,00 €	4.160,00 €
ExCom Travel	10.000,00 €	10.000,00 €	10.200,00 €	10.405,00 €
Staff Travel	6.000,00 €	6.000,00 €	6.120,00 €	6.240,00 €
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	3.000,00 €	3.000,00 €	3.060,00 €	3.120,00 €
Working Groups	7.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
CCME General Assembly	6.000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	8.000,00 €
Fundraising activities	16.000,00 €	16.000,00 €	16.000,00 €	16.000,00 €
<b>Projects:</b>				
Amman Process		2.000,00 €	12.000,00 €	2.500,00 €
Rd. Table against Racism/DOV; Roma, enlargement	43.300,00 €			45.000,00 €
Roma		5.000,00 €		
Globalisation and Migration		22.000,00 €		
Trafficking CAT		120.000,00 €		
Migrant Churches		7.500,00 €	18.000,00 €	6.000,00 €
EU Enlargement			20.000,00 €	
40 years CCME			12.000,00 €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.000,00 €</b>	<b><u>367.400,00 €</u></b>	<b><u>276.698,00 €</u></b>	<b><u>280.066,00 €</u></b>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Memberships	100.000,00 €	120.000,00 €	122.400,00 €	140.000,00 €
General Grants	32.000,00 €	35.000,00 €	35.700,00 €	36.400,00 €
Grants to be secured	71.000,00 €	57.900,00 €	70.598,00 €	97.666,00 €
<b>Project grants</b>	56.000,00 €			
Trafficking CAT		120.000,00 €		
Roma (CEC Assembly Programme)		5.000,00 €		
Globalisation and Migration		22.000,00 €		
EU Enlargement			20.000,00 €	
Migrant Churches		7.500,00 €	18.000,00 €	6.000,00 €
40 year CCME			10.000,00 €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.000,00 €</b>	<b><u>367.400,00 €</u></b>	<b><u>276.698,00 €</u></b>	<b><u>280.066,00 €</u></b>

- Salaries of all staff and related costs as social security are taken as one item in the budget for 2003-2005. The part-time staff person is a matter of urgency, but could not be realised yet. It is included in the salaries as well as an annual 2 % increase.
- Projects: All projects can only be carried out if the funding is secured. Projects will have their own budget.
- The project on trafficking - CAT - is approved for funding by the European Commission. These projects, while benefitting the overall work of CCME, will tie a lot of time and resources of CCME staff.
- The project on Roma for the CEC Assembly has been pre-discussed with the Nordic members of CCME.
- Globalisation and Migration is a project of the CEC Church and Society Commission, which CCME will carry out.
- For 2004 and 2005 the project development is still more open, therefore the budget lists them as more general. The ExCom will have the responsibility to look into more detailed budgets every year.

**Appendix 9: CCME Work Programme 2003-2005 as adopted****CCME Work Programme 2003-2005****Introduction**

- 1.1. CCME is an ecumenical agency on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and anti-racism and anti-discrimination in Europe. The aim of CCME is to develop in the churches throughout Europe a due sense of responsibility towards the situation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people. Churches themselves are facing challenges arising from welcoming persons of different culture and origin in their midst.
- 1.2. CCME shall encourage and initiate appropriate measures on the part of the churches, which promote and enhance the rights of these people and defend them against discrimination.
- 1.3. CCME is dealing with issues, which are of great concern in our societies and in our churches. These issues are high on the political agenda of Europe and of the churches, as has been emphasized at the II. European Assembly of the Conciliar Process in Graz. While asylum, immigration and anti-discrimination were topics on the national political agenda in the past, all these issues have come under the competence of the European Union since 1999.
- 1.4. In the year 2004, the European Union will be joined by a number of countries in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. As a consequence, these countries have to incorporate the *acquis communautaires* into their legislation on asylum and migration. Jointly with the Church and Society Commission of CEC, CCME will monitor the developments of the integration of Europe and seek ways to inform churches in Central and Eastern Europe.
- 1.5. Public debates in most European societies focus on the high number of asylum seekers and irregular migrants, and subsequently political decisions are taken with regard to asylum procedures, return policies with regard to irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers, strengthening of border controls. At the same time, most European governments have embarked on recruitment policies for migrants into certain sectors of the economy. It is widely recognized, particularly in academic fields, that an increase of immigration is inevitable as the demographic situation in most industrialized countries leads to an ageing population. While the general recognition of these trends is generally acknowledged for Western Europe, it is not so much

known for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where demographic trends towards an ageing population are even worse.

- 1.6.. If the churches and organizations of refugees and minority ethnic people want to play a role in decision-making, co-ordination on the European level is increasingly necessary.
- 1.7. Seeing migration as a global phenomenon, exchange within the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People of the World Council of Churches is of utmost importance. The GEN has identified trafficking in human beings and advocacy on behalf of uprooted people as priorities for the common work.
- 1.8. Integration of migrants and minorities, as well as creating welcoming societies will remain of paramount importance in the coming years. Cooperation on European level can raise the visibility for churches' and church related agencies involvement to achieve this aim.

**2. Migration and Integration****2.1. Migration and Globalisation**

- 2.1.1. While migration is widely regarded as a phenomenon of people seeking refuge for various reasons – judged as valid for a smaller percentage or invalid for a larger percentage by European and international institutions and governments – new patterns of migration emerge. The International Organisation for Migration IOM estimated in 2000 that around 150 million people worldwide are migrants. Economic globalisation and its consequences in many countries of the South lead to migration to other regions. Despite the increase in irregular migration, however, the actual figures of migrants on a global level are relatively stable.
- 2.1.2. The regulations of the European Union creating an area of free movement within the Union (Schengen) have led to a shift of migratory problems to the periphery of the EU in the Southern and Eastern countries of the EU. Strict border controls at the outside border of the Schengen area, however, were not able to decrease to reduce smuggling of migrants and refugees. Particularly in the Mediterranean region, for countries like Spain, Italy and Greece, the problems of boat people arriving at their shores is enormous. Presently the number of persons dying at the shores of Southern Europe has increased again.
- 2.1.3. The European Union has responded by putting pressure on countries of origin and transit to accept readmission agreements and to control migratory flows from their territories. Prior to the Seville Summit of the European Council, the Spanish EU Presidency

had launched a debate to cut development aid. However, the Seville Council confirmed that a more comprehensive approach needs to be taken and reiterated the Tampere conclusions of 1999. In autumn 2002, the European Commission will publish a communication on migration and development.

2.1.4. The High Level Working Group on Migration and Asylum of the Council of the EU has now a broader mandate and will continue to look into aspects of concern in countries and regions of origin. CCME, jointly with other Christian organisations has supported the idea of creating a European observatory on migration, which has been proposed by the Council of Europe and by the European Commission. However, CCME's view has been that such an observatory should be comprehensive and be a tool in developing a European immigration policy.

2.1.5. CCME will carry out a project jointly with the Church and Society Commission of CEC and WCC-related development agencies in Europe APRODEV to understand the relationship between globalisation and migration better and work on possible positions and activities for churches and church-related agencies.

## 2.2. New immigration

2.2.1. While the European Union policies concerning irregular migrants have become stricter and the EU is presently developing a common return policy for persons not authorized to reside on the territory, common border controls and implementing a common visa and data exchange system, the progress in formulating a common immigration and migration policy is not yet achieved. There is a severe lack of agreement on proposals by the European Commission for common standards on entry and residence for the purpose of employment and self-employed activities and an open coordination mechanism for a European immigration policy. The European Commission will in autumn present a proposal on entry and residence for the purpose of study, training and voluntary activities.

2.2.2. At the same time, EU member states are actively recruiting migrants for a number of sectors of their economies. This new immigration is a response to the acknowledged need for immigration as also for the first time expressed at the EU level in Tampere in October 1999. While publicly these recruitment initiatives are described as targeting high-skilled migrants like computer experts, many European states presently recruit medical and lower-skilled staff for their health and social services.

2.2.3. The apparent contradiction points to reluctance and a lack of political will to find a common European migration policy.

However, CCME will continue to lobby for a European approach which could guarantee more transparency on migration policies and possibilities. CCME will continue to express the need for a common European policy on immigration.

2.2.4. CCME hopes - if funding can be secured - to carry out a project on migration counselling. Migration counselling, preferably available to migrants prior to migration, could lead to more informed decisions for persons to migrate. To this end, CCME will collect the experience of migration and return migration counselling available with its members and facilitate exchange of best practice.

2.2.5. As immigration will be needed throughout Europe in the coming decade, CCME hopes to initiate in the coming years a network on migration counselling reaching also regions of origin.

## 2.3. Integration of migrants

2.3.1. CCME supported the Tampere conclusions of the European Council particularly with regard to the status of third country nationals which is to be approximated as much as possible to that of EU citizens. CCME has for many years been lobbying for a better legal status for third country nationals. The aim for CCME is that third country nationals who have been living legally in the European Union for more than five years will be treated equally to EU-citizens living in another EU country.

2.3.2. With the new immigration initiatives in many EU countries, a variety of different residence permits is created. While high-skilled persons generally get a longer-term permit (approximately 5 years) and do not have restrictions on their families, this does not apply to permits for persons taking care of elderly or households (two years limit, no family members). However, churches regard the European social values as applicable to every human being and certainly not only to the wealthier persons. CCME thus advocates for the same standards for all immigrants. A limited work permit is a useful tool, but if extended, the persons must be granted the same rights as longer-term third country nationals. CCME would therefore strive for a European system, which allows short permit (up to one year), but generally the permit should be for a minimum of three years. After one extension, or at the latest after five years legal residence, every person should be granted the status of long-term residents.

## 2.4. Family Reunification

2.4.1. In November 1999, the European Commission adopted its first proposal for a directive on family reunification. Family reunification has been the major legal instrument for immigration in the past

two decades. CCME has been actively lobbying for the right to family reunion prior to this proposal as a member of the European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Life, and since then both with this Coordination, but also jointly with other Christian organisations in Brussels. CCME commended the European Commission's approach in the first proposal; however, the Council has not been able to reach even compromise agreement. The third proposal by the European Commission has been published in spring 2002 and negotiations have started with the aim to reach agreement under the Greek Presidency in the first half of 2003. Although this proposal is not very promising anymore and will not achieve the aim of harmonizing the right to family reunification in the EU member states, CCME will continue to lobby for the right to family life of nationals of third countries. It is of utmost importance to lobby for family reunification for refugees (Geneva Convention and "subsidiary", complementary forms of protection) without conditions with regard to income and housing for this group. CCME will promote the position that family life is a fundamental right and should not be depending on social status. Family life is a major integration factor into the society as has been proven by various researches.

## 2.5. Long-term Residents

2.5.1. The draft directive proposed by the European Commission in spring 2001 on the status of long-term resident third country nationals has been a major step forward with regard to migrants' rights. After a seminar on long-term resident migrants in Paris in 2000, the controversial views in the Council were not to be foreseen. However, there is little progress with regard to this directive, the major stumbling block being who should benefit from this status. CCME jointly with other Christian organizations has advocated for migrants having resided five years legally in an EU country to attain the right to this long-term residence status. This status can no longer be terminated and therefore gives a fair amount of freedom and security to migrants and their families. In addition, long-term resident migrants would be entitled to free movement in the EU on the same footing with EU citizens.

## 2.6. Integration programmes

2.6.1. Integration has been identified as the major problem for migrants and societies in Europe. Integration is political competence of the local and regional level, but integration is also an issue of social inclusion programmes. The European Commission will this autumn adopt a Communication on Integration. In many Member States of

the European Union, special integration programmes are designed, with a particular focus on language skills.

2.6.2. The debate about integration focuses on failures rather than successful integration. There are no doubts failures in integration policies of the past, where often no integration measures were in place as migrants were meant to leave the country after some year. Participation of migrant's organizations is vital in defining needs for integration programmes. At the same time, integration is a process of the whole society and no one-way traffic. CCME and its members will therefore continue to work for welcoming societies, facilitate meetings with migrants and strive for inclusive policies which respect different cultures and religions.

## 3. Refugees and Asylum

3.1. UNHCR reckons that there are around 12 million refugees seeking protection in other countries, and in addition 10 million displaced persons in need of protection.

3.2. The European Union has in the past two year adopted a directive on temporary protection in the case of mass influx of refugees, the EURODAC regulation for taking fingerprints of all arriving asylum seekers, the directive on minimum standards for receptions conditions. Within the next year agreement is sought on common minimum standards for asylum procedures, a common definition of a refugee status and complementary forms of protection, a procedure to determine the country responsible for examining an asylum application.

3.3. Jointly with other Christian organisations CCME has published comments on these directives and is active in lobbying at the level of the European Parliament and the Council. The crucial issue at stake is the definition of complementary forms of protection which falls short of existing standards in some EU member states.

3.4. Representing the Conference of European Churches in ECRE, the European Council on Refugees and Exile, CCME participates in the bi-annual ECRE meetings and supports the work of ECRE.

3.5. As in the past years, CCME will actively contribute to the Protestant Asylum Conferences planned by EKD, a number of German churches, CIMADE and FCEI for 2003 and 2004.

### 3.6. Smuggling of people

3.6.1. Access to safety has become a predominant issue as the European Union is striving towards more intensive common border controls. As an effect, many refugees have become entirely dependent on criminal organizations of smugglers, sometimes also falling into

the hands of traffickers, to enter Europe. Churches consider it as their duty to protect people in need. All over Europe, Christians are actively involved in reception of refugees. CCME will support this attitude and present the concerns of the churches at the European institutions.

3.6.2. The European Union has adopted a framework decision on facilitating illegal entry and residence. Essentially, this directive makes all support, including health treatment or counselling for undocumented persons illegal. A humanitarian clause has been included, but is not binding for all member states. CCME with active support of its members will therefore encourage exchange of information on different approaches taken in the various member states.

### **3.7. Resettlement of refugees**

3.7.1. While some countries have a policy of resettling refugees onto their territory, as the United States of America, Canada and Australia, few European countries resettle refugees from other regions. Presently studies are carried out on behalf of the European Commission on the feasibility of resettlement.

3.7.2. Resettlement offers an additional access to safety for refugees. Particularly vulnerable groups of refugees and refugees in need of health treatment could benefit from such a policy. However, to make this a real option, work will have to be done on criteria, procedures, selection etc. CCME holds the opinion that any resettlement policy must be developed in close cooperation with UNHCR. Resettlement has to be understood as additional, and not as an alternative to the asylum system.

3.7.3. Jointly with the International Catholic Migration Commission ICMC CCME will collect some background information on existing resettlement policies in other countries and make this information available to churches and church related agencies involved in refugee reception for further discussion of this topic.

### **4. Migrants in irregular situations and boat people**

4.1. The arrival of boat people at the Southern European shores of the Mediterranean Sea has reached alarming heights and more people than ever before died drowning in the sea. Ruthless smugglers take advantage of the plight of refugees and displaced persons trying to reach safety. Due to the fact that no other access to safety can be found, criminal organizations are rising and trafficking in human beings has become an extremely profiting business. The majority of persons smuggled across the Mediterranean Sea originate in countries of conflict (Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia). It is

thus of paramount importance that persons are received properly and have access to comprehensive information, legal advice and counselling. Collective removals to third countries (Turkey, Morocco) on the basis of readmission agreements contain the risk of refoulement.

4.2. Many more people than anticipated in earlier years live and work in Europe in irregular situations. No reliable data are available, and as these migrants face deportation when uncovered, they try to be as invisible as possible. Fairly often, irregular migrants are living in Europe already for years before their presence becomes known to the authorities, which may be due to an accident, sickness, or a police control.

4.3. CCME will advocate that irregular migrants are treated with dignity. A distinction ought to be made between criminals and criminal organizations and people in irregular situations, whose offence has been to enter or stay without appropriate documents.

4.4. Fundamental rights of irregular migrants must be respected; this includes access to health care and education for children. While this is the case in some European countries, it is almost impossible for irregular migrants to avail to their rights in others as health services and schools are obliged to indicate them to the authorities. To find the right balance is difficult, but assistance to irregular migrants for humanitarian reasons should not be criminalized and be exempted from prosecution.

4.5. Some European countries have carried out different regularization programmes. CCME is in favour of a thorough evaluation of positive and negative effects, which may allow the development of a procedure beneficial to the individual and to the society at large. CCME will continue to oppose unfounded, outright rejections of regularization procedures.

4.6. CCME will continue to cooperate with the Platform for Information and Coordination on Undocumented Migrants PICUM.

### **5. Trafficking in Human Beings**

5.1. Trafficking in human beings and new forms of slavery are addressed by the political institutions and governments on international fora. Trafficking is a severe crime, but legislative development has long overlooked it. Penalties for traffickers are in some countries still similar to those for smugglers. CCME lobbies for a clear distinction and a severe sentence for traffickers as well as compensation for victims of trafficking.

5.2. Protection of trafficked people and prevention are of primary concern for the churches. The consultation on Trafficking in Women

of the Conference of European Churches in Driebergen in 1999 has resulted in increased awareness of the problem. But also children and men are trafficked. Trafficking organizations work on the global level, and therefore responses and actions need to be taken internationally as well. CCME will promote networking and exchange of best practice for victim protection, legal requirements and prevention measures.

- 5.3. CCME will, if funding is secured, jointly with CARITAS Europa initiate a "Christian Action and Networking Against Trafficking", a project aimed at exchange of best practice across Europe with participating organizations in France, Italy, Greece, Germany, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Romania, Ukraine and Russia. The project will also cooperate with the Trafficking Working Group of the Conference of European Churches.

## 6. Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination

- 6.1. CCME will encourage churches and ecumenical organizations to reflect in their own members, leadership and employment policies the ethnic diversity of European communities and countries.
- 6.2. CCME, in close cooperation with CEC and WCC, will follow-up on the action plan of the European and World Conference against Racism in 2000 and 2001 respectively.
- 6.3. The debates prior and at the Durban World Conference against Racism were particularly controversial on the issue of compensation for slavery for persons of African descent. The ongoing controversy shows that there is a great need for understanding the colonial past and its consequences, particularly in the societies of former colonial powers. CCME will encourage exchange of educational material to address these issues.
- 6.4. Racist and religious discrimination are often intertwined, although they are distinct phenomena. In the development of European legislation, the issue of religious discrimination has been rather controversial as measures meant to address religious discrimination easily conflict with the freedom of religion. CCME will in cooperation with the Church and Society Commission of CEC, continue to participate in these discussions.
- 6.5. Interreligious dialogue is regarded by many as a solution to religious discrimination. CCME has argued that interreligious dialogue helps to overcome prejudice, but is not a tool to address discrimination. As interreligious dialogue is beyond the mandate and capacity of CCME, CCME would nevertheless encourage members and other ecumenical institutions to further study the

interrelatedness of religious and racist discrimination and which programmes of dialogue are effective, and keep CCME informed on adequate programme developments.

## 6.6. European legislation

- 6.6.1. The European Union has adopted two directives on equal treatment in the year 2000 which will have to be implemented by national governments in the course of 2003. CCME members are encouraged to participate actively and in cooperation with NGOs and organizations of minority ethnic people in the development of this legislation as well as in the monitoring processes when the bodies responsible for anti-discrimination are defined in the EU member states.

## 6.7. The Roma minority in Europe

- 6.7.1. Across Europe, the minorities of Roma are still facing discrimination and stigmatization. The Conference of European Churches has called on its members to focus once a year on the situation of Roma minorities.
- 6.7.2. The consultation on the situation of Roma in Central and Eastern Europe has formulated conclusions for churches work on this issue. CCME will strive to follow-up, particularly during the Assembly of CEC in Trondheim, Norway in 2003.

## 6.8. Black and Migrant churches

- 6.8.1. CCME will continue to strive for members of black and ethnic minority churches and organizations to participate more fully in its own activities. As more migrants will come to Europe in the coming years and black and migrant congregations and churches are extremely important in community building, CCME will continue to facilitate exchange and work among and with black and migrant churches across Europe.
- 6.8.2. CCME has created a budget line for European work with migrant churches and wishes to encourage members to contribute to this fund.
- 6.8.3. CCME will organize a further consultation on black and migrant churches in Europe and encourage visits, exchanges, networking and national meetings with a focus on supporting local work with black and migrant churches.

## 7. Networking

- 7.1. CCME formally cooperates with the Conference of European Churches CEC and the World Council of Churches. The exchange in the Global Ecumenical Network of the WCC is extremely valuable.

- 7.2. Interregional cooperation has been established with the Amman Process of exchange on migration and refugees in the Mediterranean region with the Middle East Council of Churches MECC. This exchange is extremely important, as the Mediterranean is a major migration route. CCME will do its utmost best to enhance this exchange and develop and gain support for projects like migration counselling, which is high on the MECC agenda.
- 7.3. CCME has been invited to participate in the work of the Immigration and Refugee Programme Committee of the Church World Service USA. This exchange brings new insights in e.g. resettlement programmes and facilitates easier exchange and ecumenical cooperation.
- 7.4. CCME has an observer's status as an NGO with consultative status with the Council of Europe and participates as an international NGO observer in the meetings of the "Migration Committee CDMG".
- 7.5. CCME and six other Christian organizations in Brussels (Caritas Europa, the Migration Working Group of the Secretariat of Catholic Bishops' Conference in the EU (COMECE), the International Catholic Migration Commission ICMC, the Jesuit Refugee Service Europe (JRS), the Quaker Council on European Affairs and the European Commission of Justice and Peace Commissions) have developed a common approach to European legislative development with regard to migration and asylum. The joint comments are recognized at the level of political institutions and the sharing of responsibilities has helped all the organizations to follow. This ecumenical approach will be continued in the coming years.
- 7.6. The NGO Platform for Migration and Asylum hosted by the UNHCR is bringing together around 20 NGOs active on migration and asylum issues every three months. CCME is an active member of this platform as well as of its subgroups. CCME will continue to play an active role in this network.
- 7.7. On behalf of CEC, CCME participates in the work of ECRE on asylum and refugees in Europe. Apart from the bi-annual meetings, close cooperation has developed with the secretariat of ECRE.
- 7.8. CCME has since the European Year against Racism in 1997 been part of a coordination of European organizations against Racism. This coordination has in 2000 become one of the constituting members of the European Network Against Racism ENAR. The European Coordination meetings have been hosted by CCME on several occasions. CCME has been requested by the Board member of this coordination, to assist in developing a higher profile for this European group in the coming year.

- 7.9. CCME has been a founding member of the European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Life. In view of the ongoing controversy about family reunification in the EU, CCME will continue to cooperate with this European Coordination and participate at least once a year in their meetings.
  - 7.10. CCME has launched the Migration Policy Group in 1995 which is now a well-established and recognised organisation. Presently MPG is organising a policy dialogue with stakeholders in migration across Europe. CCME has up to now two representatives on the board, but MPG has indicated that this would be discontinued as there is no organisational or membership need for this. Cooperation continues on staff level depending on issues.
  - 7.11. In 1999, the Platform for Information and Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants PICUM was launched. CCME has been cooperating with PICUM at various levels and meetings, participating also in the Policy Advisory Group. This cooperation should continue.
  - 7.12. Since last year, the ecumenical organisations in Brussels, Church and Society Commission of CEC, CCME, APRODEV and Eurodiaconia meet regularly to exchange priorities of the ongoing work and formulate common responses, e.g. on the White Paper on Governance of the European Commission or on the Convention on the Future of Europe.
  - 7.13. The Church and Society Commission of CEC and COMECE have this year embarked on monitoring the Convention on the Future of Europe. CCME has participated in a number of meetings, and is representing churches in the Convention Contact Group on Human Rights.
- 8. Communication**
- 8.1. CCME communicates with its members through circular letters approximately twice a year. The CEC Monitor is now regularly reporting on CCME events and news.
  - 8.2. The CEC website has provided space for CCME information where some of the CCME documents and reports are available. The discussions on the web presentation have been good, but there is a lack of funding for improving this tool. However, as this website is accessible also from other websites (Council of Europe, MPG), CCME will give more thought to this and discuss this presentation with CEC staff.

## **9. Structures and working instruments**

- 9.1. The Implementation Group of the Agreement of Cooperation between CCME, CEC and WCC has formulated a set of recommendations for the further integration of CCME into the framework of CEC. This set of recommendations has been further considered and developed by the Central Committee of CEC and the General Assembly of CCME. The next step will be a provision in the CEC By-Laws which have to be adopted at the CEC Assembly in 2003. CCME, CEC and WCC will have to establish a negotiation group to deal with the other issues until the next CCME Assembly in 2005 on the basis of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly.
- 9.2. The Working Groups have been a good mechanism for broader participation in the work of CCME. On the other hand, there is a need to discuss positions with regard to the legal development at shorter notice. CCME should therefore strive to develop more flexible task forces (sometimes only for one meeting) alongside one or two permanent working groups.

## **10. CCME's 40<sup>th</sup> year 2004**

CCME will be 40 years in 2004. In the course of that year, an appropriate event, a conference e.g. at the founding place in Arnoldshain/Germany will be envisaged.