

## CCME Activity Report 2003-2005

### CCME's mission ...

CCME is known as the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and anti-racism and anti-discrimination in Europe. Over the last 3 years, the mandate of CCME has been more precisely defined in a coherent mission statement adopted by the CCME ExCom in 2003:

*CCME is an ecumenical organisation that serves the churches in their commitment to strangers, responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being, in order to promote an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and minority groups.*

### in a changing context...

The work of CCME has taken place against the background of a rapidly changing context, both internationally as well as within Europe. The changing contexts underline the need for European and international Christian witness in the area of migration, but also the immense challenges ahead for an organisation like CCME.

#### - Increase in Migration, changes in patterns

Even though the establishment of reliable data remains difficult, statistic evidence suggests that the number of migrants worldwide has risen from an estimated 175 million in 2000 to more than 190 million in 2005. At the same time the number of refugees tends to decline: the number of asylum-seekers, refugees and people of concern to UNHCR has dropped from 22,5 million in 2000 to 19,2 million in 2005, asylum figures in industrialised countries have seen a far more dramatic decrease.

Overviews such as the 2005 International Migration Report also suggest that regional patterns of migration are changing and highlight newly discovered impacts of migration e.g. the importance of migrants' remittances.

As CCME holds observer status in the Migration Committee of the Council of Europe, CCME actively participates in these meetings. Currently, CCME is represented on two expert committees of the Council of Europe, one working on issues related to migration and co-development, the other on integration of children with migrant background.

#### - EU Enlargement

The enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 member states in May 2004 considerably enlarged the area covered by a supposedly harmonised European Union approach to questions of asylum and migration. The ongoing process of further EU enlargement and the introduction of migration chapters into agreements with non-EU member states (e.g. in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy,

development policy) continued to enhance the impact of migration policies agreed within the EU beyond its borders.

- **Securitisation of migration**

The “war on terror” which was declared after September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 continued to have major impact on migration and asylum policies in Europe and worldwide. On the one hand, an increasing number of conflicts have been escalated under the logic of the “war on terror” with major consequences for civilians. This led to persons seeking refuge outside their home country or, increasingly, being internally displaced.

On the other hand those seeking refuge or coming as labour migrants are being confronted with high levels of resentment and suspicion, often seeing migrants as potential terrorists and security risks.

- **From Tampere to The Hague: EU Policy on Migration and Asylum**

The framework of harmonisation of EU asylum and migration policies had been set by the comprehensive “package” of political and legislative measures outlined in the conclusions of the Tampere summit in 1999. As part of the legislative programme to be carried out 1999-2004, a set of directives establishing common minimum standards have been adopted in the area of asylum policy. Common decisions in the area of combating irregular migration were also adopted, while progress in the area of creating a harmonised approach to regular migration was close to non-existent. The new Hague Programme, which outlines priorities for the period 2005-2010, indicates a more modest legislative programme. At the same time the transposition of EU legislation into national legislation will become increasingly important over the next years.

...with different working methods...

- **ad hoc group/task forces**

As suggested by the General Assembly 2002, CCME has enlarged its variety of working instruments during the period 2002-2005 in order to address the changing needs of its membership. While the instrument of permanent working groups was continued for the monitoring of EU legislation on migration, asylum and anti-discrimination, CCME corresponded to changing needs and challenges by using more flexible working mechanisms, e.g. task forces or ad-hoc groups on issues which emerged as important after the last general assembly.

- **project work**

A working mechanism, which developed a substantial dynamic since the last general assembly is the development and implementation of a number of long-term projects led by CCME. Most prominent examples have been the project against trafficking in women, which enters its third phase, but equally the project on refugee resettlement which, entered its second phase this summer. Projects have contributed to increase the capacity-building work and visibility of CCME and provided chances for fundraising with EU institutions and church-related agencies.

- **getting involved in other projects**

Based on its growing visibility and wide appreciation, CCME has been approached to become a partner in projects implemented by others. E.g. since June 2004, CCME is involved in a 3-year research project on “Civic participation of new citizens”, POLITIS, which will provide new insights into participation of migrants in societies. An other project is coordinated by the International Labour Organisation ILO, which seeks to

enhance the integration of migrants through implementing anti-discrimination measures in the workplace.

**...and renewed partnerships.**

**- CEC-CCME integration**

The probably most important and complex organisational challenge for CCME since 2002 was the integration with CEC. The CEC General Assembly in Trondheim 2003 had responded to the resolution of the CCME General Assembly on the agreement of cooperation and made a commitment "that the work with migrants in Europe be strengthened through the integration of CEC and CCME". It also called for the establishment of a joint negotiation group which was established in November 2003. Since Trondheim, CCME may send two observers to CEC Central Committee meetings, the treasurer of CCME is a consultant to the Finance Committee of CEC. A study by an external consultant was commissioned, which looked into the structural issues around CCME-CEC integration. This report (the "Anhelm report", the report is available on request) initiated further work on structural reforms of CEC, which were decided by the CEC Central Committee in October 2004 and June 2005.

The negotiations led to an added agreement of cooperation between CEC and CCME (signed in October 2004) and a joint letter to the membership of both CEC and CCME. Progress on a merger was slower than expected by some. Please find the more detailed report on the negotiations as a separate paper.

**- Church and Society Commission of CEC and ecumenical organisations in Brussels**

The cooperation with the Church and Society Commission of CEC continued by attending each other's meetings and informing each other on work progress or initiatives taken as well as representing each other at a number of meetings, and jointly planning programmes for visiting groups. CCME participates in the annual Church and Society Commission meetings and the recently developed meeting of Church and Society related staff in CEC member churches.

The directors of the ecumenical organisations in the Ecumenical Center Brussels, APRODEV, EURODIAKONIA, the Office of the Academies and Lay Centers in Europe, CSC and CCME, recently joined by the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe EYCE, meet regularly and exchange work priorities. In the process of elaboration of the Constitution for the EU, common contributions and division of tasks were discussed also in this group. In 2004, a joined paper was published for the European Parliament elections.

**- World Council of Churches – Global Ecumenical Network**

The WCC initiated CCME 40 years ago. The crucial role of WCC for CCME's existence has been highlighted at the conference to celebrate 40 years of CCME held in Arnoldshain, Germany in October 2004. CCME has actively participated in the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People coordinated by WCC. The exchange by email has been strengthened over the past three years, and the annual meetings are important for the participants from all the regions. In 2003 and 2004, the meetings were held in Geneva to facilitate participation in the NGO meetings with UNHCR, in 2005, Miami/USA was chosen. As the GEN meeting followed the exchange between North and South American churches on migration and refugee concerns, broader participation from those regions was this year possible. However, fewer persons were then able to participate in the various meetings in Geneva, the International Conference on Detention of Migrants and Refugees, and the meetings with UNHCR.

The GEN provides an opportunity to learn about trends in migration as well as policies and enhance common advocacy, e.g. a code of conduct for assistance personnel was discussed. This year a statement on detention of migrants was prepared for the UNHCR meetings and the international conference.

WCC provided valuable support to CCME also in financial means facilitating participation from Eastern European countries in CCME meetings and assisting in the interregional exchange with the Middle East Council of Churches, the Amman Process.

In addition, CCME participated in the regional partnership meetings of the WCC Europe Desk in Eastern Europe in the past years. These are of particular importance to strengthen the network against trafficking in human beings, but also to initiate migration related work in this region.

#### **- Amman Process**

The Amman Process Network met in Beirut/Lebanon in 2003, in Lisbon/Portugal in 2004, and in Amman/Jordan in 2005. The meeting in Lisbon has been arranged with great effort by the Church and Society Group in Portugal which maintains active relations with CCME. It provided also an opportunity to meet with churches, including migrant churches in Portugal.

The Central Committee meeting of CEC in Crete was regarded as an ideal opportunity to share the common concerns of migration in the Mediterranean region, unfortunately, due to visa problems, the MECC representative was not able to attend. However, migration in the Mediterranean continues to pose a challenge to countries around the Mediterranean Sea and beyond.

In addition to the annual meetings of the Amman Process, MECC has participated in the conference on refugee resettlement and on migration, globalisation and Christian ethics in 2004, CCME participated also in the MECC-WCC regional working group.

#### **- Christian organisations on migration and asylum**

At EU level, CCME continued and strengthened the cooperation with Christian organisations working on migration and asylum, particularly Caritas Europa, the Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of the EU COMECE, the International Catholic Migration Commission ICMC, the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe and the Quaker Council on European Affairs. In addition to the joint comments on communications and proposals for directives on migration and asylum, letters to the EU respective Presidencies were sent, particularly in the development of the asylum procedures directive. The group seeks to divide tasks, at the same time also to include the partner organisations in programmes of conferences and meetings. E.g. CCME participated in the annual Caritas Europa Migration Forum, a joint meeting of the working groups of COMECE and CCME was organised in April 2005, to mention but a few. CCME participates also in the meeting of the CCEE for the pastoral care for migrants.

#### **- NGO platform**

The regular meetings of NGOs with UNHCR in the platform were continued. In view of the constitution of the EU, the platform introduced itself to the new Members of European Parliament in 2004 and has had frequent meetings with the MEPs and staff at the EP on a variety of issues. On one occasion, a joint letter was written to a member state to lift its reservations on the directive on the definition and status of refugees and persons under complementary protection. The platform provides a good opportunity to share, exchange and coordinate on advocacy issues.

In 2004, the platform started to exchange also with the Social Platform of NGOs and with the Network of European Regions and Local Authorities on Immigration ERLAI.

### **Migration and Integration**

#### **- Migration, Globalisation and Development: policy response and CEC-CSC**

A project of the North-South Working Group of the Church and Society Commission of CEC was pursued and research on migration and globalisation done. A paper was submitted to the Church and Society Commission. This paper was also circulated to some agencies to seek further cooperation in this field. As a major issue in the North-South issues related to migration is the field of remittances, but also the status and rights of migrants is an important field. Conclusions have been that a rights-based approach to international migration and migration management quite distinct to the current border control approach are needed. As an important aspect, the Ratification of the International Convention on Migrants Workers Rights is advocated. CCME prepared the relevant resolutions which were adopted by the CEC assembly in Trondheim and reiterated by the Central Committee in Geneva 2003. CCME has been a founding member of the European Platform on the Migrants Rights Convention, which advocates ratification of the Convention on European level.

In 2002-2003, CCME and APRODEV invited organisations in the migration and development related fields for consultations on the Communication of the European Commission on Migration and Development. As a result, a joint statement was published, which was used as a reference for further advocacy work by the participating organisations.

CCME participates in the further consultations on globalisation and in the Working Group on Globalisation of the Church and Society Commission.

As the Global Commission on International Migration took up its work to look into trends and challenges related to global migration, CCME observed the process closely and participated in meetings of the GCIM in Geneva and the European Hearing in Budapest in 2004. It was interesting to note that irregular migration was of particular concern to all the regional hearings.

#### **- New immigration: no progress on entry and residence directive, green book**

The directive on entry and residence for migrant workers proposed by the European Commission was not taken further by the Council. There has been a stalemate on immigration measures. However, in January 2005, the European Commission published a Green Book on Labour Migration and held a hearing on this issue in spring. But EU member states remain reluctant on this topic.

#### **- Family reunification:**

The directive on family reunification has been followed by CCME, also in cooperation with the European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Life, since the first proposal in 1999. The directive was adopted by the Council in September 2003, leaving considerable space for derogations for EU member states. Particularly the clauses for possibly restricting family reunification for children over 12 years were strongly criticised. Advocacy with the European Parliament's Committees led to the decision to take the directive to the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

#### **- Long Term Resident Third Country Nationals and persons under subsidiary forms of protection**

The directive on long term resident third country nationals was also adopted in 2003, however, it does not apply to persons under subsidiary forms of protection. It was



argued in the Parliament that protected persons need improved rights. The European Commission has consulted NGOs on a proposal for a directive for this group of persons, it is however not yet clear, when the proposal will be launched.

#### - **Integration debate**

Since the conclusions of the Greek Presidency of the EU in Thessalonica 2003, the debate on integration of migrants has gained dynamic at the EU level. Jointly with partners, CCME has responded to the communication on integration and employment, and end of 2004, we published a summary on international migrants' day. Under the Dutch Presidency in 2004, a ministerial meeting was dedicated to integration which adopted conclusions on integration. The new communication of the European Commission of September 2005 contains many of the issues, which churches have been advocating in the past years. However, the EU has no legal competence in this field, thus many proposals are recommendations to national governments.

CCME participates in a project of the ILO on integration of migrants by applying anti-discrimination measures in the workplace.

In April 2004, CCME participated in a conference of the Portuguese government on integration, particularly in a workshop on the role of religion. While our intention was to highlight the role of black and migrant churches, the interest of governments was clearly on the role of Islam, discussing the new French legislation to prohibit the wearing of veils in public schools.

#### **Refugees and Asylum**

The Eurodac regulation, exchange of fingerprints of asylum seekers, and Dublin II, the regulation determining the member state responsible for examining an asylum claim are operational since 2003 and 2004 respectively. An evaluation is currently under way, and CCME contributed to this. The effect is that border countries do receive a substantial number of "Dublin cases" and it appears that persons referred back under this regulation are not treated as other asylum seekers.

#### - **Asylum qualification and procedures**

The directive on the definition and status of refugees and persons otherwise in need of international protection was finally adopted in April 2004. A lot of joint advocacy work was done on this legislative piece, with the group of Christian organisation, with ECRE and other members of the NGO platform. While we regret that the status of persons under subsidiary forms of protection is not the same as for refugees, e.g. with regard to work permits, it has been regarded as a considerable step forward.

The directive on asylum procedures is the last outstanding legislative piece in the asylum legislation of the EU. However, the compromise reached in the Council in November 2004 would effectively exclude many justified asylum seekers simply for travelling through a country perceived as safe. In addition, there is a lack of legal remedies against decision taken under the accelerated - and thus incomplete procedure. Jointly with other NGOs, CCME had called on the Commission to withdraw this proposal and called on all consecutive Presidencies in the past two years to improve the directive. Considerable work was done with the European Parliament over the last year, which adopted its report at the end of September 2005. The Parliamentary Report highlights the crucial issues and requests amending the directive. However, this directive is the last one in this field which can be adopted by member states unanimously as the Parliament has only to be consulted. For other measures, co-decision and qualified majority are now the rule of decision-making.

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### - Refugee Resettlement

As part of the European Union's response to international protection of refugees, resettlement has been highlighted as one of the future options for the EU. With a grant from the European Refugee Fund, CCME with some partner organisations was able to start a project "Making Resettlement Work" in 2004. A conference was held in April 2004, and a booklet published. One of the findings in the course of the project was that refugee resettlement is little known in Europe where only about 5.000 refugees are resettled per year by 6 countries. Thus, a second project working more on the communication about this instrument has been launched and started in summer 2005.

### - ECRE

Apart from the joint advocacy work done with ECRE in Brussels, CCME participated in the bi-annual meetings of ECRE on behalf of CEC, and in consultations about ECRE policy papers.

### Migrants in irregular situations

Following the conference in Athens in November 2002, the ExCom adopted a position paper on irregular migration. However, policy responses to this phenomenon are largely dealing with border security and return measures. A notable exception has been the Spanish regularisation in 2005, which aims at regularising jobs and work permits.

CCME cooperated with PICUM, the Platform for Information and Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, which is the specialised NGO in this field.

### - Detention

A major issue in this field is the detention of migrants, often for lengthy periods, and sometimes under worse conditions than criminals. Among the Christian organisations, JRS Europe has taken a lead on this issue, CCME participated in the European conference held in Brussels 2004, and in the preparations and conference at international level held in Geneva September 2005.

### - Removal and return programmes

After the consultation around the Green Book on Return policy, the European Commission has been working on a proposal for a directive on common standards for return. However, on member state's initiatives, the recognition of expulsion orders of an other member state has been adopted, as well as a proposal for common charter flights for the return of irregular migrants. Such charters have become frequent in 2005.

The Protestant Church in Germany and the Catholic Church Office in Berlin organised a seminar on return monitoring in Berlin in September 2004, in which CCME participated. It was a useful exchange between authorities, border control agency, refugee and migrants support groups, lawyers and churches.

On the initiative of CIMADE, France, CCME started a consultation process on removal policies with other NGOs and national member organisations which resulted in a common position paper. This was published on the day the European Commission published its proposal on return policy. CCME together with other partners has started advocacy towards the European Parliament on the proposed return directive in view of the co-decision power of the European Parliament now being used.

First discussions were held with the Refugee Programme of the All Africa Conference of Churches on how to respond to the removals from Europe to Africa.

### **Trafficking in Human Beings**

As trafficking in human beings has been identified as a particular problem for women, CCME together with Caritas Europa launched a project Christian Action against Trafficking in Women, CAT. The project aimed at networking among Christian organisations including cooperation through the website COATNET (Christian Organisations Against Trafficking Network). The project enhanced the cooperation among the organisations as well as with public authorities. A result of the project is the brochure "An action-oriented guide for awareness-raising and social assistance". Visits and workshops were the main instruments for networking. A second project followed which was ended in March 2005. This project broadened the cooperation both geographically as well as with more public authorities and produced an update for the brochure with an emphasis on standards of assistance. CCME nominated an expert for the European Commission's expert group on trafficking in human beings, who was accepted and cooperated throughout the process of the work. The final report of the expert group was published in December 2004, and was appreciated by CCME in a press release with CARITAS Europa.

As the mandate to work against trafficking in women was clearly with the CEC solidarity and women's desk, CEC was a partner in the CAT project as well and participated in the workshops and conferences. The second project was also financially supported by the WCC Europe Desk, which facilitated more participation in Eastern European countries, where particularly due to poor economic conditions, more people looking for alternatives are trapped in the hands of traffickers. CCME contributed to the thematic focus of the WCC's European Regional Partnership Group meeting on trafficking in 2004 and 2005.

Through this project, more intensive contact with church related agencies like Norwegian Church Aid or ICCO, Netherlands could be established. CCME contributed to conceptualisation of NCA's annual Lenten campaign 2005 and was engaged in a study process by ICCO on safe return of trafficked persons and co-organised a workshop at the World Social Forum 2005 with ICCO.

### **Anti-racism and anti-discrimination**

#### **- Roma minorities in Europe**

The situation of Roma minorities in the Nordic countries was the focus of a hearing organised by CCME for the Trondheim Assembly of CEC 2003. The preparation was done jointly with Roma representatives from Finland, Norway and Sweden, and a statement was handed over to the General Secretary of CEC.

The e-mail list on Roma issues is continued frequently to share information such as Council of Europe recommendations, country reports, or important court rulings.

CCME maintained contacts with the European Roma Rights Center and the European Roma Information Office. In 2004, CCME joined the appeal against forced removals of ethnic minorities, particularly Roma, to Kosovo. In 2005, CCME expressed the concern of many organisations about the pressure put on the UN to lift the reservations against returns of ethnic minority persons.

#### **- Anti-racism**

CCME participated in the coordination of European member organisations of the European Network against Racism. In 2003-2004, a series of lunch meetings were



opened for a wider audience, reports for ENAR were submitted. As ENAR had chosen to work on religious discrimination, CCME assisted with information for the researchers producing a brochure. In addition, a controversial debate on the EU constitution took up considerable time.

CCME participated in the WCC study process on transformative justice, responding to racism today, particularly the workshop held in Geneva in October 2004.

#### - **Being Church together - Uniting in Diversity**

As black and migrant churches continue to grow in European countries, the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy and CCME coorganised the 4<sup>th</sup> conference on black and migrant churches in March 2004 in Ciampino, Italy. A full report is available in English and Italian, a summary report has been produced by Benz Schär, Switzerland, which is now available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Finnish. The Task Force on Black and Migrant Churches established after the Aegina assembly met twice to prepare the conference.

It is unfortunate that the proposed budget line to facilitate activities of and with black and migrant churches could not be operated as no funds could be found.

CCME was represented in the INFORM network on multicultural ministry of the WCC, participated in the steering group of that network. Due to some communication problems, and misunderstanding of CCME's role in Europe and the network, the preparations for the contribution to the Athens World Mission Conference in 2005 had to be done in great haste, however, the workshop organised by CCME has been regarded as a valuable contribution.

#### **Networking and Communication**

##### - **Meetings, visits and presentations**

Numerous meetings, seminars, workshops CCME is invited to attend and give presentations. CCME is also frequently arranging programmes for visiting groups including meetings with representatives of the EU institutions and NGO partners. These meetings require substantial time and effort in the preparations, but contribute to making CCME visible as a pan-European network of churches. In addition, visiting delegations to Brussels often request to hear about our work as well. Some, not all, are listed in the annual reports.

However, three processes have to be mentioned:

In May 2004, CCME participated in the **Liebfrauenberg conference** on migration and asylum organised by the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe. The final declaration was adopted by the participating churches and is an excellent basis for advocacy. CCME has circulated the document also to the then newly elected Members of the European Parliament.

The Church of Baden took the lead – among the organisers of the European Protestant Asylum Conference – to plan a **visit to Turkey** in June 2005. Jointly with EKD and CCME, as well as the regional diaconal offices, a study trip was undertaken to look into the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey. It will be important to monitor this field of policy development particularly during accession negotiations with Turkey, it was clear that the situation of refugees is not at all easy, the incomplete application of the Geneva Refugee Convention is only one example. The study trip serves as a good basis to do further work in this field in the future.

Jointly with Theobalt and the Church and Society Commission of CEC, CCME organised two regional meetings held in Visby, Sweden, on the role of values for European

integration with a specific focus on freedom of movement as crucial value. The regional perspective around the Baltic Sea brings together old and new EU member states and other European states.

#### **- Communication**

Communication with our members is done mainly by two or three circular letters a year. In addition, more specific and thematic information is sent to members if specific interest are concerned.

In addition to a very limited circulation in Brussels, press releases are circulated through the CEC communication office, which also places CCME activities and news on the website. Efforts are under way to start a CCME website, which will then be linked to the CEC website as well. However, it would be easier for people looking for CCME to find the right site.

#### **ExCom**

The ExCom met twice every year, and an extraordinary meeting was held to formulate a mission statement for CCME. All meetings were held in Brussels, except for the one in June 2005, which was held in Crete/Greece in order to allow for a joint meeting between the CCME ExCom and the CEC Presidium.

ExCom members participated in many additional activities, notably the negotiation group with CEC, Central Committee meetings of CEC in 2003, 2004 and 2005, CEC Presidium in 2003 and 2005, as well as the meetings of the CEC working group on the future of the women's desk.

ExCom members represented CCME at meetings of the Council of Europe, in a conference organised by CSC/CEC, CCME and COMECE on migration policies, they participated in project conferences and meetings. CCME owes a lot to a very active Executive Committee.

#### **- MPG - Migration Policy Group**

Following the assembly in Aegina 2002, CCME communicated its decision to maintain the two members on the MPG board. The ExCom invited the CCME board members and the Chair of the MPG Board and the Director of MPG for a meeting, in which a Statement of Mutual Understanding was envisaged. However, prior to the next MPG board, the CCME representatives were informed that they were not welcome to the meeting as they were no longer members. As until then no communication on the new statutes of MPG were received, the change of statutes was regarded by CCME as not legal. CCME notified MPG of this, however, the ExCom decided to leave the matter and not pursue a legal dispute.

In the meantime, the working relationships are normal as with other NGOs.

#### **Working Group Monitoring European Migration, Asylum and Anti-discrimination legislation**

The Working Group met three times in Brussels in 2004 and 2005. Members of the working group represented CCME at other events like conference and workshops. They participated in the formulation of comments on EU legislation, particularly on the asylum legislation and return policy.

## Finances and Staff

### - Staff

CCME has currently three full time staff members: General Secretary Doris Peschke, Project Secretary Torsten Moritz and Assistant Emmanuel Kabalisa. In addition, since June 2005, a trainee, Alessia Passarelli, is engaged for one year, particularly for the communication on refugee resettlement.

The Church of Baden/Germany had delegated staff persons in 2002-2003 Robert Mathes, and in 2004-2005 Michael Donner. This has helped CCME tremendously to follow the European Parliament debate on a continuous basis, and to participate in many other events.

A number of interns have also served CCME with great ability: In 2003, Margit Brause, then training as a translator, did her internship with CCME and CSC. Thanks to her, we were able to produce a number of documents not only in English, but also provide French and German. She continues to assist us on a voluntary basis.

From end 2003 to June 2004, the Church of Berlin had agreed to a secondment of Karsten Weyer for the project on refugee resettlement. From June to November 2004 Maryada Vallet served our Commission with an internship which was part of her studies. From mid-June to 30 September 2005 Tanja Zeeb was an intern with CCME, undertaking the impossible task to cut legislative texts into short information notes. We hope that this work will be available to our members in the coming months.

CCME also offers work experience every year for three weeks for young students from London schools.

### - Finances

As there is a separate report on finances, we would like to highlight here that the increase of finances is due to project income. However, this means that staff and financial resources are also tied to the projects.

An accountant is coming in 2-3 times a month on a freelance basis. Due to project accounting, the frequency has increased considerably. However, as the accountant is not familiar with the CCME work, this arrangement requires considerable support from CCME staff as well.

## Appreciation

The involvement of the members of the Executive Committee as well as members of the working group, who represent CCME at various occasions and conferences, should be gratefully acknowledged. Member churches and organisations of CCME have contributed to the work of CCME far more than can be expressed in the financial report, they have dedicated additional funding for projects and publications, meetings and consultations, they have provided advice and guidance and put in an enormous amount of time and effort.

We sincerely hope and pray that our joint effort will help to make visible the commitment of churches in Europe to create welcoming and inclusive societies and communities with migrants, refugees, displaced persons and minority ethnic people.

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 The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies across Europe. CCME formally cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

## CCME relations

### CCME cooperates formally:

CEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEC Central Committee (5 days/year, 2 observers)</li> <li>CSC Commission (4 days/year)</li> <li>CEC Finance Committee (2 meetings 2 days/year)</li> </ul>
WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Committee (1 week/year)</li> <li>Europe Desk, Regional Partnership meeting (4 days/year)</li> <li>GEN Uprooted People (3 days/year)</li> <li>Cooperation against Racism, participation in consultations</li> </ul>

### CCME is member of:

Christian group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings every 4-6 weeks, particularly at times of high fluctuation of staff in other member organizations, demands were high on CCME</li> <li>Drafting of 2-3 comments/year, process around 5-6 comments</li> <li>Public presentations with/at partners (5-6/year)</li> </ul>
NGO platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chair with UNHCR and "Save the children"</li> <li>Development of joint strategies</li> <li>Liaison with EP LIBE committee (together with Amnesty EU office and ECRE)</li> <li>Participation in subgroup asylum and migration</li> </ul>
European. Platform Migrants Rights Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founding member (Oct. 2004)</li> <li>Chairing &amp; hosting meetings/ presentations</li> </ul>
Coordination Foreigners' right to family Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founding member</li> <li>Representation board (twice/year), communication on developments</li> </ul>

ENAR	<p>Founding member of ENAR</p> <p>Member Coordination of European Organisations</p> <p>Meetings 3-4 times a year, attending assembly and conferences (1-2/year)</p>
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### CCME Representation and relations

ECRE	<p>Representation of CEC in bi-annual meetings</p> <p>Presentation at events, liaison</p> <p>Hosting ECRAN</p>
MECC	<p>Annual meeting <b>Amman process</b></p> <p>Contribution to WCC/MECC Working group (annually)</p>
CWS	<p>representation on Immigration and Refugee Program Committee (1/year)</p>
Agencies (ICCO, NCA...)	<p>Advice on migration issues</p> <p>Presentation at evnts (campaigns, WSF)</p>

### Advocacy

Council of Europe	<p>Observer to CDMG (2 times/year)</p> <p>Participation experts group (3-4/year)</p> <p>Parliamentary Assembly Committee Migration</p> <p>Liaison Committee of NGOs</p>
OSCE	<p>Contacts with ODIHR e.g on trafficking</p> <p>In cooperation with CEC CSC monitoring discrimination issues</p>
EU Council	<p>relations permanent representations</p> <p>monitoring Council meetings/Input Presidency Meetings CSC/COMECE</p>
European Commission	<p>Monitoring legislative proposals</p> <p>Relations with DG JLS</p> <p>Expert groups (carrier sanctions, trafficking)</p>
European Parliament	<p>Attendance LIBE committee</p> <p>Relations with MEPs</p>
Regional representations EU	<p>Liaison with JLS contacts</p> <p>Liaison ERLAI network</p>



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	Attendance ERLAI events
UNHCR	Relations Brussel office Link HQ Europe dept (collaboration with WCC)
GCIM	Participation Geneva level (cooperation with WCC) Contributions European level
IOM	Monitoring Critical dialogue