



**Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

## Report

17<sup>th</sup> CCME General Assembly  
Protaras, Cyprus  
8-11 October 2008



General Assembly of CCME, Protaras 2008

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## Wednesday, 08 October 2008

Prior to the opening of the CCME Assembly, delegates and observers together with members of the Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches participated in the conference "Churches addressing Trafficking in Human Beings" (see programme in the annex).



Panel



Ms Franca Di Lecce, CCME Excom



Conference "Churches addressing Trafficking in Human Beings"



Mr Kent Olsson, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



## I. Welcome address and prayers

The assembly was welcomed by His Grace Bishop Porphyrios of Neapolis, representative of the Church of Cyprus, who conveyed greetings of Archbishop Chrysostomos II. His Grace led the assembly in prayer and wished it success in the deliberations.



His Grace Bishop Porphyrios of Neapolis

Bishop Porphyrios invited the delegates to a tour on Saturday to visit two famous churches and an old monastery. The visit would include the encounter with the brotherhood living in the monastery to get a glimpse of the situation of the churches in the Larnaca area.

## II. Opening of the Assembly and roll call

CCME Moderator Rev Arlington Trotman opened the Assembly and welcomed all participants. Before proceeding to the roll call, he welcomed all guests and observers, among them applicants for membership. The following roll call for the General Assembly established the presence of all CCME member



CCME Excom preparing the General Assembly

organisations with the exception of the Belgian United Protestant Church and the Slovak Ecumenical Council of Churches. The assembly thus had attained the necessary quorum, with at this point 47 votes present in the assembly.

Rev Trotman also welcomed the CCME staff members.

## III. Application for membership and decision by the Assembly

Rev Trotman welcomed two organisations applying for CCME membership and requested them to present themselves. Rev Virginia Koch gave a short presentation of ACMK-NRW e.V, (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Migrationskirchen in Nordrhein Westfalen), Council of Christian Migration Churches in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. She explained that the ACMK is working with migrant churches for five years, organising cooperation of the churches with German authorities and facilitating contacts with German churches for mutual empowerment. ACMK sees itself as a convention of migrant churches which tries to gather together German and migrant



churches. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to present the ACMK at the GA.

CCME's General Secretary Ms Doris Peschke reported in addition, that the second delegate of the ACMK had been stopped at the airport in Prague by Czech authorities on his transit to Cyprus. The exact details of this denial to travel were still unclear, but the secretariat would follow up on this issue and check, if EU law was violated.

Rev Trotman pointed out that the application by ACMK NRW had been examined by the ExCom on the basis of content and eligibility. The Excom recommended not putting the application of ACMK forward to a formal vote. He highlighted that the ACMK was in the process of meeting CCME membership criteria, among them being a national organisation. The ACMK would be invited to continue cooperating on many issues with CCME and there will be further participation of ACMK in the work of CCME, but at this moment no decision should be taken on membership. This proposal was met by applause of the assembly.

Ms Enikő Ferenczy was invited to present the application of the Reformed Church of Hungary. She explained that her church had at this year's synod decided to apply for membership. She briefly presented the work of the Reformed Church of Hungary on migration. She particularly highlighted the church's ministry among refugees, which includes several programmes, such as special education and professional orientation programmes for refugees.

Ms Peschke explained that the Reformed Church of Hungary has been in touch with CCME for several years, which is expressed in many contacts and participations in the work of CCME.

**Decision:** *The application of the Reformed Church of Hungary was adopted unanimously. The Reformed Church of Hungary is as of this moment member of CCME with full voting rights. The total number of votes in the assembly was therefore increased to 50.*

#### **IV. Adoption of the Assembly Agenda**

Rev Trotman presented the draft assembly agenda (CCME GA 2008-1) highlighting the joint sessions with the CEC Central Committee.

A number of details regarding timing of the agenda were explained. Among them the issues which would be dealt with in working groups, were mentioned namely:

- Revision of the articles of association to prepare the draft for adoption (facilitator: Dr Goos Minderman)
- Programme and priorities 2009-2015 (facilitator: Rev Trotman)
- Year 2010 - Churches responding to migration to identify aims, proposals for the year and agreement with CEC about this year and to stress the benefit of such a focus-year and how to communicate the aims and outcomes (facilitator: Ms Franca di Lecce)

- Finance, fundraising, resources and communication to work on the draft budget and consider new ways of fundraising (facilitator: Mag Michael Bubik)

The delegates were asked to sign up to one working group for the next day with the request of aiming at a proportional enrolment.

*The assembly, having received these clarifications, adopted the proposed agenda.*

## V. Election of General Rapporteurs

Dr Torsten Moritz and Mr Thomas W. Stephan were proposed and unanimously appointed general rapporteurs for the General Assembly.

## VI. Election of Nomination Committee

The General Secretary outlined the tradition that a nomination committee would mainly be composed of ExCom Members, who could no longer stand for election, as they had terminated two terms of office in ExCom. These were Ms Marja-Liisa Laihia,

Rev Ralf Geisler and Prof Benz Schär. Other persons could be elected as members of the nominations committee, but these persons would as a consequence not be able to stand for elections to the new ExCom. The nominations committee's task would be to identify candidates for the following positions: moderator, treasurer, 5 members and 2 substitutes.



Election of Nomination Committee

The question of representation of black churches in the nominations committee was raised, but in view of possible candidacy no additional candidate was nominated.

Ms Marja-Liisa Laihia, Rev Ralf Geisler and Prof Benz Schär were elected to the nominations committee with no votes against and one abstention, representing 3 votes.

Prof Schär then explained the nominations procedure and work of the committee. He highlighted in particular that the nominations committee will try to present one balanced proposal with a strong recommendation for approval. In preparing this proposal, the committee will consider the whole situation of CCME, the criteria of balanced representation of regions, confessions, gender, migrant churches, old and new members and age. Obviously, candidates would also need to have knowledge and experience in migration issues, be able and willing to govern an organisation, and must be proposed and supported at least by one member of CCME and preferably represent a certain region. While the nominations committee would come with one proposal, the assembly delegates will be free to elect whom ever they want to elect. Proposals for candidates would need to be brought to the attention of the nominations committee by Thursday, 9 October at 16.<sup>00</sup>

It was added that two additional members of ExCom will not be elected but appointed by WCC and CEC, respectively. The election will therefore consist of the election of a moderator, treasurer, five members and two substitutes. Nominations which had been received so far included ExCom members Mag. Michael Bubik (as treasurer), Mr Joël Le Billan and Ms Franca Di Lecce as well as Mr Adejare Oyewole, Ms Kristina Hellqvist and Dr Antonios Papantoniou.

Ms Peschke explained that candidates could stand for election to specific positions in the ExCom or be nominated for any position in the ExCom in general. She also recommended that short biographical information about the candidate would be handed to the nominations committee with the proposal of candidates. Before the elections, the candidates would have the occasion to present themselves to the assembly. It was further explained that those candidates running for re-election had completed their first term in ExCom. The term for the next ExCom would be three years, however due to the CCME – CEC integration the term might be shortened if the new CCME assembly elected a new ExCom already in 2010.

The first session ended with a round of presentation of the delegates, their work and their function in their organisations.

### *Thursday, 09 October 2008*

The session started with morning prayers held by Rev Ralf Geisler.

## **VII. CCME Activity Report 2005 – 2007**

Ms Doris Peschke presented the CCME Activity Report 2005 – 2007 (GA 2008-2), outlining that in its work CCME followed the CCME mission statement, the work programme 2005-2008, but also tried to respond to the political context of the last three years. While referring to the written report, she underlined the work on advocacy particular on the return directive, monitoring of transposition of EU legislation, work on migration and development and general networking. In the area of projects, she highlighted the work on refugee resettlement, against trafficking in human beings and the POLITIS project. She underlined the importance of the CEC-CCME integration process, which had also taken up considerable resources. The cooperation with the World Council of Churches, in addition to the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration, had been important in the framework of the project “Migration and the changing ecclesial landscape” following the Porto Alegre Assembly of WCC in 2006. The Europe Study Mapping Migration, Mapping Churches’ Responses” published in April had been an important part of this cooperation.

Communication was confirmed as a crucial point: A theological reader compiled by Benz Schär and Ralf Geisler was presented. This reader is supposed to start an open process which should stimulate other theologians to reflect on the issue of migration and interaction with refugees and strangers. Therefore the reader should be spread widely also into the academic sphere. At the moment contributions are in various languages, but all should be translated into English in a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

The assembly entered the discussion of the activity report.

Delegates expressed thanks and appreciation of the work undertaken. A number of issues were raised for clarification, among them CCME's involvement in the Dublin II regulation review. Delegates highlighted the importance of the work of lobbying on the return directive, and the need to more strongly communicate the work undertaken by CCME. The reception of refugees in Greece and EU member states' responses was discussed.

With regard to the return directive it was stated that not all aims could be achieved, but the continuous advocacy work can still be counted as a success. Some of the stipulations in the text would not have been agreed without the perseverance of churches and civil society organisations.

The priorities for future work as well as diversity in the organisation were raised. Doris Peschke stressed the new time frame of 6 years for future work, following the CEC timing. This poses challenges: while the work programme ought to be clear and guiding the work, within 6 years new issues may come up, which could not have been foreseen. Therefore, broader guidelines and priorities need to give a framework for the planning period, in which the new Commission and the ExCom can decide on new or changing issues. Unfortunately, so far, capacities and funding for the desirable aim to cover a wider Europe in the work of CCME have not been adequate.

## **VIII. Financial Report 2005-2007**

Treasurer Michael Bubik presented the Financial Report 2005-2007 (GA 2008-3).

He explained that the financial situation of CCME is not ideal but under control. This was especially due to the excellent work of the staff and its good and transparent accountancy, which makes it easy for the treasurer to focus on wider issues such as the CEC financial planning. He thanked members for their contributions.

A number of questions on details of the accounts were raised and clarified. Considerable investments are necessary for the renovation of the Ecumenical Center in Brussels. This will be done according to ecological standards. CCME holds shares in Oikocredit which is providing capital for development projects. These shares are secure even in the time of financial crisis. The risks of savings accounts seem currently under control with governments granting guarantees.

**Income** by membership fees has been stable, some members had to decrease their fees, and others were able to increase their contribution. Stability at the same time means that there is no dynamic, which is not good at all. So Michael Bubik asked the delegates for their organisations to consider if the organisation could contribute more funding, e.g. for special projects.



## IX. Adoption and discharge

Having received both reports the General Assembly

- **adopted the activity report unanimously** and **discharged** the ExCom members (no votes against, no abstentions);
- **adopted the financial report** and discharged the treasurer (no votes against, 1 abstention representing 3 votes).

## X. Integration CCME and CEC

Rev Trotman gave a report on the negotiations and the process, which had been ongoing for several years and often required considerable efforts from CCME until 2007 at the meeting of the CEC Central Committee and the CCME ExCom in Vienna the 'Memorandum of Understanding' was signed by the leadership of CCME and CEC. This memorandum serves as basis of the integration. He highlighted that after long negotiations, integration will bring benefits for CCME as well as for CEC. Nevertheless some points need to be clarified and should be addressed at the CEC Assembly 2009 in Lyon, such as the question of membership in CCME and more particularly CEC.

The draft resolution GA 2008-5 was introduced.

A number of questions were raised, among them the question of the financial situation of CEC, which currently appears stable for the normal activities as well as for the Assembly in Lyon. For transparency, and certainly until joint financial planning and accounting is achieved, it would be preferable, that members continue to pay financial contributions directly to CCME rather than to CEC Geneva. It was underlined that due to Belgian legislation, CCME stays an independent legal entity. Concern was expressed about the lack of awareness for and representation of black-led, minority ethnic and migrant churches in the wider context of CEC.



Ven Colin Williams, General Secretary of CEC, meeting the CCME Excom

It was clarified that two parallel processes were coming together in Protaras at this moment: while the CCME GA was working on adopting a resolution on integration and would amend the Articles of Association of CCME, the CEC Central Committee would also have to adopt several regulations in view of the integration, e.g. decide on the restructuring of CEC, include CCME staff in the CEC staffing plan, revise the salary scheme and integrate the CCME and CEC budget. The CEC Assembly 2009 would have to review the CEC constitution and bye-law.

In preparation for the joint CCME and CEC session the GA collected questions to be clarified.

- Question of membership – which might be a problem for CEC which is a conference of *churches* and CCME having members which are councils of churches and church related national organisations. Membership is a crucial issue for CEC and cannot be resolved over night.
- An other crucial issue is the composition of the future CCME commission and who will nominate or appoint the members. There are only 25 members foreseen with voting rights. According Belgian law other members could contribute with their expertise but without voting rights. A consequence could be, if CEC appoints the members of the new commission, that there are members of CCME in the commission with and others without voting rights, but all paying membership fees. As CCME always tried to make decisions on a basis of consensus, also members without voting rights would influence the decisions and the work of CCME. It might, however, cause problems, e.g. to lose members because they have to pay fees but have no voting rights. The challenge is not to fear the loss of some of the 23 CCME members but to look forward to gaining 120 new members and to work with them and to raise the awareness for migration issues there. CCME has the opportunity to build up a new and broader Commission. Arlington Trotman summarized, that the membership issue is still to be clarified and that these questions should be asked in the joint session with the request for an answer from CEC.
- Does CEC accept the CCME mission statement as a goal of CEC? *What is the nature of the integration/ merger?* Is it a merger of two (one Belgian, one Swiss) legal entities? Michael Bubik pointed out that this was not the case. CEC receives some legal competences and the two organisations will be linked together like also CSC of CEC. But the Commissions will remain legal entities with own finances etc. Both organisations have to change legal regulations in their statutes.
- Sometimes quick decisions are necessary for advocacy on migration issues, these needs will need to be reflected also in the new Commission of CEC.
- Is it possible, that one organisation pays membership fees and will not be represented in the Commission, and vice-versa, CEC churches that do not pay fees to CCME might have voting rights in the new commission? This question should be considered in the work group and should be part of the negotiations about membership with CEC. 1/3 of the new commission members with voting rights should be CCME members. Further CEC members could also become members of CCME.
- In the negotiations everything should be done that CEC will change the membership regulations, otherwise constructions like described above could appear. But the process of decision making is different and will start at the CEC Assembly 2009 in Lyon. A lot of work on legal texts still needs to be done.
- CCME is clearly in favour of the integration and is looking forward to a common future, but not at all cost. Therefore clarity on responsibilities and

resources need to be achieved and the Central Committee of CEC has to respond to the questions.

- Benz Schär summarised that confidence is necessary and that CEC has to prove that CCME can trust. It is not up to the CCME ExCom to prove the reliability of CEC.

## **XI. Draft Work Programme 2009 - 2015 - presentation**

Doris Peschke presented the Draft Work Programme 2009 - 2015, explaining that it was more general than previous programmes as it covered a longer period of time. Parts of the programme will be referred to in the policy reference committee report of the CEC Assembly in Lyon. Several issues were raised and referred to the working group on programme.

A delegate suggested including work on climate refugees in the Work Programme, because according to UNHCR those refugees are not protected by the Geneva Refugee Convention. Churches should start thinking about that. Doris Peschke pointed out that this issue is already included in the draft Work Programme.

Another suggestion was to express in the Work Programme that despite the constant decrease of refugees coming into the EU, in Greece and Cyprus there is a dramatic increase. The working group on the Work Programme was requested to address this.

With migration also other religions are coming to Europe, not only Islam but also religions from Asia like Hinduism, Buddhism, which may cause new irritations and tensions. On Islam, CEC has the joint committee with CCEE on Islam in Europe as part of the remit of the Commission Churches in Dialogue; the Church and Society Commission together with COMECE has had a series of debates on Islam in Europe in the European Parliament. Due to the work in platforms like ENAR CCME is involved with this problem, unfortunately there is no capacity for further engagement. It was suggested to mention this cooperation in the work programme to show the involvement of CCME.

The year 2010 Churches responding to migration will be a joint effort of CCME and CEC and provide a great opportunity to bring migration to the attention of all CEC churches. This will require a decision by the Central Committee of CEC followed by joint work to provide the necessary resources, infrastructure and communication capacity.

Focus of this year 2010 will be on long term residents, but of course other issues will be addressed as well. If supported by the members of CEC, the year can change the atmosphere and awareness for migration and become a reference point for further work.

## **XII. Draft Budget 2009 – 2010 - presentation**

Michael Bubik presented the draft budget and stressed that the income for the year 2010 on migration is not yet clear, donors have to be found.

The increase for the year 2009 is realistic as the project proposals had already been submitted and positive signals on funding have been received from the EU.

## **XIII. Joint Session of CCME GA and CEC CC Integration of CCME and CEC**

CEC President Rev J.A. de Clermont opened the session by expressing his great appreciation for this meeting. He gave a short review and evaluation of the work towards CEC-CCME integration over the last 6 years since Trondheim and offered a look ahead into the future on the common journey. He stressed that for CEC migration is a core question for the understanding of the future of Europe.

Rev Trotman welcomed the opportunity for the joint meeting and to respond to migration in Europe and social issues as a common matter.



Joint Session of CCME GA and CEC CC

Both CEC and CCME General Secretary gave a review of the integration process so far. Ms Peschke stressed that since Trondheim with the decision and work for CCME to become a commission of CEC the 'Memorandum of Understanding' has

been crucial for building trust and cooperation. She pointed out that are still issues to be clarified, such as the question of membership. She echoed concerns, e.g. about the reliability of the contribution and commitment of CEC and the members of CEC to the new CEC-CCME?

Ven Williams said that already for a considerable period of time, CEC and CCME had acted as if the integration had already taken place, e.g. through a joint management team. He underlined that for CEC, black and migrant churches' participation is a key issue for the 21st century. He highlighted the decision of CEC to make available space for about 50 participants of black and migrant churches at the EEA3. For the CEC assembly in Lyon 2009, the integration would not only be celebrated, but an allocation for 25 delegates from CCME had been made. He emphasised that integration between CEC and CCME is part of the restructuring of CEC and said that CEC recognises and acknowledges the concerns of CCME. To that effect amendments to the CEC

constitution would be made so that CEC could become an integrated organisation with 3 commissions and that CCME staff would become CEC staff. With regard to the membership issue he requested time and patience as this was a truly complicated issue.

Issues raised in the discussion related to the reliability regarding decisions and their interpretation, the question of funding and CCME's share in undedicated funds. Concerns of the CCME GA were aroused by the changes in that matter which Ven Colin Williams had reported to the ExCom, which were not according to the Memorandum of Understanding and to the CEC restructuring document. Does the senior management team have the competence to decide on undedicated funds or has the financial committee to be involved? How to integrate the CCME aims into CEC.

The concern about the two different models of decision making in CEC and CCME was expressed. At the moment every member of CCME sends delegates to the General Assembly to represent their interests. On the contrary Central Committee of CEC appoints the members for the new commission. How can CEC guarantee that the new model will be best for the future of CCME? Why should CCME members continue to pay membership fees, if they are not represented in the commission? Concern about a possible loss of (paying) members was expressed and the question was raised how CEC will ensure to keep all CCME members involved with CCME.

Ven Colin Williams pointed out CCME should stay as effective as it is now but in a wider context. The structures could support CCME and CEC could learn from CCME not to be too structure-bound. An integrated CEC is able to offer more new services, which are worthwhile for an organisation to pay more or to continue to pay to both CEC and CCME.

The resolution against detention might be a good starting point to show the world that churches together speak out in that issue. The Central Committee of CEC has expressed that migration is a key issue which has to be constantly on the agenda. The integration will have consequences for CEC and CCME. Central Committee of CEC and CCME General Assembly expressed their hopes and enthusiasm to work together for refugees and migrants.

Doris Peschke pointed out that there are many new challenges, the situation is very dynamic and constantly changing. Migration from the Far East (China/ India) is expected but also emigration from Europe. Next to inter-religious dialogue intra-Christian dialogue will be crucial to cope with the new challenges. New cultures and also new forms of Christianity are arriving in Europe. Within CEC it needs to be determined which commission can deal best with which issue.

Arlington Trotman appreciated the positive spirit how the actual status was achieved. He expressed his hope that after CEC Assembly 2009 in Lyon CEC and CCME will continue to focus on migration, in which inter-faith dialogue will be a more and more important issue. He highlighted the vision that some time the word "stranger" would be replaced with "brother/sister" and CEC will be the right organisation to do that. There is a visible process to work on the issues ahead.



Towards the end of the joint session, Ms Peschke introduced the plans for the year 2010 Churches responding to migration. She stressed that a decision has to be made at this meeting of the CCME assembly and CEC Central Committee, so that plans can be further elaborated and a first programme draft could be presented before the Lyon assembly.

The joint session terminated around 17.<sup>00</sup> h

After resuming at 17.<sup>05</sup> h, a short session of evaluation of the joint meeting was held. Some delegates expressed their disappointment of little engagement of CEC Central Committee members, as well as sometimes too quick responses which did not meet the concerns expressed. However, appreciation was expressed regarding some achievements and the recognition of the aims of CCME to be strengthened. The option of postponing the integration decision was discussed but not pursued. However, the concern for the process of nominations for the new Commissions was raised again and the request to the working group on the articles of association to address this issue made.

The GA afterwards split into 4 working groups (plus the nominations committee.)

- 1) Revision of the articles of association
- 2) Work programme 2009 - 2015
- 3) Budget, funding, resources and communication
- 4) Year 2010 churches responding to migration

### *Friday, 10. October 2008 (Odessa Hotel)*

Rev Mark Saba led the assembly in **prayer**

Before getting into the agenda, Dr Goos Minderman suggested to propose to CEC Central Committee that the first new CEC Commission CCME should entirely be nominated by CCME ExCom and appointed by CEC Central Committee. This proposal was transmitted to Rev de Clermont and the CC of CEC, with a request for a prompt answer.

Ms Seta Hadesian (MECC) presented the greetings from the MECC and a short report about the situation in the Middle East. She highlighted the deplorable situation of Iraqi refugees in the region, the issue of labour migration into the region - particularly the gulf countries - and the concern about the future of the Christian presence in the region. She expressed the hope CCME and CEC will play an important role of support to MECC in its work.

Arlington Trotman expressed the solidarity, greetings and support for the work to MECC.

## XIV. Presentation by the Nominations Committee

Prof Schär referred to previous CCME Assemblies where for him, elections had always been approached with a certain nervousness and dissatisfaction. He expressed happiness about a very relaxed situation this time, and there were only as many nominations as positions to elect.

The following nominations had been received:

*Moderator:* **Arlington Trotman**, Methodist, UK (nominated by UK, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany)

*Treasurer:* **Michael Bubik**, Reformed, Austria (nominated by Switzerland)

*ExCom:* **Joël Le Billan**, Reformed, France (nominated by France and Spain)  
**Kristina Hellqvist**, Lutheran, Sweden (nominated by the Nordic countries)

**Franca Di Lecce**, Baptist, Italy (nominated by Italy)

**Antonios Papantoniou**, Orthodox, Greece (nominated by Greece and Switzerland)

**Katharia Wegner**, United, Germany (nominated by Germany and the Netherlands)

*Substitutes:* **Adejare Oyewole**, Council of African and Caribbean Churches, UK  
**Geesje Werkman**, Reformed, Netherlands

After the nominees presented themselves shortly, Prof Schär repeated the criteria for the nomination. He expressed satisfaction that all criteria were being fulfilled by the team nominated but expressed frustration about the lack of broader representation of migrant churches. He underlined that it remained a lasting challenge for the CCME members to promote migrants in their churches, so that more delegates could be migrants, which means there might be more migrants in future ExCom.

## XV. Election of the ExCom:

Ballot cards were distributed according to the voting rights of every member. The different ballot papers and the voting procedure were explained: *Moderator*: red ballot paper, *treasurer*: pink ballot paper, *ExCom*: yellow paper, *substitutes*: white ballot paper.

To vote for Moderator and Treasurer:

*yes:* → Name or "yes" on the card

*no:* → "no" on the card

*abstention:* → nothing on the card

To vote for ExCom and (Substitutes):

*yes:* → up to 5 (2) names on the card

*no:* → less than 5 (2) names or no names on the card

Ms Laihia informed the assembly of the result:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>votes</i>
Moderator	Arlington Trotman	50
Treasurer	Michael Bubik	50
ExCom	Joël Le Billan	50
	Kristina Hellqvist	48
	Franca Di Lecce	49
	Antonios Papantoniou	48
	Katharina Wegner	48
Substitute	Adejare Oyewole	46
	Geesje Werkman	44

*All candidates accepted their election*

## **XVI. Public issues**

*After the elections of the new ExCom, several resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly.*

## **XVII. Draft resolution on detention:**

*The resolution was adopted unanimously, no votes against, no abstentions.*

The text of this resolution was also put forward for endorsement by Central Committee of CEC.

## **XVIII. Resolution that migrants and refugees in Austria receive the right to residence after five years:**

This resolution was sent by Austrian NGO's to the Austrian government on the occasion of October 10 2008 as "National Right of Residence Day". Doris Peschke pointed out that the central demand of the resolution is accordance with a CCME position adopted at the general



CCME GA expressing their support for the resolution

assembly 1999 on long-term residence and the European Convention on Migrant Workers. The word "incorrect" was changed into "injust/ discriminatory".

*The resolution was adopted unanimously, no votes against, no abstentions.*

## **XIX. Anti Trafficking Commitment:**

Dr Torsten Moritz introduced the modifications to the statement, which had been made according to discussions at the conference on 8th October 2008. *Minor additions were suggested and the commitment paper was adopted unanimously, no votes against, no abstentions.*

## **XX. Plenary discussion on the CCME Work Programme 2009 – 2015**

Mr Simon Röthlisberger reported on behalf of the working group and pointed out that the process of establishing a work programme was not finished yet. A particular difficulty was the long term perspective for the work programme. There was also a difficulty in formulating it, as the work programme should not only be understandable for experts on migration, but also for a broader public.

The working group presented the major issues and their suggestions, asking for feedback.

The work programme was considered rather long and with too little prioritisation. Rev Trotman explained, that a clearer structure might make the work programme more accessible and committed the working group to coming up with a restructured document for discussion on the next morning.

## **XXI. Plenary discussion on the CCME Budget 2009 – 2010 (2009 – 2015)**

On behalf of the working group Mag. Bubik presented the draft budget (document GA 2008-8) and recommended a further effort for fundraising, especially for the thematic year 2010.

Concerning the integration of CCME and CEC the working group drew attention to the problem of two different currencies (CEC – Geneva using CH Francs/ CCME – Brussels using EUR) and suggested that every member organisation should continue to pay fees separately to CEC Geneva and CCME Brussels to avoid loss of money due to currency exchange.

For the year 2010 "Churches responding to migration" the group requested a special 5% extraordinary payment from members and recommended to request the same commitment from CEC at the 2009 General Assembly in Lyon. For credibility reasons, CCME members have to agree to pay more for this event. If all CCME and CEC members would give an extra 5%, that would be for CCME 15.000 € and for CEC 57.000€.

In preparation for the year 2010, the group recommended to put aside money in 2008 and 2009.

The working group recommended adopting the budget and passing it on to the CEC Finance Secretary as soon as possible.

*The General Assembly adopted the budget unanimously, no votes against, no abstentions.*

## **XXII. Report working group Migration year 2010**

On behalf of the working group on migration year 2010 Aldredo Abad and Iselin Jørgensen presented their outcomes, based on the draft ExCom 08/2/10.7:

The group pointed out that an elaborated concept is crucial and more time for the churches to prepare is needed, to start detailed planning in early 2009 could be rather late.

As a title the group proposed: "Respect across borders" explaining that there are different kinds of borders like intellectual – intra-church – personal – psychological – borders of fear – of hospitality – ... so it might be a very flexible title. In a calendar members can indicate their activities, events, UN and other international days, dedicated day and religious festive days. The group amended this to the draft version.



CCME GA Working Group

A discussion about the title started.

Various opinions were expressed in favour and against the "border" theme.

Alessia Passarelli added to the discussion by reporting that CEC Central Committee had unanimously adopted the paper on the year 2010 on migration. CEC Central Committee had suggested that the word "churches" should appear in the title, e.g. "Churches responding on migration".

## **XXIII. Plenary discussion on the revised CCME Articles of association**

For the working group on the revision of the articles of association Goos Minderman presented their results in the document "List of most important changes in the articles of association".

The main points were the nomination of the new commission. The ExCom of CCME should be leading in nominating the candidates and then Central Committee of CEC should appoint the members of the commission with voting rights. Additional members without voting rights could be joining without having been appointed.



He shared that there was a great willingness within CEC to meet CCME demands to organise the future CEC commission CCME according to CCME recommendations.



A discussion about the term “black and migrant and ethnic churches” emerged and was pursued at substantial length. As some delegates had not yet read the presented paper, the GA decided to postpone the adoption of the articles of association. The working group would continue to work on it and invited others to join the group.

Rev Trotman emphasised that the discussion shows how the General Assembly has to decide not only for the CCME members but for a wider constituency. Decisions from now on will affect many more churches, which gives CCME the opportunity to promote the work on migration.

### *Saturday, 11 October 2008 (Odessa Hotel)*

Ms Annemarie Dupré led in **morning prayer** about Gen 11,<sup>1-9</sup>

It was noted that the Spanish delegation had to leave the assembly due to travel arrangements. The Spanish delegation had not transferred its vote and the total number of votes therefore was now 47 votes.

Rev Geisler introduced the morning agenda appealing to delegates to be concise and disciplined in order to take the necessary decisions in time.

## **XXIV. Revised Work Programme 2009 – 2015 – adoption**

Rev Trotman introduced the revised Work Programme 2009 – 2015, which in his view was outlining priorities much clearer than previous versions. He introduced the work programme draft chapter by chapter.

The following discussion again focussed on the problem that priorities had not been identified clearly among the different areas of work. Several speakers however highlighted that this was due to the broadness of CCME as an organisation. It was noted that the term “merger” of CEC and CCME should be avoided and replaced with “integration”.



CCME GA Working Group

*After this discussion the Work Programme 2009-2015 was adopted with 44 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.*

## **XXV. Articles of Association – adoption of modification**

Dr Goos Minderman presented a revised version. He highlighted the following changes:

Under 4.1. The membership is open to churches a new term was included: “black, ethnic minority and migrant churches”.

Doris Peschke proposed to delete the word “all” in the term: “open to all churches” otherwise it might lead to problems and CCME has to justify every time when an application will be refused. The General Assembly followed this proposal.

Under 6.8 the General Assembly changed “resignation” into “end of term” of a member of Executive Committee.

Point 6 was changed from plural to singular “plenary meeting of the commission”.

*The General Assembly adopted the revised articles of association (as of 11.10.08) with one abstention (representing 3 votes) and no votes against, provisory if changes due to Belgian law will be necessary.*

## **XXVI. Resolution CEC-CCME integration - adoption**

The resolution GA 2008-5 Integration of CCME – CEC, supplemented by the memorandum of understanding, was put to the vote. No changes had been made, because all relevant changes had been made in the articles of association.

*The resolution on CEC-CCME Integration was adopted with 44 votes in favour and 1 abstention, representing 3 votes and no votes against.*

Rev Trotman underlined that the General Assembly had just decided the integration with CEC. The decision was applauded by the General Assembly.

At this moment the General Assembly received information from Central Committee of CEC that the Russian Orthodox Church had decided to suspend its membership in CEC due to the unresolved issue of the membership application of the Estonian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). Central Committee had not been able to act on the application as the Central Committee no longer had a quorum in the respective session.

Rev Trotman stressed this situation might lead to tensions and low spirits among the CEC delegates during the joint closing session of CEC Central Committee and CCME assembly. He suggested praying for a good solution of this problem, not only because CCME will need a strong CEC.

## **XXVII. Draft proposal Year on migration 2010 - adoption**

Document ExCom 08/2/10.7 and the working group report were reintroduced. Several speakers highlighted that the year 2010 and the joint work on it should bring churches

closer together as a community working for the vulnerable and marginalised in society.

Several speakers doubted the feasibility of the “Churches responding to migration” year already taking place in 2010. Doris Peschke explained that the CEC member churches will be informed and asked for thematic input by January 2009. A letter will be sent to all CCME member organisations and all CEC member churches with information and an invitation to participate. Information on the year shall be presented at the CEC Lyon Assembly.

The formulation “working for migrants” was questioned and the draft proposal on the Year 2010 was modified by changing the term to “with and for migrants”.

***The Draft Proposal was adopted unanimously, with no abstentions and no votes against.***

The working group report was received.

The General Assembly closed with an exchange on the publication “Mapping Migration”.

In closing the CCME General Assembly, Rev Arlington Trotman expressed his admiration for the enormous amount of work for preparation and discussion in the General Assembly and thanked all participants for their commitment and ended by intoning “He’s got the whole world in his hands”.

## **XXVIII. Celebration with Central Committee of CEC and joint closing**

Rev Arlington Trotman expressed CCME’s gratefulness for the opportunity to work together with the Central Committee of CEC and to work on last pending questions for the integration. He officially announced the decision of the CCME General Assembly to integrate with CEC, highlighting that the resolution had been adopted with 44 votes for the integration and 3 abstentions. CCME had agreed to integrate with CEC and was pleased about that. This marked the end of a process which started in the late 1990ies,



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but also the beginning of a further process of integration showing the commitment of churches to migrants in Europe. He expressed his thanks for the cooperation with the General Secretary, President and Vice Presidents of CEC and also the energy and devotion of Doris Peschke, the CCME staff, the ExCom and the negotiation group.

Rev Jean-Arnold de Clermont responded by « totally and fully” welcoming *all* members of CCME and considered them as an extension of the vision of CEC and a strengthening of forces to advocate for Europe. Europe as a “closed” continent which allows only

some to come here posed a challenge for Christians and they are responsible for dialogue. CEC with its now 3 commissions will be able to give a better Christian witness in Europe.

He characterised the integration not that the bigger partner swallows the smaller one, but together both will be stronger for the Christian vision of Europe which includes openness, diaconia, environment and development. We should use all opportunities to broaden the Christian witness in Europe as far as possible. "Let us keep the idea that we can progress" he appealed.

Doris Peschke added that an important additional partner would be WCC, which will be present in work on migration. She announced that Ms Elena Timofticiuc had been confirmed by WCC as representative on the CCME ExCom. She finally thanked all CEC members of the negotiation group for the substantial work they have done to come to this agreement.

The joint session ended with prayers, Dean Margarete Isberg reading Mt 25 "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Rev de Clermont bid farewell to everyone with blessings for the journey of witness.



General Assembly of CCME, Protaras 2008

## Annex:

### Annex 1: CCME Work Programme 2009-2015

Work Programme 2009-2015 of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe of the Conference of European Churches

#### A. WHERE WE COME FROM

*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.*

*CCME Mission Statement*

#### I. FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORK OF CCME

1. With this work programme, CCME seeks to contribute to the Christian witness in Europe; seeking to develop a Europe welcoming the strangers and building inclusive societies: *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God"* (Eph. 2:19). CCME will do so as part of the Conference of European Churches.
2. The Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe in their memorandum of understanding "Different Backgrounds – Joint Future" adopted by the CCME ExCom and the CEC Central Committee respectively, have agreed to journey together to make the witness of churches in Europe more visible.
3. The work of CCME in fostering Christian reflection and action on migration is grounded in the clear command in both the Old and the New Testaments to act humanely and compassionately towards the strangers who share with all human beings the dignity of the Being of God, (Genesis 1,26-27; John 1,1). That *"You shall love the alien as yourself"* (Leviticus 19, 34; Hebrews 13, 1-3) is typical of the humane attitude towards 'the other' found in the Moses law, an obligation recognized by the three Abrahamic world religions and other faith communities. It is believed to have been given both by revelation and natural law, that is, a moral principle which is capable of being recognized by all human beings.
4. The CCME Mission Statement adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> CCME Assembly in London, October 2005 continues to guide the work of the Commission.

#### II. MANDATE OF THE CCME (of CEC)

As outlined in the joint memorandum of understanding "Different Backgrounds – Joint Future" signed by the leadership of CEC and CCME in Vienna in November 2007, the CCME



General Assembly and CEC Central Committee have affirmed the mandate of the CCME of CEC, namely to

1. serve 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;
2. work on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination, undertake research, initiate, develop and implement projects in these fields;
3. represent the common voice of the churches in Europe on the above issues vis-à-vis the European institutions.

### **III. PROCESS TOWARDS THIS WORK PROGRAMME**

This work programme is the result of a participatory process: in December 2007 an invitation to CCME members was sent out, asking for input to the future work programme of CCME. These inputs were discussed and further developed by the ExCom meeting in Mechelen (Belgium), April 2008. A provisional version of the work programme was circulated prior to the CCME General Assembly in Protaras/Cyprus 8th-11th October 2008, where the final version was discussed, amended and on 11th October 2008 adopted.

### **B. WHAT WE WILL BE DOING**

### **IV. WORK PRIORITIES 2009-10**

The European Union will hold European Parliament elections in June 2009; a new European Commission will take over in autumn 2009. The Czech Republic and Sweden will hold the Presidencies of the Council of the EU in the first and second half of 2009. During this period, the priorities of the EU for the coming five years will be established in the area of asylum and migration and be adopted in autumn 2009 (Stockholm Programme).

Since 1999, substantial EU framework legislation has been adopted in the field of migration and asylum. These framework laws, known as directives, set out a general legal framework for all EU member states. Member states then within 2 years after their adoption need to transpose these directives into national law. These national laws will contain more precise provisions for the different EU member states, which are compatible with domestic legislation and law traditions.

### **Asylum and refugees**

The assessment of the previously adopted EU framework legislation on migration and asylum, both in terms of legal transposition into national law by EU Member States, as well as in terms of practical impact, will be of critical importance for identifying next steps.

CCME will contribute towards discussions on the future of asylum and refugee protection in the EU: Plans are already discussed and proposals made for the "Future Common European Asylum System", which shall be completed by 2012. Proposals for amending

the current EU directives in the field of asylum will be proposed in autumn 2008 and spring 2009. An EU Asylum Support Office will be further defined and established. It will in particular assist in practical cooperation between EU Member States in areas like country of origin information as well as sharing technical experience.

Plans will be elaborated for an EU Refugee Resettlement scheme. Advocacy for refugee resettlement will be done in the context of the CCME project ASPIRE – Assessing and Strengthening Participation In Refugee resettlement to Europe (co financed by the ERF).

## **Labour Migration**

Jointly with Christian organisations, the EU legislative proposals in the area of labour migration will be examined and commented where appropriate. Currently the Blue Card Proposal and the directive on a single residence/work permit are negotiated in the Council of the EU. As the Lisbon Treaty has not entered into force – due to the No-Vote in the referendum in Ireland – migration related legislation remains the competence of the EU Council with consultation of the European Parliament.

While more and more EU member states need, and actively recruit, migrants for various sectors in the labour markets, there is wide disparity with regard to the rights of migrants across the EU. The Council of Europe has addressed the issue of labour migration in September 2008 in the conference of ministers responsible for migration, and the Council of Europe standards, conventions and recommendations on labour migrants ought to be taken as a common basis also for developing EU standards. In addition, the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation in this field provide a good framework for advocacy with governments, employers and trade unions. The call for ratification of the 1990 convention on the rights of migrants and members of their family will be at the heart of CCME's advocacy in this field.

## **Irregular Migration and rights of undocumented**

Removals of migrants and detention prior to removal have been an advocacy focus for the past years. As the EU directive has been adopted in June 2008, transposition into national legislation will now be a crucial issue. CCME will encourage members to advocate that those provisions of the directive which strengthen the rights of undocumented prior to and during removal will be adequately transposed when drafting national legislation.

CCME advocates for developing alternatives to forced removals and detention of migrants and persons seeking international protection. At the same time, legal and social counselling for these migrants in detention and monitoring of removals is important for upholding human rights standards. Pastoral care for these migrants in detention is a specific calling on the church. Jointly with member organisations, CCME will explore how monitoring and counselling can be improved in this field. In particular CCME will explore how cooperation with the All Africa Conference of Churches in monitoring removals to Africa can be enhanced.

## **Integration**

Integration of migrants and societies has become important at the EU level with annual reports. The Integration of Migrants Index developed by the Migration Policy Group MPG has received considerable attention and provides important insights.

The role of religion in and for integration will be a focus of CCME's work in this area. Building on the results and methodology of the POLITIS project on civic participation of immigrants, the MIRACLE project will be carried out to gain insights into the role of migrant congregations, and to develop material for churches, congregations and church related agencies to win migrants as active members. This project aims to underline how religion can play a positive role for integration.

CCME will with CEC CiD and CSC Commission explore possibilities on further developing work on living together of different cultures and faiths in Europe. This should result in developing practical and pastoral orientations for this living together.

## **The Roma minority in Europe**

The EU held a high level meeting on Roma inclusion in September 2008. The decade for Roma inclusion has produced a variety of good programmes in a number of European countries. However, stigmatisation and marginalisation is still a critical issue. For example, in certain European countries the crime committed by one individual Roma is attributed to the whole of the Roma community population. To make it worse, confusion with migration and migration control is mixed with policies to control Roma people.

In some European countries, an increase of Roma movement from Central and East European countries is currently observed. While policy responses as well as programmes to assist Roma people need to be developed, further stereotyping of Roma persons ought to be avoided.

A considerable number of activities and programmes are addressing the issue, also organised by churches and church-related agencies. However, the visibility of the activities is not very high.

CCME partners in Romania and Finland have expressed an interest to cooperate with CCME, and in cooperation with them, CCME will explore a possible project in this field. This will particularly look at the issue of churches becoming more inclusive communities of Roma and non-Roma.

## **Migrant Churches in Europe**

Building on the consultation between African and European churches on migrant churches and congregations in November 2008, further cooperation with the All Africa Conference of Churches particularly with regard to churches and congregations of African descent will be further explored.

The WCC project on migration and the changing ecclesial landscape foresees for 2009 the migration study to be undertaken in Africa, and a hearing on migration in Europe. The

Europe Hearing could serve as a launch for the European Churches Year focussing on Migration.

## **Migration and Development**

The Global Forum on Migration and Development 2009 will be held in Athens, Greece. CCME will cooperate not only with its Greek member, but also with the World Council of Churches and the Global Ecumenical Network in the preparation of this event.

With APRODEV and development agencies, further cooperation in this field will be explored.

## **Work against Trafficking**

Trafficking in human beings is a crime and violation of the rights of those who are trafficked and as such addressed by authorities and non-governmental organisations. The European Commission had published a comprehensive report of an expert group, which outlines the need for further action.

With the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings, European countries have agreed on legal standards for the fight against trafficking in human beings.

CCME will advocate for a binding set of human rights for those trafficked, including ratification of the convention and its transposition into national law.

CCME will continue the networking and awareness raising activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings as well as cooperation with the COATNET. Further activities against trafficking for forced labour are foreseen in the context of a project.

## **Global and interregional cooperation**

As an active member, and in cooperation with WCC, CCME will participate in the Global Ecumenical Network meeting and other activities.

For the exchange with the Middle East Council of Churches on migration in the context of the Amman Process an Interregional Meeting, possibly in the context of or close to the Global Conference on Migration and Development, will be explored.

## **Integration of CEC and CCME**

Following agreements of the CCME Assembly and the CEC Central Committee, the integration of the two organisations shall be concluded. To this effect, CCME will actively participate in the preparations for the CEC Assembly 15-21 July 2009 in Lyon/France. CCME will seek to ensure a high visibility of persons representing migrant churches and persons working on asylum and migration in the churches at the assembly.

CCME will organise one or two thematic hearings during the CEC Assembly.

Together with CEC, CCME will seek to increase the visibility of churches actions and positions on migration, refugee protection, and on building inclusive societies in Europe.

## **European Year Churches responding to Migration - 2010**

CEC and CCME will jointly prepare a European Year Churches responding to Migration 2010. A calendar of possible activities on and with migrants, refugees, and minority ethnic people will provide a common framework for publicity and communication. Regional conferences could highlight various fields of the churches' migration work and facilitate exchange of experience and cooperation beyond border. Intensive preparations for the year 2010 will have to start intensely in 2009.

### **V. THEMATIC PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK 2009-15**

(To be received by the CEC Assembly Lyon 2009)

Within its general mandate, CCME of CEC will seek to focus its activities on a number of strategic areas, in which it engages with high quality contributions and potential for impact, rather than trying to address every issue of potential relevance. In its work, and together with the wider ecumenical family, CCME will monitor developments influencing the life of migrants, such as economic development, conflict around the world, climate change.

For the period 2009-15 the following thematic areas will form work priorities for CCME:

#### **Europe's role in refugee protection in the 21st century**

The large majority of refugees are currently hosted by poorer countries in the world. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Europe was the scene of displacement but also of providing protection. In the past years, the numbers of refugees in Europe has drastically declined, in disproportion to the global level. Numbers of refugees vary significantly between different European countries. Overall, fewer refugees find access into Europe and access to effective protection.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) Defending asylum (including complementary protection)*
- b.) Additional forms of refugee protection; including resettlement of refugees to Europe*
- c.) Revising the need for protection (e.g. environmental refugees, internal displacement)*

#### **Human Dignity in the process of labour migration**

With economic globalisation, patterns of international migration are changing. While the majority of migrants move within their region, more migrants travel further distances for a job and a living. While they are welcome when (cheap) labour is needed, permanent settlement and participation in societies meet barriers and restrictions. Currently a trend can be observed in many European countries to increase labour migration, while their status and rights remain uncertain. The right to family life for migrants is particularly under threat in many countries.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) A uniform set of rights for all migrants*
- b.) Ratification of binding legal instruments Europe-wide and globally*
- c.) Advocating for the right to family life as sine qua non of integration*
- d.) Monitoring expulsion, detention and removal of migrants*
- e.) Address situations of migrants in irregular situation*

### **Countering contemporary forms of slavery, in particular trafficking in human beings**

Parallel to stricter immigration controls trafficking in human beings has become more visible in the past two decades as a new form of slavery. While joint efforts of authorities and non-governmental organisations and churches against this international crime have produced some results, trafficking for forced labour is still a rather unknown field. The human rights of trafficked persons are generally still insufficiently protected.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) Trafficking in women*
- b.) Trafficking for forced labour*

### **Uniting in Diversity: Migration as an opportunity and challenge for the unity of the church**

Migration is changing the ecclesial landscape: more congregations of migrants are found, a greater diversity of denominations is observed. Separate and segregated church life is a phenomenon similar to fragmentation in societies, at the same time more transnational and international congregations emerge. Migration constitutes an enormous opportunity and yet a considerable challenge for churches in Europe.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) Being Church together*
- b.) Integration and the role of religion*
- c.) theological reflection on migration*

### **Churches as witness to inclusive communities in Europe**

Various forms of exclusion exist in societies, and are becoming even more dramatic. Vulnerable groups of migrants are particularly affected by exclusion, e.g. asylum applicants and undocumented migrants, children of migrants, but also ethnic minorities are often marginalised. Anti-discrimination legislation provides an important instrument even if it also poses challenges and needs improvement.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) Anti-discrimination legislation: monitoring and promotion in churches*
- b.) Inclusion of ethnically discriminated groups: within church and society*
- c.) Churches addressing racism*



## Migration and development

The nexus between migration and development is recognised in communication and statements. Policies and concrete cooperation activities (e.g. the European Neighbourhood Policy) are however still largely dominated by the aim to use development cooperation as a tool for migration restriction and control. Churches as actors in the fields of migration and development are ideally placed to explore positive ways of action which go beyond remittances. However, this potential of being actors of migration and development is not yet fully used.

*Therefore, priorities will be:*

- a.) Monitoring policy development at European level*
- b.) Cooperation with other regions, particularly through the World Council of Churches and its Global Ecumenical Network on Migration*
- c.) Networking with church development agencies and identifying relevant projects*

## European year of churches responding to migration 2010

Recognising that migration is an overall reality in society today, and aware that migration is posing challenges to societies, political institutions and churches, CEC and CCME are planning a European Year of Churches focussing on migration. During this year, churches activities for migration and integration, asylum and refugees and against racism and discrimination shall be made more visible through joint activities, a joint calendar of meetings and at least four regional meetings. The study "Mapping Migration in Europe - Mapping Churches' Responses" provides a starting point.

The European Year of churches responding to migration 2010 shall also assist churches to share their good experience, to strengthen existing work, and to identify possible new areas of work to become more effective in pursuing the aims of inclusive societies in Europe and welcoming the strangers.

All potential activities of CCME will need to be evaluated against their potential:

- to make a specific contribution of churches to a wider debate and serve the churches' witness in the area of migration on a global level;
- to be complementary to or to have specific added value in relation to activities of other actors and to achieve synergy with them;
- to give a voice to the voiceless;
- to have a clear impact among churches or
- to have an impact in voicing the churches' concerns towards policies on the national level;
- to provide specific added value by addressing an issue on a European level.

## C. HOW WE WILL BE WORKING

## **VI. PLANNING MECHANISMS**

Elements of planning:

1. A thorough needs assessment,
2. Reflection on possible alternatives (e.g. other actors addressing issue, other working method),
3. Initial reflection on methodology and strategy of activity,
4. Prior assessment of potential impact, in particular of the potential added value for member organisations of addressing a particular topic on European level and in the context of CCME of CEC,
5. Reflection on how CCME of CEC activities would link to similar activities undertaken by other actors in the same thematic area,
6. Potential impact on CCME-CEC advocacy work for refugees, migrants and minority ethnic people,
7. Thematic and financial support, in particular among members and strategic partners,
8. Support for project methodology among members,
9. Adequate methods of impact assessment and evaluation will be developed.

## **VII. WORKING MECHANISMS**

The CCME working mechanisms are derived from the main mandate of the CCME:

1. to serve 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.
  - Plenary meeting of the Commission every two years
  - Communication with CCME and CEC members
  - working groups and ad hoc task forces
  - trainings
  - visits
  - membership in and cooperation with the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration of WCC
2. work on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination, undertake research, initiate, develop and implement projects in these fields:
  - networking with Christian and non-governmental organisations
  - partnerships with academia (theological faculties, migration researchers)
  - thematic public hearings
  - international conferences

- mid- term and long-term projects
3. represent the common voice of the churches in Europe on the above issues towards the European institutions and international organisations active in Europe:
- European Union
  - Council of Europe
  - UN (ILO, UNHCR)
  - Global Forum on Migration and Development
  - IOM

## VIII. PARTNERSHIPS

CCME as ecumenical agency in Europe can only realize its mandate to serve the churches if it works in partnership with other Christian organisations as well as secular partners. CCME seeks to develop partnerships with like-minded organisations. Existing partnerships, which will be maintained, include:

### 1. Ecumenical

#### *a.) within CEC:*

Church and Society Commission  
 Commission Churches in Dialogue  
 PARTNERSHIPS BEYOND THE MEMBERSHIP

#### *b.) within the European ecumenical family:*

Group of European Christian organisations (Caritas Europa, COMECE, International Catholic Migration Commission ICMC, Jesuit Refugee Service JRS Europe, Quaker Council on European Affairs)  
 APRODEV, Eurodiakonia, Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe EYCE, WSCF-Europe, Community of Protestant Churches in Europe

#### *c.) In the global ecumenical family:*

World Council of Churches, Global Ecumenical Network on Migration  
 All Africa Conference of Churches, Middle East Council of Churches, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program US

### 2. Secular partners

NGO Platform of European organisations on migration and asylum  
 European Council on Refugees and Exiles ECRE  
 European Network Against Racism, ENAR  
 European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Life  
 IMISCOE – Network of Research Institutes on International Migration Integration  
 Social Cohesion in Europe.

*Adopted in Protaras/Cyprus on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008*

## Annex 2: CCME Budget 2009-2010

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Salaries and related costs	255.350,00 €	304.550,00 €	330.000,00 €
Rent and upkeep of office	19.000,00 €	21.500,00 €	21.500,00 €
Equipment and services	4.000,00 €	3.500,00 €	4.000,00 €
Services	25.000,00 €	23.500,00 €	25.000,00 €
Telephone/Postage	7.480,00 €	8.480,00 €	8.500,00 €
Photocopies	3.820,00 €	8.820,00 €	5.000,00 €
Office supplies	3.900,00 €	5.900,00 €	4.000,00 €
ExCom Travel	10.000,00 €	12.000,00 €	12.000,00 €
Staff Travel	15.000,00 €	29.600,00 €	35.000,00 €
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	14.100,00 €	53.700,00 €	18.000,00 €
Working Groups/Task Forces	3.500,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
CCME General Assembly Meetings	20.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	15.000,00 €
	190.850,00 €	277.300,00 €	160.000,00 €
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	572.000,00 €	758.850,00 €	643.000,00 €
<b>Income</b>			
Memberships	130.375,00 €	127.475,00	128.000,00 €
General Grants	95.750,00 €	72.250,00	75.000,00 €
CEC contribution refugee work	32.000,00 €	32.000,00	32.000,00 €
Assembly grant	17.000,00 €	0,00	10.000,00 €
Earmarked grants	79.975,00 €	139.125,00	148.000,00 €
EU grants	216.900,00 €	388.000,00	250.000,00 €
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	572.000,00 €	758.850,00	643.000,00 €

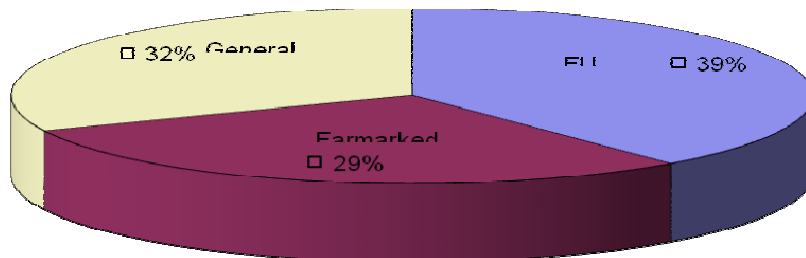
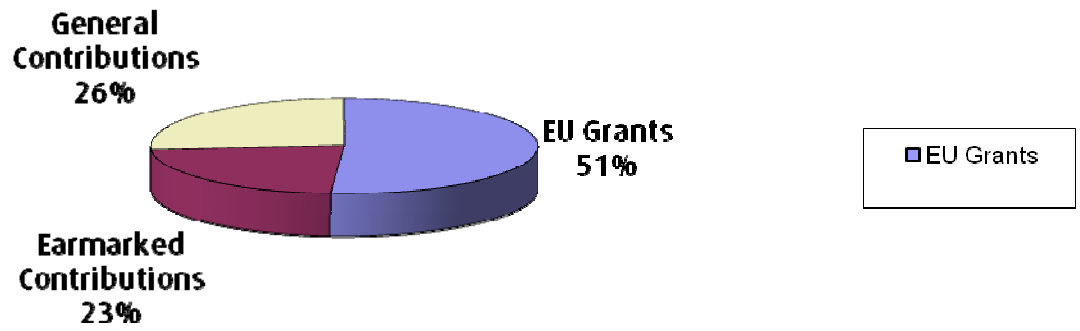
## Details 2009

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Migration Year 2010</b>	<b>Refugee</b>	<b>RR ERF</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Migrant churches</b>	<b>Amman</b>	<b>ENAR</b>	<b>Roma</b>	<b>Migdev</b>	<b>Removals/ detention</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries and related costs	82.000,00	5.000,00	22.300,00	24.000,00	54.000,00	60.000,00	46.000,00		2.250,00		9.000,00		304.550,00
Rent and upkeep of office	10.500,00	500,00	3.500,00	3.500,00			3.500,00						21.500,00
Equipment and services	750,00	200,00	1.350,00	200,00			1.000,00						3.500,00
Services	13.000,00		1.000,00				2.000,00			2.500,00		5.000,00	23.500,00
Telephone/Postage	4.700,00	800,00	1.500,00	300,00			1.000,00		180,00				8.480,00
Photocopies	2.000,00	200,00	4.000,00	500,00			2.000,00		120,00				8.820,00
Office supplies	2.500,00	100,00	1.000,00	300,00			2.000,00						5.900,00
ExCom Travel	8.000,00		4.000,00										12.000,00
Staff Travel	6.500,00		5.000,00	1.000,00	2.600,00	3.000,00	5.000,00	2.500,00		1.000,00	1.000,00	2.000,00	29.600,00
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	300,00	1.200,00	25.000,00	200,00	2.000,00	5.000,00	20.000,00						53.700,00
Working Groups/Task Forces	2.000,00		3.000,00										5.000,00
CCME General Assembly Meetings	5.000,00			2.000,00	77.400,00	74.000,00	103.500,00	2.500,00	400,00	2.500,00	10.000,00	5.000,00	277.300,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>137.250,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>71.650,00</b>	<b>32.000,00</b>	<b>136.000,00</b>	<b>142.000,00</b>	<b>186.000,00</b>	<b>5.000,00</b>	<b>2.950,00</b>	<b>6.000,00</b>	<b>20.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>758.850,00</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Migration Year 2010</b>	<b>Refugee</b>	<b>RR ERF</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Migrant churches</b>	<b>Amman</b>	<b>ENAR</b>	<b>Roma</b>	<b>MigDev</b>	<b>Removals</b>	<b>Total</b>
Memberships	105.000,00	8.000,00			2.000,00		2.500,00	3.000,00	1.475,00	3.000,00	2.500,00		127.475,00
General Grants	32.250,00		33.500,00				2.500,00				2.000,00	2.000,00	72.250,00
CEC Contribution refugee				32.000,00									32.000,00
GA Grant													0,00
Earmarked			38.150,00		15.000,00	40.000,00	14.000,00	2.000,00	1.475,00	3.000,00	15.500,00	10.000,00	139.125,00
EU ERF					119.000,00								119.000,00
EU CRIME Progr. (incl. Partners)						102.000,00							102.000,00
EU DG DEV													0,00
EU INTIP							167.000,00						167.000,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>137.250,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>71.650,00</b>	<b>32.000,00</b>	<b>136.000,00</b>	<b>142.000,00</b>	<b>186.000,00</b>	<b>5.000,00</b>	<b>2.950,00</b>	<b>6.000,00</b>	<b>20.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>758.850,00</b>

<b>Details 2010</b>												
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Migration Year 2010</b>	<b>Refugee</b>	<b>RR ERF</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Migrant churches</b>	<b>Amman</b>	<b>Roma</b>	<b>MigDev</b>	<b>Removals/ detention</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries and related costs	188.000,00	5.000,00	52.000,00	24.000,00	4.000,00	31.000,00	14.000,00		3.000,00	9.000,00		330.000,00
Rent and upkeep of office	13.000,00	500,00	3.500,00	3.500,00			1.000,00					21.500,00
Equipment and services	2.250,00	200,00	1.350,00	200,00								4.000,00
Services	15.500,00		1.000,00				1.000,00		2.500,00		5.000,00	25.000,00
Telephone/Postage	5.900,00	800,00	1.500,00	300,00								8.500,00
Photocopies	1.300,00	200,00	3.000,00	500,00								5.000,00
Office supplies	2.600,00	100,00	1.000,00	300,00								4.000,00
ExCom Travel	7.000,00		5.000,00									12.000,00
Staff Travel	16.000,00		8.500,00	1.000,00		2.000,00	1.000,00	2.500,00	1.000,00	1.000,00	2.000,00	35.000,00
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)		1.200,00	7.600,00	200,00	1.000,00	5.000,00	3.000,00					18.000,00
Working Groups/Task Forces	2.500,00		2.500,00									5.000,00
CCME General Assembly	15.000,00											15.000,00
Meetings			50.000,00	2.000,00	3.000,00	38.000,00	44.000,00	2.500,00	5.500,00	10.000,00	5.000,00	160.000,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>269.050,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>136.950,00</b>	<b>32.000,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>76.000,00</b>	<b>64.000,00</b>	<b>5.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>20.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>643.000,00</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Migration Year 2010</b>	<b>Refugee</b>	<b>RR ERF</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Migrant churches</b>	<b>Amman</b>	<b>Roma</b>	<b>MigDev</b>	<b>Removals</b>	<b>Total</b>
Memberships	110.000,00	8.000,00			1.000,00		2.500,00	3.000,00	1.000,00	2.500,00		128.000,00
General Grants	53.500,00		15.000,00				2.500,00			2.000,00	2.000,00	75.000,00
CEC Contribution refugee				32.000,00								32.000,00
GA Grant	10.000,00											10.000,00
Earmarked			86.500,00		1.000,00	30.000,00	9.000,00	2.000,00	6.000,00	3.500,00	10.000,00	148.000,00
EU ERF					6.000,00							6.000,00
EU CRIME Progr. (incl. Partners)						46.000,00						46.000,00
EU DG DEV										12.000,00		12.000,00
EU INTI?							50.000,00					50.000,00
EU	95.550,00		35.450,00						5.000,00			136.000,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>269.050,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>136.950,00</b>	<b>32.000,00</b>	<b>8.000,00</b>	<b>76.000,00</b>	<b>64.000,00</b>	<b>5.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>20.000,00</b>	<b>12.000,00</b>	<b>643.000,00</b>



# CCME Budget 2009



# CCME Budget 2010

## **Annex 3: Report of Working Group on Finance**

### **CCME proposals for future financial aspects of the CEC-CCME-Integration process:**

Payment of membership-fee and donations:

Churches and church related organisation are asked to keep their financial commitment to both organisations.

Since Geneva and Brussels do not work in the same currency we urge members and donors to remit their contributions on the respective accounts also in the future. That means: CCME's membership fees or contributions/donations (unrestricted or restricted) to the CCME accounts in Brussels.

If a church or donor organization wants to remit their contributions to CEC and CCME in one amount, it could be done either on the CEC account in Geneva or the CCME account in Brussels but accompanied by a letter to CEC and CCME clearly stating how much is given to CEC and how much to CCME.

Jean-Daniele proposed to approach Churches who have not yet paid for CCME-purpose so far already in the coming weeks for some additional funding.

He is writing letters with invoices for the CEC-membership contributions 2009 in October/November. There this additional pledge can be included. Although he stated that writing is not enough, personal approach would be needed too.

To raise funds for the Year of Migration in 2010:

CEC and CCME may ask its members and donors for a one time 5% increase of their contributions in 2010. That may result in approx. 105.000,- Euro.

Or: CEC is setting aside in the years 2008 to 2010 75.000,- Euro out of its regular income for this purpose. CCME is setting aside 30.000,-.

All additional costs must be fundraised from other sources (for example: EU).

## **Annex 4: CCME's Commitment against Trafficking in Human Beings**

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8,36)*

### *Foundations of our engagement*

- 1.) CCME's commitment against trafficking in human beings is rooted in the conviction that it is unacceptable that human beings, who are created in the image of God, are sold and treated like a mere commodity.
- 2.) CCME sees its commitment against trafficking in the tradition of the Christian commitment against slavery, which led to the declaration of the abolition of the transatlantic slave-trade some 200 years ago.
- 3.) CCME in its work against trafficking seeks to address all forms of trafficking. Due to the specific mandate of CCME, particular attention is given to the trafficking of migrants and ways to overcome it. CCME's work against trafficking is based on the

analysis that trafficking is in many areas an expression of unequal gender relations; and that attempts to overcome trafficking also need to overcome gender inequalities.

- 4.) CCME work on trafficking is informed by the definition of the Palermo Protocol. While recognizing that certain areas of work may be characterized as being exploitative per se (e.g. domestic work, prostitution) and in the awareness that trafficking is often related to migratory phenomena such as smuggling, CCME's work on trafficking is focused on situations characterised by the purpose defined in the Palermo Protocol. This means that CCME's work addresses exploitation of human beings, be it in prostitution, forced labour or other processes similar to slavery in combination with the means defined by the protocol (abuse of power, situations of vulnerability or the use of deceit, threat, coercion or force or the giving or receiving of payments or benefit to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person).

#### ***Awareness building within the churches, engaging churches in anti-trafficking work***

- 5.) CCME sees the continued raising of awareness within the churches as an essential part of its commitment. Ongoing communications on the challenge of trafficking as well as the ongoing efforts of churches in the area are essential. CCME seeks to encourage reflection on the particular calling of the church to address trafficking. CCME will continue to provide a space for churches in Europe to engage in work to combat trafficking in human beings and seek to assist and encourage them to undertake work in the following areas:

#### ***An integrated, rights-based approach to combating trafficking***

- 6.) CCME advocates an integrated approach on the issue of trafficking. This combines lobby, advocacy and research on the one hand with prevention and direct assistance in support of trafficked persons and the process of recovery on the other hand, thus maximising the effects of each intervention. CCME seeks to mobilise churches, church-related agencies and partners to the effect of an integrated approach.
- 7.) CCME's approach to combating trafficking in human beings is centred around the rights of those trafficked or potentially affected by trafficking. CCME works towards strategies in combating trafficking of women that concentrate on the empowerment and self-determination of those affected. This includes policies which enable trafficked persons to take autonomous decisions about their future lives and measures for the compensation for the material and immaterial damages experienced.
- 8.) CCME programmes against trafficking therefore are not limited to immediate social intervention, but also ask which structures of power nurture trafficking, where responsibility for creating a "market" for trafficked persons lies, how policies empower or disempower those affected by trafficking and how political decisions help to hold perpetrators accountable.
- 9.) CCME programme work seeks to identify how social and political actors are accountable for preventing trafficking from happening. It is in this context that CCME works together with actors of development (e.g. Christian development agencies) for development opportunities, good and democratic governance and inclusive policies for marginalised groups in countries of origin.

#### ***Advocacy***

- 10.) Even with better chances for development and improved governance in countries of origin, for the socially marginalized migration will remain one of the few perceived chances for social advancement in the foreseeable future. Current migration policies

are one important factor in creating a situation of vulnerability, which nurture trafficking. They create a fear of many migrants towards state authorities, thus discouraging trafficked persons to disclose their situation of exploitation towards state authorities. CCME sees its engagement for policies facilitating regular, legal migration for persons with different levels of qualification as an essential element of the CCME commitment against trafficking.

- 11.) In the commitment to re-establishing the right of trafficked persons, CCME is aiming at establishing conditions which are enabling the person (potentially) affected by trafficking to take an un-pressurised, well-informed and independent decision about how s/he would like to continue his/her future life. CCME therefore advocates for policies which put the trafficked person at the centre and create the legal basis for a choice on his/her future, which is independent of his/her willingness to testify in court. These policies would include a choice of the place of residence<sup>1</sup>. Adoption and transposition of binding norms for the rights of trafficked persons and protection of their family are therefore at the heart of CCME's advocacy work.

***Best practice on assistance, prevention, reintegration and compensation***

- 12.) Advocacy of churches against trafficking goes hand in hand with practical intervention. In the last decade Churches across Europe have been mobilized for prevention of trafficking, support to trafficked person and for reintegration of trafficked persons. CCME's advocacy work towards European institutions is informed by this work on the ground.
- 13.) CCME seeks to make the existing good practice of churches in Europe visible and to offer the chance to improve existing practice through networking among Christian organizations and building of partnerships beyond Christian organisations. While Christian organizations are at the core of CCME activities, partners of these Christian organizations (governmental and non-governmental) from other sectors of society are invited to become part of common programmes.
- 14.) CCME seeks to promote best practice in anti-trafficking, i.e. programmes which are of high quality, take an integrated and non-judgemental approach to those affected by trafficking and assure accountability of those providing assistance towards those receiving assistance. CCME programmes are open to all organisations active or wanting to become active in combating trafficking, which are willing to enter into a process of self-critical reflection and learning with others.
- 15.) CCME seeks to cooperate with like-minded organisations and networks wherever possible, in particular in joint advocacy.

***Adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> CCME General Assembly in Protaras/Cyprus on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008***

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1) The Italian article 18 could serve as a best practice example on residence permits for trafficked persons (cf. <http://www.camera.it/parlam/leggi/deleghe/testi/98286dl.htm>, summary translation on: <http://victimsoftrafficking.esclavagemoderne.org/UK/italie.html>)

## **Annex 5: Resolution on Detention in Europe**

Resolution of the CCME General Assembly, Paralimni, Cyprus, 10.10.2008

### **Churches in Europe Concerned about detained migrants**

The General Assembly of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe at its meeting 8-11 October 2008 at Paralimni, Cyprus, expresses its deep concern about the thousands of migrants unjustly detained in Europe for not having the right documents.

The meeting declares its solidarity and sympathy with the prison chaplains who face these situations of detainees daily with hardly any possibilities to change conditions and offer perspectives.

The CCME Assembly calls on churches across Europe to pray for detained migrants as well as for the prison chaplains and support their work.

*The Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches meeting at the same time in the same place endorses this resolution.*

## **Annex 6: Resolution on residence right for migrants and refugees in Austria**

CCME supports the demands of Austrian NGOs that migrants and refugees receive the right to residence after five years

The 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Churches' Commission on Migrants in Europe (CCME), taking place from 8-11 October 2008 in Paralimni, Cyprus, endorses the demands of Austrian nongovernmental organisations and Church organisations on the national Right of Residence Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and demand:

*- That legal provisions for regularisation in Austria be based on human rights legislation.*

The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees respect of private and family life. Currently decisions on a person's right to remain on humanitarian grounds can only be taken by the Austrian Minister of the Interior. This "clemency" has no place in a society based on legal rights. In June 2008 the Austrian Constitutional High Court asked for a rights-based procedure. We demand a fair and human rights based regularisation procedure, to which all have the right to apply.

*- That those who have been in Austria for five years should be allowed to stay.*

Unjust asylum decisions by the ministry of interior lead to lengthy asylum procedures. Applicants have to wait for years - with the result that hundreds of them begin to put down roots, despite their future remaining insecure. Those who have been in Austria for more than five years should have the right to stay on legally.

*- A change in migration policy.*

For too long the legal provisions for asylum and the right to residence in Austria have been dominated by election interests. Political parties too often prefer simple slogans to solutions based on the facts. This leads to suffering for people who have come to Austria.

The deficits of Austrian immigration laws have been criticised several times by the Austrian High Courts. The stringent and tortuous legal migration provisions of 2005 must be abolished. We ask for human and reasonable policies, which respect the rule of law and human rights, and promote integration instead of preventing it.



## **Annex 7: Churches Responding to Migration 2010 and Working Group Report**

### **2010 – Churches Responding to Migration**

The Assembly of CCME - and the Central Committee of CEC at their meeting in Paralimni, Cyprus – endorse planning, launching and implementation of a joint focus year on migration of the churches in Europe in 2010.

#### **Background:**

*Recognising that migration is an overall reality in society today, and aware that migration is posing challenges to societies, political institutions and churches, the Assembly (of CEC) confirms the obligation on churches and each Christian to “welcome the stranger”.*

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe and the Conference of European Churches adopted by the CCME ExCom and the CEC Central Committee recommended a campaign to highlight and include migration in the core work of the churches in Europe: A focal point to make the churches' commitment and engagement visible shall be a European Churches year on migration, preferably in 2010. Priorities and plans for the work of CCME (of CEC) in the fields of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe will be decided as part of CCME's work programme and priorities will be submitted to CEC member churches for consultation and decision at the CEC Assembly in July 2009. However, to realise the focal point of a churches' year focussing on migration, detailed planning and preparation of material will need to be undertaken in 2009 in order to implement these plans in 2010.

#### **Aims of Migration Focus Year**

The focus year on migration shall make visible the churches' *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 ethnic minority groups.*

Churches shall be encouraged to strengthen and enhance their work with and for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority people. At the same time, with joint activities and cooperation with CCME/CEC, existing programmes shall be highlighted also vis-à-vis governments and political institutions as well as society at large, to emphasise the need for more inclusive policy development, which recognises the potential of diversity in society for greater justice, solidarity and equality and facilitates participation in community and social life.

The dignity of every person, as created in the image of God, migrants, refugees, old and new ethnic minority people shall be emphasised in all activities.

With higher visibility of churches' views and positions, word and action, the joint advocacy of churches for more inclusive communities and societies shall be underlined. At

the same time fears in societies shall be addressed, and positive features of migration shall be highlighted.

At political level, the rights of migrants and the responsibility for effective programmes welcoming migrants and refugees, encounter and participation shall be emphasised.

As a mid-term aim strengthening of migrants' and refugees' right to a long-term residence status after five years of legal stay, irrespective of the grounds of stay, shall be envisaged.

### **Programme Planning**

In 2009, in cooperation with the World Council of Churches, CCME will organise a European Hearing on Migration. Based on the study "Mapping Migration - Mapping Churches' Responses" themes and activities shall be identified which are of concern regarding migration in Europe. Emigration and immigration, protection of refugees, participation in churches and societies of old and new ethnic minorities, shall be addressed.

An ad-hoc task force shall be called together in the first quarter of 2009 to brainstorm on activities and themes for 2010, and suggest methods to highlight concerns best (workshops, conferences, publications, leaflets for congregations).

The CCME reader on theological reflections is offered to CEC member churches and associations as a basis for further reflections and contributions. For the year 2010, a more comprehensive reader could be produced.

If possible, the launch with first material for the focus year 2010 shall be part of the CEC Assembly in July 2009 in Lyon.

### **The activities**

Every month of the year 2010 shall focus on a specific aspect of migration, e.g. June 2010 with International Refugees Day dedicated to refugee related issues, October with the EU anti-trafficking day on the fight against trafficking in human beings, December with International Migrants Day on migrants' rights. The calendar of focus themes shall be developed until summer 2009 in order to be translated and distributed widely. Member churches and association of CEC and CCME shall be invited to plan activities around the calendar. Information on the activities shall be collected and publicised on a specific part of the new CEC website.

Four regional meetings/conferences addressing issues prevailing in that region should be foreseen to highlight various aspects and concerns. Churches shall be invited to propose possible themes, regions and venues.

A collection and exchange of worship material and prayers related to the themes of migration - preferable in the order of the calendar - shall be produced for the year 2010, offering biblical and theological reflection on the various themes.

It is hoped that CEC and CCME members as well as specialised ministries and all CEC staff will actively contribute to the year of churches focussing on migration in Europe in order to make the journey together a step towards more inclusive societies in Europe.

## Report of the Working Group for consideration in the further planning:

- 1) We see first of all a problem with timing. Churches need time to plan events in advance. We suggest having a common decision by CEC and CCME as soon as possible in order to do a first communication to churches by the end of 2008.
- 2) The monthly activities for the year need to be linked to the liturgical church year in order to facilitate their promotion. The theme could be worked into the rituals and the liturgy of sacraments. Bible texts dealing with the theme could be offered for Bible studies, worship and liturgy.
- 3) We can take a special offering for migrant ministries
- 4) Plan for media
- 5) **THEME: BORDERS** – explore the theme of border as related to trafficking, geographical, personal borders, externalization of borders, authorities, church borders, borders in intra-church relations and interfaith dialogue, social borders, borders of fear, borders of hospitality, and respect across borders.
- 6) **AIM:** knowledge, sharing information across borders, recognize different types of “borders” across Europe, shape legislation, clarifying concepts like the meaning of international protection, international agreements, human rights... there is a lack of information and awareness in churches and society.
- 7) Churches need to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes about migrants, and to work on the change of mentality. We recognize that racism is increasing across Europe: It is being institutionalized, and incorporated into European law.
- 8) **Action Plan:**

How:

- a. Regional coordinators to be assigned. ExCom members or others?
- b. Creation of a website (idea bank)
- c. Events
- d. Activities
- e. Calendar
- f. Regional exchange

Where:

- a. Regions
  - b. Church level – liturgy, rituals, sacraments, offerings
  - c. Universities – symposium, theological reflection/reader, inclusion of topic in the practical theology curricula
  - d. Exchange Programs
- 9) **The Working Group suggests that the Draft Proposal be adopted by the GA with the following amendments:** A. Change: “Churches shall be encouraged to strengthen and enhance their work **with and** for migrants...” (include “with

and"). B. Clarification about old and new ethnic minorities. C. Add anti-discrimination day on the calendar (March 21).

- 10) The Working Group recommends that a revised edition of the "Mapping Migration - Mapping Churches' Responses" study be the reference material for *planned* the European Hearing on Migration and for all further planning.

## **Annex 8: Revised CCME Articles of Association**

### **Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) of the Conference of European Churches Ecumenical Association on Migration, Asylum and Antiracism**

#### **Articles of Association**

##### **No. 1 Basis and sphere of work**

- 1.1 The international association with philanthropic and religious aims which is known as the **Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)** of the Conference of European Churches - Ecumenical Association on Migration, Asylum and Antiracism shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Belgian Legislation. This association shall be based in the Brussels conurbation and its sphere of work shall cover all countries in Europe.
- 1.2 The headquarters of the Commission are currently located in Brussels, Belgium.
- 1.3 Any transfers of the headquarters must be published in „Le Moniteur Belge“, or any other publication designated by law, during the same month.

##### **No. 2 Aims**

- 2.1 The Commission is an ecumenical, non-profit making organisation working on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination. It shall serve 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 ethnic minority groups.
- 2.2 The Commission shall seek to develop in the churches throughout Europe a due sense of responsibility towards the position of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people.  
  
It shall encourage and initiate any appropriate measures on the part of the churches which promote mutual respect and enhance the rights of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people or defend them against discrimination.
- 2.3 The Commission shall fulfil its aims according to the means it deems appropriate, that is:

- a) co-operating with its members, member churches and associated organisations of the Conference of European Churches and of the World Council of Churches (in Europe) and of any other ecumenical or church bodies working in the same field;
- b) contacting and co-operating with the authorities, international organisations, trade unions, employers' associations and associations of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people;
- c) co-ordinating parallel efforts and initiatives undertaken by churches and other bodies in this field;
- d) formulating common European ecumenical positions on these issues;
- e) promoting awareness raising on questions of racism and xenophobia within the churches and in society;
- f) promoting the study of the situation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people at local, national and international levels;
- g) representing its members as appropriate in international organisations and organisations such as the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and at meetings and conferences on these issues;
- h) organising consultations encouraging co-operation between members and non-member churches and between churches and other bodies;
- i) in consultation with churches involved, identifying projects and programmes including training and capacity building, and assisting churches to implement them or to carry them out itself;
- j) assembling and encouraging the distribution and exchange of information and experience;
- k) facilitating the sharing of resources, and ensuring the co-ordination of funding in this field.

### **No. 3 Finance**

- 3.1 The financial resources needed by the Commission for its work shall be obtained from contributions from the Conference of European Churches and from members of the Commission, donations, grants, sale of publication, and activities of various kinds.
- 3.2 The accounts shall be closed each year on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **No. 4 Membership**

- 4.1 Membership of the Commission is open to churches, including black, ethnic minority and migrant churches, and to church related organisations which share the aims of the Commission. The membership is also open to councils of churches in European

countries. Admittance to membership shall be decided by the commission meeting on proposal of the executive committee. Applications shall be submitted in writing.

- 4.2 The Central Committee of CEC will appoint at least twenty and not more than twenty-five persons representing churches and organisations related to member churches as members of the Commission. These members are nominated by the Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches at the first meeting of the Central Committee following a general assembly of the Conference of European Churches. The Conference of European Churches will ensure the participation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people as well as respect a gender balance in the Commission. No person shall serve as a member with right to vote on the commission consecutively for more than two periods.
- 4.3 The members of the CCME of CEC which will be appointed by the Central Committee of CEC will be nominated by the Executive Committee of CCME, seeking agreement with the Nominations Committee of the Central Committee of CEC, on the basis of proposals received from CEC-member churches and CCME member churches, councils of churches and related organisations.
- 4.4 Only members appointed by the Central Committee of CEC have voting rights.
- 4.5 One member of the Commission shall be nominated by the World Council of Churches.
- 4.6 The term of office will expire when a new Commission has been appointed by the Central Committee following a General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches.
- 4.7 At the request of the Executive Committee all members are expected to provide it with reports on their work on the issues with which the Commission is dealing.
- 4.8 Membership may be terminated by resignation, loss of legal status or by expulsion. Resignations shall be valid only if communicated to the Executive Committee in writing.
- 4.9 Any member which ceases to belong to the Commission shall forfeit any claim on the assets.

## **No. 5 Organisation**

- 5.1 The Organs of the Commission are: the Commission and the Executive Committee.

## **No. 6 The Meeting of the Commission**

- 6.1 The Commission meeting is composed of the members of the Commission as stipulated in art. 4. The Director will keep a register of members.



- 6.2 The Executive Committee may invite observers and guests without a right to vote.
- 6.3 The right of voting is limited to the members mentioned in art. 4.4.
- 6.4 The quorum shall be obtained when at least 50% of the members with a voting right are present or represented.
- 6.5 Powers of attorney may be conferred by a member on another voting member. The conferment is only valid when presented in writing. The same person may not represent more than two members.
- 6.6 The Commission meeting shall adopt decisions by simple majority of the votes. When voting is equally divided, the motion is defeated.
- 6.7 When at least two thirds of the members are present or represented, the Commission meeting shall adopt Standing Orders in which the ecumenical process of seeking consensus and a balanced schedule of end of term of members is formulated and agreed by a two-third majority.
- 6.8 To fulfil the aims of the Commission:
- a) The Commission meeting shall elect the members of the Executive Committee according to the regulations under No. 7.1, 7.3 to 7.5. They shall include women and men from various subregions of Europe, the various confessions represented in the Commission, migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people.
  - b) The Commission meeting shall adopt the two-year-activity report. The Commission will adopt also the annual finance reports; through this action the Commission discharges the Executive Committee of its responsibility in this regard.
  - c) The Commission meeting shall determine the budget for the forthcoming period. The budget shall specifically ensure the participation of members as outlined in art.4.2.
  - d) The Commission meeting shall determine the membership fee.
  - e) The Executive Committee will submit an annual budget, based on the two-year budget adopted by the Commission meeting, to the Central Committee of CEC for approval.
  - f) The Commission meeting shall decide on the work programme for the forthcoming period in line with the relevant conclusions of the General Assembly of CEC and the recommendations of the Central Committee of CEC.
  - g) Expulsion from membership shall be by decision of the Commission meeting on the proposal of the Executive Committee and with a two thirds majority of the members with the right to vote present or represented. An expulsion decision needs to be approved by the Central Committee of CEC.
  - h) Decisions to amend the Articles of Association or to dissolve the Commission shall require a majority of two-thirds of the total votes. Resolutions to this effect shall

be voted on only when prior notice of them has been given on the agenda circulated to members of the Commission not less than 60 days before the Commission meeting. Amendments shall come into force only after approval and publication in accordance with the Belgian Legislation

- 6.10 The Commission shall meet at least every two years and be convened by the Executive Committee, in writing, at least three months in advance and with notification of the draft agenda.
- 6.11 On the request of at least one third of members or the Executive Committee, an extraordinary meeting of the Commission must be convened within six months. A request by members must be made, in writing and stating reasons, to the Executive Committee.

## **No. 7 The Executive Committee**

- 7.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than five, nor more than seven persons: the Moderator, the Treasurer and two to four other persons elected by the Commission meeting as well as one person appointed by the World Council of Churches.

They shall include women and men from various subregions of Europe, the various confessions represented in the Commission and migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people. The majority of the members of the Executive Committee must be commission members with the right to vote. At least one member of the Executive Committee shall be a member of the Central Committee of CEC.

- 7.2 The Director takes part in the meetings of the Executive Committee without voting right.
- 7.3 The term of office of the Executive Committee shall be four years. No person shall serve on the Executive Committee consecutively for more than two periods.
- 7.4 The Commission meeting shall first elect the Moderator, secondly the Treasurer. It is preferable that both are currently serving members of the Executive Committee.
- 7.5 The moderator will be elected from the members with the right to vote.
- 7.6 The Commission meeting shall nominate in priority order two substitutes who shall fill in that order any vacancy that shall arise in the Executive Committee before the next Commission meeting. If the vacancy shall arise in the office of Moderator or Treasurer, the Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members to act in that capacity.
- 7.7 The Executive Committee, at its first meeting after a Commission meeting electing the Executive Committee, shall elect no more than two Vice-Moderators.

- 7.8 Any Executive Committee member who does not attend, without providing adequate reasons, at least two meetings of the Executive Committee shall have deemed to have vacated her/his mandate.
- 7.9 The members of the Executive Committee may be dismissed only on the decision of the Commission meeting and by a special majority of two-thirds of the members with the right to vote present or represented.
- 7.10 The members of the Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year. They shall be convened by the Moderator and a quorum shall consist of half the number plus one. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority. When the voting is equally divided, the Moderator shall have the casting vote.
- 7.11 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for administering the Commission's affairs. It shall be corporately responsible to the Commission meeting for their administration.
- a) The Executive Committee shall prepare and convene the Commission meeting.
  - b) The Executive Committee executes the decisions made by the Commission meeting and establishes working groups if appropriate according to No. 8.
  - c) The Executive Committee shall annually adopt the budget and the accounts of the previous year, after due examination by independent experts; the budget and accounts shall be sent to the members for approval.
  - d) The Executive Committee shall send the annual budget and accounts to the Central Committee of CEC for approval.
  - e) Other tasks may be assigned to it by the Commission meeting.
- 7.12 The Moderator shall represent the Commission in its external affairs. She/he may entrust the Director with this task. The Moderator shall preside over the Commission meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee. Her/his signature (or of an Executive Committee member designated be Moderator to replace him/her), together with that of one of the other Executive Committee members or that of the Director shall bind the Commission without having to justify powers with regard to their parties.
- 7.13 Legal action, in both plaintiff and defendant capacity, shall be conducted by the Executive Committee, represented by the moderator, or another Executive Committee member nominated by her/him for this purpose. The Executive Committee may also be represented by the Director.

## **No. 8 Working Groups**

- 8.1 Working Groups can be established to cover effectively the three issues of migration and integration, asylum and displacement, and racism and xenophobia. The working groups need a clear goal, a limitation in time, they should be of a limited size, and be composed according to needed expert working membership and/or regional

representation. Before a working group is established, the Executive Committee shall ensure that there is financial provision for its functioning.

- 8.2 Each working group shall have at least one member of the Executive Committee as a member. A working group can determine its moderator.
- 8.3 The working groups report the results of their work to the Executive Committee. Only the Commission and the Executive Committee are allowed to speak and publish on behalf of the Commission.

## **No. 9 Secretariat**

- 9.1 The Executive Committee shall be supported in performing its task by a secretariat. The tasks and area of responsibility falling to the secretariat shall be established by the Executive Committee in writing.
- 9.2 The Executive Committee in cooperation with the nominations committee of the Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches shall recommend the Director to be appointed by the Central Committee of CEC.

## **No. 10 Dissolution**

- 10.1 As prescribed in 6.8 h), a majority decision shall dissolve the CCME.
- 10.2 If at the time of dissolution there is a surplus remaining after payment of the debts of the Commission the liquidators or if none have been appointed the Executive Committee shall choose to dispose of it to one or any number of organisations professing similar philanthropic and religious aims to those mentioned under Article 2, or to Brussels based Ecumenical organisations, the Conference of European Churches or the World Council of Churches.

## **No. 11 General**

- 11.1 The version of these Articles published in „Le Moniteur Belge“ is authentic.
- 11.2 Any matter not covered in these Articles of Association, in particular announcements to be made in „Le Moniteur Belge“, shall be dealt with in accordance with the legislation currently in force.

*The Articles of Association as laid down here have been passed by the General Assembly of CCME, October 2008 in Protaras/Cyprus.*

## **Annex 9: Report of Working Group on Integration with CEC**

The working group on the articles of association recommends the following resolution to the assembly:

The 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly of CCME approves the articles of association formulated on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Protaras;

and

mandates the Executive Committee of CCME to register the articles of association following Belgian legislation;

and

mandates the Executive Committee to change the formulations if needed for reasons of Belgian legislation in line with the intentions of the articles of association as approved.

## **Annex 10: Resolution Integration of CCME and CEC**

### **Integration of CCME and CEC**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly of CCME appreciates the results achieved in the negotiations between CCME and CEC since the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCME in 2005. The Assembly fully endorses the Memorandum of Understanding signed by CCME and CEC in November 2007. As the restructuring of CEC was considered parallel to the negotiations, the relevant documents tabled at the CEC Central Committee in November 2007 form equally a basis for this agreement.

The integration of CCME and CEC shall strengthen the churches' 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.

The integration shall strengthen the joint efforts of churches in Europe towards societies "welcoming the strangers" by strengthening the coordination and services provided by CCME to all CEC, and CEC gaining expertise and reputation in migration, a crucial concern of churches and societies. The integration shall provide synergies with other areas of work of CEC, therefore internal and external coordination and communication, as well as planning instruments, will need to be enhanced.

The Assembly of CCME expresses its appreciation to the Conference of European Churches for efforts and actions to include particularly representatives of migrant and ethnic minority churches last year at the Third European Ecumenical Assembly as well as at the coming Assembly of the Conference of European Churches.

The Assembly of CCME will adjust its articles of association and agree on work priorities to be discussed and adopted by the next CEC Assembly in Lyon in July 2009.

The Assembly of CCME underlines:

- The aim of the integration between CCME and CEC is to strengthen the churches' work and visibility, and the coordination and services provided by CCME to churches in Europe.
- The integration requires commitment and effort to achieve these aims.
- The participation of migrant and ethnic minority churches in the ecumenical work and structures in Europe is crucial: Uniting in diversity – being Church together, are ecumenical challenges throughout Europe. Therefore, CCME will be working in a broader network than the current CEC membership. CCME will contribute to the debate about the criteria for membership of churches in CEC as well as about the possibilities for associated organisations of CEC to participate in the life and work of CEC and its Commissions, in the years 2009 and 2015 between the Assemblies of CEC. The CCME Assembly regards the facilitation of broader participation as a matter of priority.

The CCME Assembly resolves:

- The integration of CCME and CEC will proceed and legally take effect as of the date the revised articles of association are registered in Belgium.
- The ministry for and with migrants, refugees and ethnic minority people requires our joint efforts and strength. Therefore, the churches' year focussing on migration 2010 will be an important occasion to enhance the visibility and to strengthen common action of churches across Europe.

**Annex to this resolution:**

### ***Different Backgrounds – Joint Future***

#### **Merger of the Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

**Background:**

Migration is an overall reality in society today. Aware that migration is posing challenges to societies, political institutions and churches, the Assembly (of CEC) confirms the obligation on churches and each Christian to "*welcome the stranger*". (CEC 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Trondheim, 25 June- 2 July 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. (CCME Mission Statement, CCME Assembly, London, October 2005)*

In January 2000, CEC, CCME and the World Council of Churches signed an Agreement of Cooperation:

*Through this agreement, CCME agrees:*

- to speak out on these issues in the name of its members
- to advise CEC and WCC when actions are needed from these two partner organisations on these issues so that they can be taken up with the appropriate bodies
- to assist CEC and WCC to advise their member churches on issues related to uprooted people (migrants, refugees, internally displaced) and on racism/xenophobia in Europe
- to enable the sharing of information and resources on these issues
- to encourage co-ordinated action by the European churches
- to work towards a more inclusive structure and membership in which regional and confessional balance is assured
- to contribute, from a European perspective, to the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People and to speak out on global issues as needed and possible.

*Through this agreement, CEC and WCC express their commitment to*

- work with CCME to enable the organisation to become more representative of all CEC and WCC-member churches in Europe and to work more intentionally to raise awareness of issues related to migrants, refugees, asylum and racism/xenophobia among the churches
- support CCME in its efforts to secure sufficient funding to enable it to responsibly carry out its extended mandate
- share information with CCME on issues related to its mandate."

Following an evaluation of the agreement of cooperation undertaken in 2001, the Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches (Morges 2002) and the General Assembly of Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (Aegina 2002) in agreement with the World Council of Churches agreed to go beyond cooperation and work towards the merger of the two organisations.

Following the decisions of the CEC Assembly in Trondheim which paved the way by adopting changes to the bye-laws and committing CEC to identifying and providing necessary resources, a further study on the implications of a merger for the structure of CEC was undertaken in 2003-2004 and presented to CEC Central Committee in Prague 2004. A group working on restructuring elaborated proposals for governance and management of CEC, which were adopted by the Central Committee of CEC in June 2005 for an exploratory phase.

The CCME Assembly in October 2005 agreed to the merger and appreciated and accepted the offer by the Central Committee of CEC to participate in the new structure with a CEC leadership team starting its work in December 2005, and mandated the CCME Executive Committee (the ExCom) to continue the work with the Negotiation Group.

In 2006, the Negotiation Group worked on a number of crucial issues and adopted recommendations in its meeting on 31 May-1 June 2007, which form the basis of the following memorandum of understanding.

Some issues tackled in the process of negotiation have been addressed in the CEC group on restructuring. Other issues will need to be addressed by CEC in the future, an important

one among these is the question of membership and associate membership in CEC and its Commissions, rights and duties, possibilities of participation in the ecumenical work in Europe. An other one is the development of working instruments. The Lyon Assembly may be the appropriate place to open space for reviewing the current stipulations in light of ecumenical priorities for the coming years.

**Interim provisions and time table:**

- Decision on memorandum of understanding at CCME ExCom 12-13 November and CEC CC 14-17 November 2007;
- Signing of memorandum by President of CEC and Moderator of CCME, as well as General Secretaries
- CCME Assembly adjust CCME statutes (October 2008)
- CEC Central Committee to affirm the appointment of the General Secretary of CCME as Director of the CCME of CEC and executive staff of CCME as executive staff of CEC - 2008
- Budget plans of CEC and CCME 2008-2009 to be merged for joint planning and fundraising
- Staffing plan of CEC to be adjusted in 2008,
- Salary adjustment until 2010
- CCME Assembly 2008 to adopt priorities of work to be proposed to CEC Assembly in Lyon
- CEC and CCME to work on communication and fundraising for inclusion and activation of more member churches in migration related work
- CEC Assembly in Lyon to launch a European year of churches responding to migration.

***Resolution adopted by the Central Committee of CEC and the Executive Committee of CCME in November 2007 respectively:***



## *Different Backgrounds – Joint Future*

### MEMORANDUM of Understanding between the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe and the Conference of European Churches

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The natural starting point for Christian reflection and action on migration is the clear command in both the Old and the New Testaments to act humanely and compassionately towards the stranger who share with all human beings in the dignity of the Being of God, (Genesis 1:26-27; John 1:1). That *"You shall love the alien as yourself"* (Leviticus 19:34; Hebrews 13:1-3 ) is typical of the humane attitude towards 'the other' found in the Moses law, an obligation accepted by the three Abrahamic world religions and other faith communities. It is believed to have been given both by revelation and Natural Law, that is, a moral principle which is capable of being recognized by all human beings. As such, it requires no further theological support.
- 1.2 Migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum are beyond doubt the most obvious class of person to whom this command applies in Europe today. Migration is intimately connected with the stories of the foundational documents of the Christian tradition, which evidence the fact that people movement has been a constant feature of historical reality. It can become an occasion for either 'blessing' or 'curse', depending on the way in which it is engaged with and responded to. The need for the Churches to develop policies and act on migration comes from the importance the Churches in Europe place on speaking with a common and prophetic voice, and on identifying common actions to be undertaken in the light of the social, economic, cultural, political and religious implications for Europe and migrants themselves. The Christian faith makes a claim upon Christians and upon Churches to assist those who suffer and experience injustice, and to act, where necessary, on their behalf.
- 1.3 Behind this Memorandum of Understanding lies the recognition on the part of CEC that its ability to speak on all these issues which are so important in our days for the Churches and for Europe as a whole will be strengthened by merging with CCME, as well as the recognition by CCME that the merger with CEC will enable it to witness to these important issues across a wider constituency.

#### 2. Merger between CEC and CCME:

Recognising that migration is an overall reality in society today, and aware that migration is posing challenges to societies, political institutions and churches, the Assembly (of CEC) confirms the obligation on churches and each Christian to *"welcome the stranger"*.

*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.*

The Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe intend to strengthen their organisations and their work through the merger, to draw on synergy effects and make the CEC with its Commissions more effective and responsive to the needs of the Churches in Europe. Thus the merger seeks to build on the strength of the formerly separated organisations and include the broader constituency of CEC.

Therefore the relations of CEC's overall decision making bodies to its Commissions need to be based on values: accountability and subsidiarity; serving the constituency better and spending as much energy as necessary and at the same time as little energy as possible on structures. These relations have been discussed in the CEC Restructuring Group in the past two years. The Central Committee meeting in Vienna 14-17 November 2007 has taken decisions with regard to further fine-tuning this process.

### **3. Mandate of CCME as a Commission of CEC:**

3.1. The CCME Assembly and CEC Central Committee mandate the future CCME to:

- *serve 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.*
- work on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination, undertake research, initiate, develop and implement projects in these fields;
- represent the common voice of the churches in Europe on the above issues vis-à-vis the European institutions.

### **4. Membership of the CCME of CEC**

4.1. The CCME of CEC shall consist of 20-25 members.

4.2. As it is desirable and necessary that black and migrant churches are included and have a role particularly in the work of CCME, their participation will be assured in the composition of the future CCME.

4.3. Members of the present CCME, which are not yet members of CEC, shall be invited to join CEC as members or, in the case of members which are not churches, to become associated members of CEC.

As long as such membership cannot be assured, the current members of CCME can participate in the work of the CCME of CEC.

CEC will review its criteria for membership and/or provide special conditions for these churches and organisations to facilitate that they can become part of CEC.

- 4.4. As all other CEC Commissions, the future CCME will be appointed by the Central Committee upon recommendation of the Nomination Committee of the CC. Prior to the nominations, member churches of CEC and members of the present CCME will be invited to suggest persons to be included as members of the CCME of CEC.
- 4.5. 1/3 of the members of the CCME of CEC shall be selected from among the members of CCME which are not (yet) members of CEC at the date the merger enters into force.
- 4.6. Member churches of CEC shall be encouraged to suggest persons with special expertise on issues to be addressed by the future CCME for membership in the Commission.
- 4.7. The World Council of Churches shall be invited to be represented at the Commission plenary and Executive Committee of CCME.

## **5. Decision Making Bodies of the CCME, Frequency of Meetings**

- 5.1. The Plenary Meeting of the future CCME meets at least every second year. In that year, it shall convene (*if at all possible*) prior to the meeting of the CEC Central Committee. In-between meetings of the Plenary, mechanisms and instruments will be in place in order to keep members of the Commission informed and involved.
- 5.2. "The CCME is empowered to elect an executive committee and working groups to discharge its mandate in accordance with the overall programme agreed with the Central Committee and within the limits of the budget." (Bye laws art 7(4)c; Trondheim Assembly 2003)
- 5.3. The CCME will maintain its memberships and roles in other organisations and networks as long as these do not contradict the overall aims and objectives of CEC. In the case of potential future memberships, the Senior Management Team will decide on which body of CEC is best placed to seek membership - *a procedure which will also apply to other Commissions of CEC*.
- 5.4. CCME will maintain its contacts to relevant bodies and teams of the World Council of Churches in consultation with the CEC Senior Management Team.

## **6. Status of the Commission**

- 6.1. In order to express the common identity of CEC and the relationship between CEC and CCME as a Commission of CEC, the Commission will be referred to as the "Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe of the Conference of European Churches", wherever that does not infringe on the status of CCME as an aisbl (association international sans but lucrative) according to Belgian law.
- 6.2. As a Commission of CEC, the CCME will act under and in accordance with the legal provisions of the Conference of European Churches (Constitution, Bye-Laws, as amended by the Trondheim Assembly, etc) and the recommendations of CEC's decision-making bodies.

- 6.3. For several legal purposes, CCME will keep the legal status of an aisbl under Belgian law. In this capacity CCME and CEC have to ensure that the CCME fulfills the legal requirements under Belgian law.
- 6.4. Wherever CCME has to act in its capacity as an aisbl under Belgian law, it will be referred to as "Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe".

## **7. Public Statements**

- 7.1. The Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe is empowered to make public statements within its respective sphere of competence, in the name of their Commission and in consultation with the General Secretary of CEC. (agreed, Bye-Laws 7(4) ii, Trondheim 2003)

## **8. The relationship between CEC and the CCME (decision-making, communication, synergy)**

- 8.1. CCME as a Commission of CEC shall prepare work priorities for the period in-between two CEC Assemblies to be adopted by the Assembly as part of its Policy Reference Committee Report.
- 8.2. Within the framework of the parameters of the Commission's mandate and within the parameters given by the CEC Assembly, CCME establishes a work programme to be agreed with the CEC Central Committee. The Commission reports annually to the Central Committee on the implementation of the work programme.
- 8.3. The CEC Commissions shall be equally represented at Central Committee. At least one member of the Commission's Executive Committee shall be a member of the Central Committee. This will require a change of the CEC constitution and/or bye-laws.
- 8.4. If no member is elected by the CEC Assembly, one member of the Executive Committee is permanently invited in an advisory capacity to the Central Committee.
- 8.5. Within the parameters of the adopted work programme and the adopted budget, the Commission decides on how to discharge its work programme. (Bye-Laws: The Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (is) empowered to elect an executive committee and working groups to discharge (its) respective mandate in accordance with an overall programme agreed with the Central Committee and within the limits of the budget.")
- 8.6. The General Secretariat with the help of the Senior Management Team working within the parameters set by the Assembly and the Central Committee has to ensure the coherence of the work of CEC. It has to ensure best possible ways of inside and outside communication as well as the best possible services across the sectoral departments of CEC (communication, finances, administration etc.) for all sections of CEC.

## 9. Finances, Budget and Fundraising

9.1. The future CCME, based on the work programme, elaborates a budget proposal. This budget proposal is incorporated into the overall CEC budget by the Finance Secretary of CEC, adopted by the Finance Committee and referred to the Central Committee for adoption. The Executive Committee of the future CCME **maintains the right to adjust the budget** in the course of the year, provided that this does not imply additional funding from other areas of CEC. The future CCME will consult the senior management team and Finance Secretary of CEC when budget changes are envisaged or planned.

For projects, provided own funding can be proven, the decision rests with the Commission which authorises the Director.

Collective fundraising is necessary for the coherence of the organisation and needs to be coordinated with the senior management team.

9.2. Incoming unearmarked funding or funding reaching CEC as a result of collective fundraising efforts will be allocated upon decision of the senior management team in consultation with the Finance Secretary, where appropriate in consultation with the Finance Committee.

9.3. For legal purposes, an annual separate and audited financial report of the future CCME will be secured.

## 10. Property and reserves:

10.1. The CCME reserves and properties, including the charges reserve at the date of merger, remain the property of the future CCME and can only be used for the work of the future CCME in the framework of CEC. They will be reported in the annual financial report for the future CCME.

10.2. The joint property of CSC and CCME (the building Rue Joseph II 172-174 in Brussels) remains the property of the CSC (aisbl) and CCME (aisbl). The joint Owners Association will continue to take all decisions in relation to the property. The budget of the Owners' Association will be annexed to the CEC budget.

10.3. CSC and (the future) CCME form the owners' association for the Ecumenical Center, Rue Joseph II 172-174 in Brussels responsible for the administration of the building. On investments or divestments the Finance Committee of CEC is consulted.

## 11. Staffing

11.1. CEC adjusts its staffing plan to incorporate the present staff of CCME.<sup>2</sup>

11.2. Executive staff and the director of the future CCME will be appointed by the Central Committee of CEC upon recommendation of a nominations committee; in the case of the Commissions, the nominations committee will consist of the Director of the

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<sup>2</sup> Legally, it is the competence of the CEC Assembly to adopt a staffing plan. This may be an area to be checked when the CEC statutes are revised as this may not be feasible.

Commission, the General Secretary of CEC, a member of the CEC Presidium, and at least one member of the Executive Committee of the Commission will be included.

- 11.3. Project staff and seconded staff not included in the CEC staffing plan is appointed by the Commission Director in consultation with members of the Executive Committee of the Commission and the General Secretary of CEC provided the budget is secured. The (amended)<sup>3</sup> CEC staff regulations apply except for the salary scheme.
- 11.4. CEC and CCME agree to elaborate a revised salary scheme with at least 4 staffing categories and approximately 14 steps. The scheme shall aim at coherence of salaries between the different CEC locations and at transparency for staff on assessments of placing of each staff. It shall include criteria for a review-based progression of staff between steps and lines.
- 11.5. Current work contracts remain valid until equality of salaries and working conditions of CCME and CEC are achieved.

## 12. Journey Together

To realise this Memorandum of Understanding, we have a challenging journey to go. This journey starts now and must be done professionally and with inspiration and enthusiasm. The negotiation group recommends a campaign to highlight and include migration in the core work of the churches in Europe: new priorities, new programmes and new funds, to be discussed at the CEC Assembly in Lyon in 2009. A focal point to make the churches' commitment and engagement visible shall be a European Churches year on migration, preferably in 2010. Therefore, the Central Committee of CEC, the Executive Committee of CCME and all the members are called upon to commit themselves to and invest in this journey together.

*Vienna, 16.11.07*

*Rev Jean-Arnold de Clermont*  
President of CEC

*Rev Arlington Trotman*  
Moderator of CCME

*The Venerable Colin Williams*  
General Secretary of CEC

*Doris Peschke*  
General Secretary of CCME

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<sup>3</sup> A revised proposal for staff regulations has been adopted by the CEC Personnel Committee in June 2007

## Annex 11: Voting rights at 17th CCME General Assembly

### Voting rights at the 17<sup>th</sup> CCME assembly Cyprus 7-11 October 2008

	Country	Member or Partner organisation	Votes	Total votes
1	Austria	-DIAKONIE-Protestant Refugee Service Austria	3	3
2	Belgium	-Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique	0	0
3	Czech Republic	-Ecumenical Commission for Refugees in the Czech Republic	3	3
4	Finland	-Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	3	3
5	France	-Fédération Protestante de France - Cimade		3
6	Germany	-Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)		3
		-Diakonisches Werk der EKD		
7	Greece	-The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece	3	3
8	Hungary	The Reformed Church in Hungary	3	3
9	Italy	-Federazione delle Chiese Evangeliche in Italia (FCEI)	3	3
10	Netherlands	-Council of Churches in the Netherlands		3
		-Samen op Weg-Kerken		
11	Norway	-Church of Norway	3	3
12	Romania	-Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)	3	3
13	Slovakia	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia	0	0
14	Spain	-Comité Español de Cooperación entre las Iglesias (CECI)	3	3
	Sweden	-Church of Sweden -Christian Council of Sweden		3
16	Switzerland	-Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (FSPC/FEPS)	3	3
17	United Kingdom	-Churches' Commission for Racial Justice	1	4
		-Methodist Church of Great Britain	1	
		-Council of African & Caribbean Churches	1	
		-Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches	1	
18		-Conference of European Churches (CEC)	2	2
19		-World Council of Churches (WCC)	2	2
<b>Total votes</b>				<b>50</b>

NB: The Members in Belgium and Slovakia were not represented

## Annex 12: List of participants in the 17th CCME General Assembly

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## **Annex 13: Programme of conference and General Assembly**

*Wednesday, 8 October 2008*

### **Conference “Churches addressing Trafficking in Human Beings”**

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Opening and welcome
- His Eminence Vassilios, Metropolitan of Constantia
  - Rev Arlington Trotman, CCME Moderator
- 10.00 A Human Rights Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- In a European perspective:  
Mr Kent Olsson, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (subject to formal delegation by the Committee)
- 10.40 Trafficking in Human Beings – a challenge for the churches in Europe  
Testimonies from across Europe
- Cyprus: Father Sawas Michaelides, Parish priest of the Russian Orthodox Church Limassol and founder of first shelter for trafficked women
  - Romania: From trafficking for sexual exploitation to forced labour, Mr Cosmin Grigorescu, Executive Director, Filantropia Federation, Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate
  - Italy: Forced labour: case study, Ms Franca di Lecce, Director Refugee & Migrant Service, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
- 11.30 Break
- 11.45 Trafficking in Human Beings – a growing commitment of the European ecumenical movement
- 1997-2002: 2<sup>nd</sup> European Ecumenical Assembly Graz and Conference of European Churches’ workshop Driebergen (1999)  
Ms Elena Timofticiuc, Programme Director AIDRom and Co-President Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women
  - Since 2002: CCME’s Christian Action and networking against Trafficking (CAT) project and other work: Ms Maria Papantoniou-Frangouli, Sociologist, Re-integration Centre for Migrant Workers, Church of Greece
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 Future orientation for churches work against trafficking in Europe
- Discussion of a draft for a CCME position paper
- 16.00 Conclusions
- 16.30 End of Conference
- 16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

### **CCME General Assembly**

17.00-18.30

17.00 Welcome address and prayers by a representative of the Church of Cyprus

- 17.20 Message by the President of CEC (tbc)
- 17.30 Opening of the Assembly by the Moderator
- Roll call
  - Introduction of guests
  - Adoption of the Assembly Agenda
  - Election of General Rapporteurs, *Torsten Moritz, Thomas Stephan*
  - Election of a Nomination Committee
  - Application for membership and decision by the Assembly
    - ❖ ACMK-NRW e.V, (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Migrationskirchen in Nordrhein Westfalen), Council of Christian Migration Churches in Northrhine Westphalia, Germany
    - ❖ Reformed Church of Hungary
- 19.30 *Dinner, encounter between CCME Assembly delegates and CEC Central Committee members*

### ***Thursday, 9 October 2008***

- 8.00 *Breakfast*
- 8.45 *Prayers (Ralf Geisler)*
- 9.00 **Activity Report 2005-2007** GA 2008-2  
 Presentation and discussion  
 Adoption and discharge of ExCom members
- Financial Report 2005-2007** GA 2008-3  
 Presentation and discussion  
**Adoption and discharge of the Treasurer**
- Integration of CCME and CEC, **Report on negotiations** GA 2008-4  
 - **Draft Recommendation** GA 2008-5  
 - **Revision of** articles of association GA 2008-6  
 - **Discussion**
- 10.45 *Coffee break*
- 11.15 **Continuation discussion on integration**  
 • **Draft Work Programme 2009-2015** GA 2008-7  
 • **Draft Budget 2009-2010** GA 2008-8  
 Discussion
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 14.30 **Meeting with CEC Central Committee – Integration of CCME and CEC**
- 16.00 *Coffee break*
- 16.30 **Installation of working groups**
- 16.45-19.00 **Parallel working group**
- 19.45 *Departure by bus with CEC CC members*  
*Reception by the Mayor / dinner*

### ***Friday, 10 October 2008***

- 8.00 *Breakfast*
- 8.45 *Prayers (Marja-Liisa Laihia, Mark Saba)*
- 9.00 **Continuation parallel working group**

*10.45 Coffee break*

Working groups draft conclusions

*13.00 Lunch*

*14.30* • Presentation by the Nominations Committee

Discussion

- Election of the Executive Committee
- Report from Working Group on Articles of Association
- Adoption of Articles of Association

*16.00 Coffee break*

*16.30-18.00*

- Report of the working groups on CCME Work Programme and Budget
- Plenary discussion on the CCME Work Programme 2009-2015
- Plenary discussion on the CCME Budget 2009-2010 (2009-2015)

*19.30 Reception/dinner hosted by the Church of Cyprus, together with CEC CC members, and farewell for the outgoing Members of the Executive Committee*

### ***Saturday, 11 October 2008***

*8.00 Breakfast*

*8.45 Prayers (Annemarie Dupré, Franca di Lecce)*

- 9.00 • Decision on articles of association
- Adoption of CCME Work Programme 2009-2015
  - Adoption of CCME Budget

*11.00 Coffee break*

- 11.30 • Meeting with CEC Central Committee / Celebration with CEC CC

Closing

*13.00 Lunch*

**Departure of some Assembly Participants**

15.00 Visiting programme offered by the Church of Cyprus in the Larnaca area

19.00 Meeting of the new Executive Committee

20.00 Dinner