



Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

CCME Press Release of 13 October 2008

CCME Assembly approves integration between CEC and CCME

The 17th Assembly of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), meeting from 8-11 October in Paralimni, Cyprus, gave its final approval to the integration between CCME and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

Appreciating the results achieved in the negotiations between CCME and CEC since the 16th General Assembly of CCME in 2005, the Assembly fully endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding signed by CCME and CEC in November 2007.

"The integration of CCME and CEC", states the resolution approved by the CCME Assembly, "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 levels 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 expressed its "appreciation to CEC for efforts and actions to include representatives of migrant and ethnic minority churches" at the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (Sibiu, Romania 2007) as well as at the coming Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (Lyon, France 2009).

The Assembly also underlined that "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... The ministry with and for 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".

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