



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

ACTIVITY REPORT 2010

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe – Commission des Églises auprès des Migrants en Europe – Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

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CCME's MISSION AND MANDATE

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. CCME aims at promoting an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic groups.

CCME is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. CCME members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches, Councils of Churches and diaconal agencies in presently 19 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) in advocacy for migrants', refugees' and minority concerns and rights with European institutions, and in promoting integration and anti-discrimination. CCME is currently in the process of integration with the Conference of European Churches.

CCME OBJECTIVES

In particular, the objectives of CCME are:

- to monitor European and national migration, refugee and anti-discrimination policy, to inform the churches about these policies;
- to support and serve the churches in their advocacy;
- to challenge the European institutions to act in accordance with human rights and international obligations;
- to strengthen on a global, European, national and regional level the cooperation of churches, NGOs and others in this field;

- to support and challenge churches to include migrants (churches, groups or individuals) in the communion of churches;
- to address fears in societies around migration and facilitate churches' initiatives on finding ways to peaceful living together.

Working instruments of CCME are conferences, seminars, studies, information and communication, working groups and thematic ad hoc meetings.



Migration 2010 service at Temple de St Gervais, Geneva 9.9.10

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

European asylum and migration policy

Since 1999, with the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Union has competence on a wide range of issues related to refugees' and migrants' concerns. The Council of Tampere in October 1999 determined an ambitious work programme of harmonisation in the area of asylum and migration of which the first round should have been terminated in May 2004. Many of the envisaged directives and regulations had been decided by the end of 2005, and by the end of 2006 the adopted directives should have been transposed into national legislation by EU Member States. As the guardian of EU treaties and EU legislation, the European Commission had started a review of the transposition of EU asylum and migration

law into national law in 2007-8, which continued throughout 2010.

In 2008 and 2009, the Commission submitted proposals for a recast of the directives related to asylum (directives on qualification, reception conditions and asylum procedures) as well as the Dublin II and Eurodac regulation. These proposals were subject to controversial discussions between member states and the European Parliament in 2010.

In 2010 the establishment of a European Asylum Support Office, EASO made substantial steps towards becoming operational, establishing its management board and appointing an executive director of the agency. EASO will be located in Valetta, Malta.

In November 2004, the EU Council had adopted orientations for the area of freedom, security and justice, including asylum and migration policy, in the so-called "Hague Programme" for the years 2004-2009. The European Commission had translated these orientations into an action programme which was adopted by the Council in 2005. Several aspects of this programme were still outstanding in 2010, when a new multiannual programme, the "Stockholm Programme" entered into force.

2010: follow up...

The year 2010 was on the one hand characterised by – moderate - activities of the European Commission to enforce compliance of EU member states in the transposition process. These concentrated in particular on the case of Greece, which received considerable public criticism for the way it receives asylum applicants and processes asylum applications. Some concern was expressed that cases of other countries not correctly transposing EU law, received less attention.

On the other hand there were attempts to propose new legislation: the European Commission had already started in previous years to review and propose changes to almost all of the asylum related directives, often inviting contributions from civil society.

....and new orientations

The year 2010 was characterised by the arrival of new actors and a number of new orientations.

The new European Commission took office in February 2010 with Cecilia Malmström being appointed Commissioner for Home Affairs and Viviane Reding appointed Commissioner for Justice.



Home Affairs Commissioner
Cecilia Malmström

In July, the split of the Directorate General of Justice, Freedom and Security led to the creation of one Directorate General for Home Affairs and one DG for Justice.

The Stockholm programme had generally been criticised as being overly security-oriented and as lacking ambition in the area of asylum and migration. Yet, it contains important provisions for "a dynamic and comprehensive migration policy" as well as a "common area of protection and solidarity".

Even more importantly, 2010 was marked by the change in the legal basis of the European Union. The Lisbon Treaty had

finally entered into force on 1st December 2009. For the first time this EU Treaty clearly defined asylum and migration policy as a shared competence between the EU institutions and member states. With very few exceptions, asylum and migration issues are now decided by a qualified majority and with the Council and the European Parliament acting as co-legislators.

ADVOCACY WORK 2010

The “Asylum package”

CCME cooperated with other Christian organisations and issued a joint comment on the Commission’s proposal for a recast of the asylum procedures directive as well as the Qualifications directive. In the joint comments of June 2010, the Christian organisations supported the aim of the proposed amendments to increase protection levels throughout the EU as well as to improve legal clarity. CCME also signalled support for the Commission’s proposals at the ministerial conference on asylum organised by the Belgian EU Presidency in September 2010.

Refugee Resettlement

An area of particularly intensive advocacy activities for CCME was the setting up of an EU resettlement scheme, both in its own right and as part of the practical action programme complementing the Stockholm Programme.

Based on its paper of June 2009 “Twelve Arguments and Seven Proposals for the EU Refugee Resettlement Scheme”, CCME continued advocacy with the EU institutions. In particular, CCME was active with the EP, which adopted two reports on resettlement in April 2010.

The Swedish chairmanship of the annual tripartite process on resettlement offered a number of chances to strengthen the EU member states’ involvement in

resettlement. Particular input was provided to a number of national debates – some organised in the context of the ASPIRE project, which CCME implemented.



Ruy Tavares, EP rapporteur on resettlement

Return monitoring

CCME had been one of the principal non-state actors in the negotiations on the EU return directive, which was finally adopted by the EU Council and Parliament in June 2008.

Based on this engagement, CCME undertook continued efforts to highlight some of the more positive aspects of the generally disappointing directive throughout 2010. In this context particular attention was devoted to the provisions of the directive, which call for effective monitoring of removal operations or limiting the more restrictive provisions.

The European Commission organised meetings of a “Contact Committee” of member states, which looked at implementation of the directive and more detailed interpretation of the stipulations. In addition to the closed meetings, workshops with NGOs were organised, which in 2010 focussed on unaccompanied minors and determination of best interest of the child in the context of the directive. In several meetings with the European Commission, CCME was able to highlight the existing best practice on

independent monitoring of removals, which CCME members and partners are undertaking.

More and more EU charters are used for deportations, and also the EU border agency FRONTEX is given an increasing role in deportations from EU member states. How to implement the monitoring requirement for these EU operations is one of the areas of discussion and advocacy. While the European Commission with its proposal for a new FRONTEX regulation presented in February 2010 claimed to enable monitoring and human rights orientation of FRONTEX, there is concern that unclarity of competences between FRONTEX and Member States will continue to impede accountability of this increasingly important agency.

Migration

Through formal and informal channels CCME gave input to the drafting process of a recast of the EU directive on family reunification.

While CCME would have a preference for a single horizontal migration directive for all migrant workers, it participated in discussions and consultations on the directive on seasonal (migrant) workers.



Ratification campaign UN Migrant Workers Convention

In the second half of 2010, CCME mobilised in its constituency for a petition campaign asking EU member states to ratify the UN Migrant workers convention. CCME was also part of the delegation handing over the petition to the Belgian EU Presidency in December 2010.

Combating trafficking in human beings

CCME continued its long-standing involvement against trafficking in human beings and for the human rights of trafficked persons.

In its work with the EU, CCME has been actively involved in the discussions on the EU directive to combat trafficking in human beings. In cooperation with the group of Christian organisations, comments on the European Commission proposal had been issued in May 2009, at that time still on the proposed framework decision.

To a considerable extent the lobbying of CCME and other organizations for an approach centred around victims' rights has positively influenced the Commission proposal for a recast as well as reports of the respective committees of the European Parliament. In a coalition with other European networks and the EU expert group on trafficking, CCME was involved in lobbying EU member states to uphold and potentially strengthen the elements of victims' rights in the negotiations of the Council. A joint contribution to a hearing of the European Parliament on 10 June 2010 was produced in this respect.

CCME was equally active in meetings with the Spanish and Belgian EU Presidencies on the issue.

Monitoring transposition of EU law

CCME has been monitoring and advising member churches in the process of transposition of EU legislation into national legislation, particularly on the area of a Common European Asylum System. CCME continued to contribute to informal evaluations by the European Commission, particularly on the effect of the so-called "Dublin" regulation, the transposition of the Asylum Procedures Directive as well as the "Qualification" directive determining the status and

rights of refugees and persons otherwise in need of protection. CCME gave input on the specific situation of the Mediterranean EU member states.



Italian poster for Migration Year 2010: fleeing over the Mediterranean

The assessment of transposition on the ground, which some CCME members had undertaken, as well as experiences from the field were brought to the attention of the EU institutions and contributed to the work of other actors, e.g. UNHCR. CCME joined informal efforts to motivate the EU institutions to hold respective EU member states accountable for the correct implementation of EU and international refugee law.

An issue of particular concern was the conditions under which migrants and potential refugees would be given a possibility to reach the territory of EU member states.

Several EU member states had been found, or suspected to organise so-called

“push-backs”, violating fundamental human rights, among them the principle of non-refoulement.

CCME contributed to a seminar of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU on “fundamental rights at the EU’s external borders” in April 2010.

The fate of those trying to reach Europe in search of protection was highlighted in a joint CEC-CCME statement “Commemorate Persons Dying on their way to seek safety” on 20th June 2010.

Migration and development

CCME and Christian partner organisations have been actively involved in the discussions on migration and development. CCME had initiated a small task force relating to questions of migration and development, which is now a formal working group of the network of development agencies APRODEV. Unfortunately the activities of the group were slowed down by staff changes in various agencies.

CCME was again involved in the process around the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which this year was hosted by the Mexican government in Puerto Vallarta in November 2010. Mexico had taken on several of the recommendations following the Athens GFMD and strengthened the dialogue elements with civil society.

CCME’s General Secretary had been appointed a member of the International Advisory Committee for the civil society days, but had to withdraw as the dates were parallel to the CSC-WCC consultation on “Globalisation, Poverty .

Refugee protection

CCME continues to represent CEC in the European Council of Refugees and Exiles ECRE and participated in the annual general meeting in Budapest in October 2010 as well as in the directors’

meetings. CCME continued to chair the ECRE core group on resettlement.

Anti-racism

CCME is playing an active role as member of the European Coordination of the European Network against Racism (ENAR). The ENAR European Coordination met on several occasions in 2010 convened by CCME. Until the end of 2010 CCME held the chair of the European coordination of ENAR and was thus also a member of the board of ENAR.

CCME continued actively to enable sharing of information on Roma issues – both through a number of meetings with key stakeholders as well as through the internet news list on Roma issues. Cooperation with a working group on Roma issues initiated by Eurodiaconia in October 2009 was intensified. Together with the Reformed Church in Hungary, preparations for highlighting the issue of Roma integration during the Hungarian EU presidency in the first half of 2011 were started.

In addition, CCME contributed to consultations of the “Healing of Memories” project, particularly in a workshop during the conference in Sarajevo.

Networking

CCME cooperates with other European NGOs in the context of the NGO platform on asylum and migration. CCME continues to be co-chair of the platform. In 2010, members of the platform of NGOs continued to organise briefings for members of the European Parliament in view of their activities, e.g. on asylum issues, removals and detention conditions, but also migration questions in a broader perspective. Members also met with staff of the new European Commission for background meetings and briefings.

CCME in cooperation with UNHCR continued efforts of the platform to engage in a more systematic way with the European Commission, particularly around the drafting of the action programme implementing the so-called Stockholm Programme (see above). CCME also managed to intensify the contact with the European Parliament’s LIBE committee.



Icon of friendship (St Menas with Jesus Christ):
a contribution to Migration 2010 from Finland

CCME maintains regular exchange and cooperation with the offices of the Church and Society Commission of CEC, APRODEV, Eurodiaconia, the European Ecumenical Association of Lay Academies and the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe, as well as the various offices of national churches, which are represented in Brussels.

As mentioned above, the “Group of Christian organisations” in the asylum and migration field comprising Caritas Europa, CCME, COMECE, Eurodiaconia, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe and the Quaker Council for European Affairs continued to have a considerable degree of visibility.

As Eurodiaconia, had expressed a wish to be more active in the area of migration, discussions on the most appropriate division of tasks and use of respective

resources are ongoing and cooperation is strengthened.

Cooperation with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) was explored with an attempt to develop recommendations for the inclusion of migrant congregations. A joint consultation was held in December 2010 in Vienna.

CCME continued its contacts and cooperation with international organisations, first and foremost the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR – particularly in view of resettlement, but also other international organisations with a migration-related mandate, such as the International Labour Organisation ILO.

Council of Europe

As an NGO with consultative status at the Council of Europe, CCME maintained its working relations at the Council of Europe and was in particular represented at the meetings of the Migration Committee CDMG in February and November 2010.

Visits

An important part of CCME's work is to provide information services on the European migration agenda and related issues for Churches, church-related groups/ agencies and civil society at large.

Groups or representatives of Churches and NGOs are regularly visiting the Ecumenical Centre and/or CCME Secretariat in Brussels, and CCME organises a visitors' programme for these groups/ individuals, or representatives of CCME are invited to give thematic inputs at various events. In 2010, the visits of Hungarian churches, facilitated by the Church and Society Commission, were of particular importance in view of the EU Presidency of Hungary in the first half of 2011.

Often CCME is invited to present the work of Churches in Europe on migration and related questions. In 2010, groups and representatives of Churches and civil society organisations from across Europe visited CCME. In addition CCME contributed to several dozens of academic researches and in addition to sharing its own information regularly briefed journalists.

In 2010, CCME representatives gave presentations in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK, often in connection with project events.

CCME has been part of the preparatory group for the panel on migration at the 2nd Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich in May 2010 and is part of the preparatory team for the panel series on migrant churches for the Protestant Kirchentag in Dresden in 2011.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES 2010

Migration Year 2010

The Year of European Churches Responding to Migration 2010" had been decided by the CCME General Assembly and CEC Central Committee in October 2008. It had been launched with an international conference in Budapest 25-27 November 2009.



migration 2010

europaean churches responding to migration 2010

Throughout 2010, churches across Europe took up the thematic focus of the

migration year by making the churches work on migration more visible or by advocating for the rights of migrants, who are factually long-term residents. A wide variety of meetings on the issue of migration and the role of the churches were held – both locally, nationally and regionally. Churches across Europe organised worship services, vigils, public marches, colloquia, seminars and other kinds of events around the migration 2010 themes. Posters and websites as well as a facebook-group were launched and publications took up the migration 2010 theme.

The joint committee of the Roman Catholic CCEE and CEC met 7-11 March 2010 in Istanbul and took up the issue of migration and in a statement spoke of Christians as “migrants by vocation”.

Various promotional items (scarves, keyrings etc.) were made available and contributed to a greater public visibility of the migration year. The calendar which proposed thematic activities around migration for the different months of the year received great attention and suggestions were taken up in various contexts.

While responses of churches across Europe were positive, creative and many ideas were presented for further consideration, it turned out to be difficult to mobilise the minimum amount of resources, which would have been needed for a fully-fledged campaign and a stronger coordination as it had been envisaged.

Nevertheless, the migration year 2010 broadened and deepened the commitment of the churches in Europe to the issue of migration and to migrants’ rights.

One of the aims of the migration year focused on the rights of long-term resident migrants. A study has been

undertaken by Lilian Tsourdi and presented at the end of 2010.



Migration 2010 conference
Vienna 17-18 December 2010

The final event of the year, the conference “Year of European Churches responding to Migration 2010- Achievements, Challenges and Future Perspectives” in Vienna 17-18 December 2010 provided an excellent opportunity for review of the year and future strategizing, particular around migrants’ rights issues.

Work against contemporary forms of slavery /trafficking in human beings

CCME used the year 2010 to continue its work as competence centre for churches in Europe on trafficking on the one hand and on the other hand broadened its work on trafficking to include forms of exploitation beyond sexual exploitation.

Activities have focused on accompanying churches in their work through providing input and expertise.

CCME continued to be member of the steering group of the Coatnet (Christian organisations against trafficking network), which while being ecumenically open, mainly consists of Roman Catholic organisations (partly as it is under legal responsibility of Caritas International). The network contains an extranet, a webpage, and an annual users meeting, which convenes once a

year. CCME, while keeping a low-profile involvement in the steering group, encouraged wider participation from CCME/CEC partners.

CCME continued its advice for the network of partners in the CIS region, which was established in 2007. The meeting of partners in Chisinau 26-28 April 2010 around the issue of the role of churches and Christian agencies in coalitions against trafficking provided a good forum for continued exchange.

National and regional events such as the one of the Protestant Women's league in Westphalia (10-11 November 2010) were co-organised by CCME, at others such as the Swedish-Finnish workshop "Fragile – God's Miracles are Not for Sale" in Lahti /FIN 25.-26.3., CCME provided expert input.

The "GOING BEYOND" project continued to address trafficking for forced labour. National research into the extent of the problem, patterns, official responses as well as reactions of civil society had been undertaken and meetings with regional partners organized. The results of these national and regional researches were shared in a workshop 24-26 February 2010 in Bucharest, which was preceded by a hearing in the Romanian senate.



Hearing in the Romanian Parliament

The exchange confirmed the need to research this area of contemporary slavery and offer support to persons who have become victim. The two issues

identified as most urgent were those of identification of victims of trafficking for forced labour and the cooperation between state and civil society actors. An expert workshop on identification was held 28-30 June in Prague at which participants collected valuable best practice example. A second specialist workshop on state-civil society cooperation was held 7-9 September in Rome.

A concluding workshop in Brussels in the week prior to the EU's anti-trafficking day offered the possibility to share project results with a broader audience. An exchange with participants of another project on labour trafficking (coordinated by Anti-Slavery International) was possible through the organisation of a joint hearing.

The activities of the projects were connected with ongoing information activities and European advocacy activities (see above).

CCME continued to support efforts by a coalition led by Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International to advance the cause of compensation for trafficked persons.

Refugee Resettlement

Work towards building more political support in EU Member States for resettlement as an additional tool of refugee protection continued throughout 2010 with the project ASPIRE "Assessing and Strengthening Participation In Refugee Resettlement to Europe".

The project was supported by the European Refugee Fund of the European Commission with a grant and continued until mid-March 2010. Throughout the first three months of 2010, two national debate-events were organized by CCME and its project partners in Germany and Hungary. The debates took stock of the particular national context and they

provided a space for reflection on ways to mobilize political will for countries that had not yet established resettlement programmes and evaluation and experience sharing for countries that were just beginning to engage in resettlement. Participants included governmental officials and representatives of municipal authorities, as well UNHCR and NGO representatives.

CCME contributed to the annual tripartite consultation on resettlement and to the working group on resettlement in March 2010 in Timisoara/Romania.

Partly due to the continued advocacy activities, an increasing number of EU countries are getting actively involved in resettlement either on an ad hoc basis or by devoting annual quotas.

Uniting in diversity – the MIRACLE project

The work on migration as an opportunity and challenge for the unity of the church was taken forward in 2010 in the context of the “MIRACLE” project (Models of Integration through Religion, Activation Cultural Learning and Exchange), which ran until June 2010.

MIRACLE focused on migrants’ participation and activation in European Churches and societies. The particular methodology (WinAct – Winning Migrants as Active Citizens), which had initially been developed for trade unions and political parties, was used in the MIRACLE project for understanding migrants’ active participation and for sharing best practices of integration. This existing methodology has been adapted to the context of churches and congregations. In addition, the Intercultural Mediation method has been used in trainings. A draft version of the new MIRACLE-WinAct method was distributed to the six partners of the project (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden) and it was

used in national workshops and two regional meetings, which took place in 2009 and early 2010 after an initial conference held in Brussels in March 2009. The methods and modules were afterwards published.



MIRACLE Project: final workshop

In addition a study was undertaken collecting interviews of migrants active in or participating in historical and migrants-led churches. After an interviewers’ training the interviewers have carried out and submitted their interviews in autumn.

Results of the project were presented in May 2010 at the final conference of the project. A set of recommendations was published as a booklet in the languages of different project partners, other material is available online.

CCME was invited to present the project in the European Integration Forum and at the meeting of Integration focal points of EU Member States. Many of the modules prove helpful in starting productive discussions and encounters.

Global Ecumenical Network on Migration (GEM) of the WCC

The Global Ecumenical Network of the WCC met in June in Geneva.

The fourth meeting of the global network after it had been re-named Global Ecumenical Network on Migration (GEM) was characterised by the intention to develop a common response to the issue of migration changing the ecclesial landscape as well as addressing the situation of migrants in the time of economic crisis. Throughout the year, GEM members have taken up themes and issues of the year of European churches responding to migration 2010, thus strengthening the visible cooperation.

CCME also participated in the WCC network against racism in Cleveland in August 2010, a meeting of the Pacific Council of Churches in New Zealand, and a meeting on theological education and training in Hamburg in December.

ACCEPT-Pluralism

A three year research project was approved by the European Commission early in 2010, in which CCME is one of three NGO partners in addition to 15 university or research institutes coordinated by the EU Institute in Florence. The project steering group met first in Florence in July (the April meeting had to be postponed because of the volcano ash clouds preventing flights). The second meeting was held in November in Milano. Research has started in 2010 with the preparation of reports for 15 European countries, the development of a website for the dissemination and planning of launch events. The project will look into concepts of tolerance and acceptance in European societies and develop recommendations particularly for schools. CCME's role in 2010-2011 is more

an advisory role, while in 2012-2013 CCME will cooperate in the dissemination of project results.

CEC-CCME INTEGRATION, CEC ASSEMBLY AND CONSEQUENCES

Based on the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (2007), and the decisions on the final steps of integration (2008) adopted by the CCME Assembly and CEC Central Committee integration was pursued.

The CEC-CCME Memorandum of Understanding had clarified changes and requirements for both organisations to facilitate the integration taking effect. The CCME Assembly adopted revised statutes and the CEC Central Committee adopted the structural changes needed, incorporated CCME staff in its staffing plans and clarified the process for other pending decisions.

However the General Assembly of CEC has put the integration on hold by deciding to completely review CEC structures. The CCME ExCom continued to monitor the situation so that integration could be completed once CEC will have decided that it is in a situation to fulfil its commitments regarding the integration process.

Despite this setback the senior management team of CEC, in which the CCME General Secretary fully participates, was maintained in the attempt to organise a renewed CEC in a way which would ensure accountability within the organisation while allowing enough flexibility to respond to pressing issues and concern for the churches in Europe.

CCME sought to involve the members of the Commission appointed by the CEC

Central Committee in December 2009, e.g. in the meetings and conference on Migration 2010, and by sharing information with them.

CCME has also worked like the other CEC Commissions by reporting to the Presidium and Central Committee meetings. CCME has closely cooperated in clarifying CEC work priorities for 2010 and 2011 in a new format.

COMMUNICATION

Communication activities were enhanced with the regular update of the website <http://www.ccme.be>, which is now part of the new CEC site which was launched towards the end of 2009. In addition, the migration 2010 website developed and maintained by CCME throughout 2010 was an important tool of communication (<http://www.migration2010.eu>).

There is continued cooperation with CEC on communications. CCME regularly contributed to CEC publications such as the newsletter of CEC's Church and Society Commission. Press releases on CCME events have led to coverage of these activities in church media across Europe.

CCME issued thematically oriented publications such as the booklet on results of the MIRACLE project and the calendar for the year of European Churches Responding to Migration 2010. Internal and external communication remains an issue to be improved. The ExCom of CCME has identified the need to improve communications with members on a more regular basis; however, staff capacity remains a constraint in this field.

CCME is very grateful for the support by the Church of Sweden to the specific communication of the Migration 2010 conference in Vienna particularly to assist with expertise in live streaming the event.

CCME internal

The ExCom of CCME met twice in 2010: in April in Rome and in Brussels in October.



The CCME ExCom meeting the President of the Italian Chamber of deputies

The meeting in Rome was an excellent opportunity for meetings with representatives of CCME's Italian member FCEI. At the same time, it provided for meetings with political decision-makers: the ExCom met the President of the Chamber of deputies, Gianfranco Fini, and raised concerns about the growing racism in Italy as well as on the increasingly difficult situation of undocumented after the migration laws had been amended.

ExCom also held a hearing with the human rights committee of the Italian senate, raising concerns on the full and correct application of international law, in particular in the area of refugee protection.

The **financial situation** for 2010 has been stable with regard to membership fees and continued support from church related agencies to project activities. Due to substantial European Commission funding for 3 projects the total operational budget was 655.316,82 EUR and thus once again higher than in previous years. The result of the year is a modest surplus of 8.339,24 EUR for the operations, which will be used to cover

the slight deficits of previous years. (see Financial Report 2010 for details).

The **secretariat** is still comprised of three permanent staff: General Secretary Doris Peschke, Executive Secretary Torsten Moritz and Office Manager Emmanuel Kabalisa. During 2010, the team was temporarily strengthened by two project staff, Olivia Bertelli and Lilian Tsourdi. The team is once per week assisted by an accountant Charlotte Vander Borgh.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since the beginning of 2007, the EU has 27 member states, with further enlargement in South Eastern Europe on the horizon in the next years, and of course, Europe is wider than the EU.

The focus of the attention regarding migration continues to be on the movement from Africa and Asia Minor to the Southern borders of Europe, disregarding the fact that in terms of numbers internal European migration or migration across other borders outnumbers this phenomenon. Sadly, the death toll among migrants seeking access to Europe continues to rise every summer. While the EU policies based on deterrence and migration control are increasingly challenged, the EU and member states' policy focus has been put on border management. CCME has sought to address the misperceptions associated with the pictures, and will continue to do so. At the same time a shift of paradigm away from policies of "zero migration" to policies of "selected/chosen migration" is becoming more visible – exemplified by the fact that the directive for entry and residence for seasonal work is a broadly discussed legislative proposal.

The year 2010 has brought about significant changes in the political setup in which CCME operates, with a newly appointed European Commission having started their work with a new structure.

A new legal basis in the Lisbon Treaty changed the political context even more.

These political changes are paralleled by a new tendency of Christian thinking on migration in Europe: one which does no



CCME Moderator Arlington Trotman
and Vice-Moderator Franca di Lecce

longer see migration as an un-normal phenomenon, which requires a charitable, diaconal and advocacy approach, but rather as a given fact of life which requires a rights-based framework and poses an enormous opportunity for the life of churches and societies in Europe.

To address issues relating to migration will in this context require more ecumenical and more international thinking, acting and cooperating.

The year of European Churches responding to migration in 2010 offered an excellent opportunity in this respect – and indeed, through the activities a changed ecclesial landscape in Europe was discovered. When "migration is at the heart of European churches", as we have seen on many occasions throughout the year, churches and their agencies are called to strengthen their common witness and ***commitment to strangers, responding to the message of the Bible, which insists on the dignity of every human being.***



“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)