



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

beyond borders

since 1964

Report

19th CCME General Assembly Sigtuna, Sweden 26-29 June 2014



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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MINUTES OF THE 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME)

26th June: Crossing Borders – at what price?

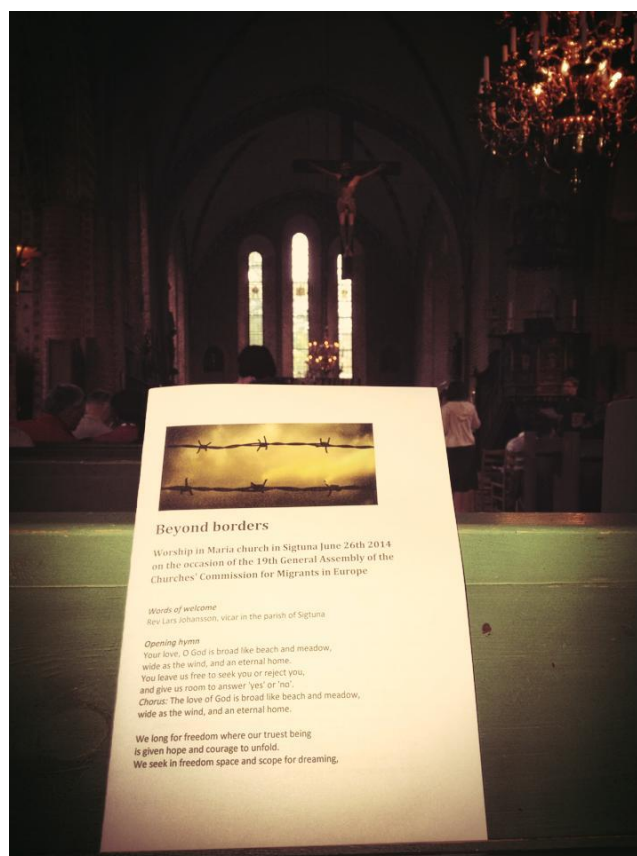


The 19th General Assembly of CCME was held in Sigtuna, Sweden from 26-29 June 2014 – coinciding with this year's 50th anniversary of CCME. In line with the motto of the year "CCME Beyond Borders since 1964" and responding to the current dramatic situations at Europe's Southern borders, a public conference preceding the assembly was organised jointly with the Sigtuna Foundation on 26 June 2014 with the theme: Crossing Borders – at what price? A video recording of the plenary in the morning of 26 June is available on the CCME website, and the presentations will

be made available in a separate conference document.

In the afternoon, participants were welcomed by the Moderator of CCME, Dr Victoria Kamondji Johnston and greetings were received by the Europe President of the World Council of Churches, Archbishop Emeritus Anders Wejryd, and the Vice-President of the Conference of European Churches, Very Rev Karin Burstrand. The concept and state of play of the study "Mapping Migration in Europe – Mapping Churches' Responses" was presented by the two consultants. This was followed by workshops addressing important issues in the churches' work with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons. A conference programme is annexed.

In the evening, the opening worship "Beyond Borders" was held at Maria Church in Sigtuna, the oldest brick church in Sweden from the 13th century. The sermon was given by Rev. Karin Wiborn, General Secretary of the Christian Council in Sweden.



27th June

Victoria Kamondji Johnston opened the business session of the assembly. Before going to the roll call, Doris Peschke explained the distribution of votes in the General Assembly.



Roll call

Victoria Kamondji Johnston called out all members and the names of the respective delegates. It was noted that the Spanish member was absent, as unfortunately a colleague had died, and had in writing transferred the votes to the Italian delegate, while the Slovak member had transferred the votes to the Czech delegate and the Methodist Church UK to the representative of CTBI. All members were therefore represented and a quorum attained. The total number of votes was 59.

Victoria Kamondji Johnston continued by welcoming the guests present.

Adoption assembly agenda

Kristina Hellqvist proposed on behalf of the ExCom to amend the agenda item "Presentation working group on the relationship of CCME with CEC and WCC", to include "Discussion AND decision". With this proposed change, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

Election of rapporteurs

The ExCom suggested Imogen O'Rourke and Torsten Moritz as rapporteurs. No other candidates were proposed. Both were unanimously elected.

Election of Nominations committee

The ExCom proposed Kristina Hellqvist, Adejare Oyewole and Antonios Papantoniou as members of the Nominations Committee.

A short question arose why these three persons were proposed; Doris Peschke explained that these three were outgoing ExCom members who could after two terms of office not be re-elected. While not formally required, good practice had been that participation in the nominations process would exclude a person from being eligible for election.

No other nominations were brought forward by the assembly. The three persons were elected unanimously. Following some criticism on the procedure, it was agreed that votes should be following the order: votes for - votes against – abstention.

Membership applications

The Moderator invited representatives of the organisations applying for membership to introduce them. Vida Kessey introduced the membership application of the Finnish Ecumenical Council, the Council's history and its work on migration.

John Adegoke explained the membership application of the Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim Churches (Europe chapter), highlighting the history and present activities of the Council and its links with CCME work. He answered questions on the participation of his church in the ecumenical movement.

Minea Kaartinen introduced the membership applications of the Orthodox Church of Finland, the church history, its links with neighbouring countries and underlined the importance of migration for her church.

Delegates had the chance to ask questions. All three applications were afterwards put to a vote.

- Finish Ecumenical Council: 59 YES votes, unanimously accepted as a member.
- Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim churches: 56 YES votes, 3 abstentions, accepted as a member
- Orthodox Church of Finland: 59 YES votes, unanimously accepted as a member.

All three were welcomed by Victoria Kamondji Johnston into the membership of CCME. It was explained that the Finnish 3 votes would now be shared by 3 member organisations, whereas the total of votes for the UK members rose from 4 to 5, bringing the **total of votes in the assembly to 60**.

1st report Nominations Committee

Kristina Hellqvist explained that the Nominations Committee would try to come up with one slate as a proposal for ExCom elections. It was therefore important that all nominations were brought to the Committee as soon as possible, preferably by 15.00 h.

Activity report 2011-14

General Secretary Doris Peschke introduced the report, highlighting achievements and challenges of the last years.

In the following discussion, several of the speakers expressed thanks and appreciation for both the quality and quantity of the work undertaken. Speakers however felt that a humane migration policy had not been achieved. The cooperation with CEC, in particular its Church and Society Commission, and WCC were raised by several speakers.

Finance report 2011-14

Adejare Oyewole as treasurer introduced the report describing the financial situation as difficult. He expressed thanks to those contributing financially to CCME. Doris Peschke added that there was an increasing need to relate requested CCME's activities to funding requests as many planned activities were not yet financed. Project funding was useful for several purposes, but also binding capacity. She went on to highlight that the renovation of the house had had major impact on work and finances, but that now the house was "low energy" and a good quality working and meeting environment was achieved.

Participants expressed concern that core operations of CCME were currently not 100 % funded by membership fees and underlined the need to change this situation. Thanks were expressed to staff for their handling of finances, in particular to the accountant Charlotte Vanderborght.

Adoption activity and finance report:

The two reports were unanimously adopted.

Discharge of ExCom

The ExCom was unanimously discharged.

Relationship CCME-CEC-WCC

Victoria Kamondji Johnston introduced the respective document, making reference to the letter to the assembly by CEC President Christopher Hill, which had been read out on the previous day. She also explained why the CEC-CCME process had been delayed and no common paper of the negotiation group could be presented.

She went on to explain that the three main options before CCME were dissolution of CCME, cooperation and partnership with CEC, or a model which could be described as two in one. The GA would have to give orientation on these scenarios.

In the discussion, several speakers gave diverging views on the future development scenarios for CEC. Many expressed the view that in a situation of uncertainty any substantial integration was difficult. Other highlighted a need to stick to the process of integration. Questions were raised as to whether CEC had published a different account in a paper for its governing board. Several speakers elaborated on respective opportunities and risks of the different scenarios. A few participants felt that CEC-CCME integration was creating a tension in their churches.

Kristina Hellqvist thanked participants for their contribution and referred further discussion to the working group.

CCME Draft Work Programme 2015-17

Torsten Moritz introduced the draft work programme 2015-2017, highlighting the work areas and proposed changes from the previous work programme.

CCME Draft Budget 2015-17

Doris Peschke introduced document GA 2014-6 rev, the draft budget 2015-2017 with planned income and expenses of 463.000,00 € in 2015, 449.600,00 € in 2016 and 471.200,00 € in 2017. This proposal has been adjusted by 8.000 EUR in comparison to the originally circulated draft for the year 2015 in view of already agreed obligations under an EU funded project.

Towards a Message

Doris Peschke introduced two background papers on future migration challenges and strengths and weaknesses. These papers were prepared as background for the discussion on work priorities but also to feed into drafting a message from this special assembly on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of CCME.

Revision of Mission statement

Thorsten Leisser introduced the paper prepared on behalf of the ExCom following up on the resolution of the 18th CCME Assembly to carefully revise the terminology applied by CCME, including a draft for revising the mission statement. It was enquired if a working group on the statement would be established, but there was not sufficient interest. However the draft mission statement would be discussed in plenary and put to a vote later.

The participants spent the afternoon in working groups on nominations, work programme, finance and budget, CCME-CEC-WCC cooperation and message.

28th June

The first morning session was spent in working groups.

Report Nominations Committee and elections of ExCom

The plenary of the assembly opened with the announcement of the nominees for the new Executive Committee (ExCom) by Adejare Oyewole on behalf of the Nominations Committee.

The following names were suggested:

Moderator:	Victoria Kamondji Johnston, French Protestant Federation
Treasurer:	Thorsten Leisser, Evangelical Church in Germany
Members:	Alfredo Abad Heras, Evangelical Church in Spain
	Jeri Jehu-Appiah, Council of African and Caribbean Churches, UK
	Lemma Desta, Church of Norway
	Efthalia Pappa, Church of Greece
	Elena Timofticiuc, AIDROM - the Romanian Ecumenical Association of Churches
Substitutes:	Nektarios Ioannou, Church of Cyprus
	Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, Reformed Church in Hungary

Along the presentation of candidates, the Nomination Committee informed the Assembly of the appointment of Semegnish Asfaw Grosjean by the WCC as their representative on CCME's ExCom and that CEC had yet to make its choice of appointee known.

The Nomination Committee felt that this list of candidates reflected CCME's commitment to a balance of gender, regions and denominations for the ExCom.

Vote on ExCom

Victoria Kamondji Johnston was the first nominee voted upon, receiving a unanimous vote of 60 votes as Moderator. She accepted the election.

Subsequent candidates had the opportunity to make a short presentation introducing themselves. Unfortunately Alfredo Abad Heras and Jeri Jehu-Appiah could not present themselves, as they were not able to travel to Sigtuna for unforeseeable circumstances. Kristina Hellqvist gave a short presentation of both nominees.

Thorsten Leisser received a majority vote of 59 to the position of Treasurer. He accepted the election.

Alfredo Abad Heras:	60 votes unanimous
Elena Timofticiuc:	60 votes unanimous
Lemma Desta:	60 votes unanimous
Efthalia Pappa:	60 votes unanimous
Jeri Jehu-Appiah:	60 votes unanimous
Nektarios Ioannou	60 votes unanimous
Dora Kanizsai-Nagy	60 votes unanimous

They accepted the election. Doris Peschke underlined the important role of substitute members as they receive the same information as regular members and are included in meetings when- and wherever possible.

CEC-CCME-WCC - discussion

The Assembly moved on to discuss the outcomes of the Working Group on the CEC-CCME cooperation. Elena Timofticiuc presented a Working Group paper summarising the conclusions reached after long but fruitful discussions.

A discussion followed during which it emerged that Scenario 1 as presented in CCME General Secretary's report was not accepted. This scenario where CCME would be immediately and fully integrated into the CEC organisation could not be considered an option because: '(1) The future structure of CEC is not yet clear; (2) of CCME's divergent membership – the minority voice would not be heard; (3) CCME as a fundraising tool – due to the experience on EU projects – also for its



members ought to be safeguarded. In order to decide in favour of Scenario 2 more clarity would be required. The General Assembly therefore endorsed following Scenario 3 with the view of working towards Scenario 2.

The assembly felt that a written paper was needed before it could vote, and as copies of the working group report were not yet available postponed the matter to the later session.

Mission statement - discussion

Next there was a discussion of changes to the Mission Statement, in particular excising the contentious term of 'stranger'. Elizabeth Nasimbwa from the Church of Sweden gave input based on her own academic research; she highlighted how a sociological concept of the 'strangeness' of migrants is increasingly mobilised by right-wing xenophobic groups and parties across Europe to unify native groupings. In post-colonial discourse she noted that the term of 'stranger' in this context had its origins in European colonialism. CCME with its ability to advocate for equal access to global mobility should seek to remove the term 'stranger' from its Mission Statement as it is a term loaded with negative implications. The topic was discussed with speakers expressing an uneasiness that the changes in the Mission Statement did not go far enough. Most participants agreed that this was an ongoing discussion that would be continued in upcoming ExCom meetings. Many felt that it would be good to agree to these small but helpful changes now as they had been suggested. Voting on the matter was decided by the Assembly (56 for, 4 against) to be postponed until after lunch so the subject could be informally discussed and processed.

Work programme 2015-2017

Torsten Moritz presented the modifications and amendments to the Work Programme proposed by the relevant Working Group. The main amendments were that "CCME's work will reflect children rights as a cross cutting issue" and that in relation to this commitment "CCME will organise for its membership a consultation on practical aspects of the best interest of the child determination in asylum and migration cases". "Wherever possible, CCME will work in interregional cooperation particularly with advocacy or using interregional partners as resource persons." "CCME will establish a forward thinking group which will explore creative solutions to migration challenges." Following these more general aims, specific additions were included: "In this context, CCME will campaign for more solidarity between European States in responsibility sharing". The Working Group included the provisions that "CCME will focus on the issue of religious identity and persecution" and that "CCME will cooperate with WCC on the issue of statelessness." 'CCME will organise for its membership a consultation on practical aspects of the best interest of the child determination in asylum and migration cases' and 'CCME will continue to advocate for regularization and comprehensive perspectives of undocumented persons' were all added. In the different sections relating to trafficking, discrimination and migration and development, the objectives were included that 'CCME will explore possible connections between the disappearance of persons seeking asylum and trafficking', and that 'One aspect of particular attention for CCME should be the development perspective of returning migrants'. Finally under the Working Mechanisms section of the Work Programme a commitment for CCME to provide its members a 'fora of exchange of members with European institution on matters of concern' was added.



A discussion developed around the suggested amendment in the section on the Return Directive that 'The work will in particular focus on re-entry bans'. It was agreed that 'monitoring removals and detention conditions' should also receive attention, along with entry bans. The Assembly discussed whether child rights should be exclusively highlighted, as it might risk leaving behind women's and disabled persons' rights. The final area of discussion related to the suggestion the term xenophobia should be changed to racism as in German the former term creates otherness and is opposed widely. The substitution was however not accepted as the terms are distinct in other contexts. It was decided that racist attacks should be added so that the amendment now reads 'CCME will organise an exchange on initiatives against right wing extremist groups, hate speech, xenophobia and racist attacks'.

An overall remark was offered that at the next Assembly there should be a more focused work programme as it was a large burden for an office of just three persons. After this the Work Programme and all its amendments were unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

Mission statement decision

After lunch the Assembly returned to the discussion on the Mission Statement. The reservations that the changes did not go far enough and that perhaps more discussion was required were reiterated along with the sentiments that it was good to make changes now while acknowledging that it was an on-going discussion within the new ExCom. In the end the Assembly voted to adopt the changes with 41 for, 7 against and 6 abstentions. The new CCME Mission Statement is annexed.

CEC-CCME-WCC II

Next the Assembly returned to the question of CCME and CEC integration, now in possession of the printed conclusions Working Group on the subject. The discussion first looked at what exactly the name of the partnership under scenario 2 would or could be. The debate turned to questions of prioritising the work of the organisations over their structures and the question of what the overall benefit of integration would be. Eventually it was decided that the draft conclusions and the original General Secretary paper would be combined and edited by a small group to produce an informative document that could be presented to CEC and members' own churches.

Budget 2015-17

Torsten Moritz presented the one general recommendation from the relevant Working Group that a 'support group for the Treasurer' be formed to ease his burden. Along with this the Working Group also proposed including the general resolution that



"The General Assembly expressed concerns about the instances in which churches were excluded from public funding due to being faith based and asks the CCME Secretariat to raise these concerns with the relevant European and national institutions".

The addition and resolution were unanimously endorsed by the Assembly.

Following on, he presented 3 major changes to the budget as a consequence of changes in the work

programme: an increase of 20.000€ in 2015 for children's rights and another 20.000€ in 2017 to address Right Wing Extremism and finally an increase of 40.000€ to the 2016 budget for an interregional consultation. All three would be included under "meetings" in Expenses and under "grants" in Income. There were no objections to these changes and with that the entire 2015-2017 budget was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

One clarification was sought as to how much of the 2015 budget had been secured. Doris Peschke explained that about half had been secured but this was an estimate as some funding applications were still pending.

Message decision

The Assembly heard the report of the Working Group tasked with drafting a public statement provisionally titled "Migration in Europe - A Call for Change". Jan van der Kolk



presented the group's draft. The one page message was well received with a number of well discussed additions. Firstly in consideration of Swiss and Norwegian members, "EU" was changed to "European". Secondly the word detention was to be included in terms of the abuses that often occur within the procedure, and the unacceptability of the action itself. Wording at the end of the second paragraph was added to reflect this view in the form "such as the systematic use

of detention as well as the inhumane and degrading treatment of detainees". Particular mention of discrimination against Roma was dropped in favour of a simplified "minority groups" in the interest of fairness. Finally the language over concerns over rising discrimination was debated finally agreeing on "Fears have been fuelled and exploited in order to justify the reinforcement of borders".

The message was unanimously adopted by the Assembly followed by a round of applause.

CEC-CCME-WCC decision

For the last time the Assembly returned to the question of CCME-CEC integration now in possession of the updated final paper produced by the small group. There was a very passionate discussion over the use of the term "two in one" to describe the structure of the integrated organisations under scenario 2. It was said that the term 'one in two' was more appropriate as it designated one organisation split into two legal entities rather than two

organisations under one name. The discussion concluded with the assurance that with CEC structures still in transition, the negotiating group between the two organisations would



need to iron out these details. It was also noted that the calls for “heading towards scenario 2” and for the inclusion of the Moderator and potentially the General Secretary in the CEC Governing Board Meeting were missing from this draft. With the understanding that these sentences would be included the Assembly adopted the paper with 59 votes for and 1 abstention.

The last item for discussion was the **CCME message to the WCC**. Doris Peschke presented the document which was very well

received and there were no questions or amendments proposed to the paper. It was adopted unanimously by the Assembly, with the understanding that the few spelling and grammar corrections would be made before it would be sent out.

Honorary President Dr Antonios Papantoniou

The final matter the Assembly considered was a proposal by the General Secretary that in recognition of his service and contribution to CCME throughout the 50 years of its existence, Antonios Papantoniou would be made an honorary president of CCME. This proposal was unanimously passed by the Assembly accompanied by a roaring round of applause. With that the 19th CCME General Assembly was declared closed.



Celebration



After a reception and festive dinner with Swedish specialties, kindly sponsored by the Church of Sweden, the assembly participants were offered a ...

Concert

with Solfrid Molland, Valentin Vasile, Georghe Vasile and Lars Tormod Jensen on stage, kindly sponsored by the Church of Norway. Lively and dynamic Roma music was played by the group and enjoyed by the participants



Annex 1: CCME Work Programme 2015-2017

As adopted by the 19th CCME General Assembly 28 June 2014

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A. WHERE WE COME FROM

"CCME is an ecumenical organisation that serves the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives."

(CCME Mission Statement, adopted at the General Assembly 2014)

1. Foundations of the work of CCME

1.1. 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).

1.2. 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.

1.3. CCME works in the broader context of the European and Global Ecumenical Movement. It therefore is bound to the Conference of European Churches in ever closer cooperation and eventually mutual integration, and cooperates closely with the World Council of Churches.

1.4. The CCME Mission Statement adopted by the 16th CCME Assembly in London, October 2005 continues to guide the work of the CCME. The terminology was however amended by the 19th CCME Assembly in Sigtuna, June 2014.

2. Mandate of CCME

The 19th CCME General Assembly 2014 has affirmed the mission and mandate of CCME:

- "CCME is an ecumenical organisation that serves the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives."
- CCME works 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.

3. Process towards this work programme

This work programme is the result of a participatory process: The CCME Jubilee in Frankfurt/M. in March 2014 formulated general recommendations for the life of CCME. Input was solicited from members with the invitation to the General Assembly in April 2014.

The General Assembly in Sigtuna 26-29 June 2014 discussed, amended and adopted this CCME work programme 2015-2017.

B. WHAT WE WILL BE DOING

Within its general mandate, CCME will seek to focus its activities on a limited number of strategic areas, in which it pro-actively engages with high quality contributions and potential for impact, rather than trying to address every issue of potential relevance. In other areas, CCME will facilitate contacts between its constituency and other actors leading on the issue, participate in coalitions led by others, or simply monitor without developing own activities. CCME will carefully evaluate if, as a European network with national member organisations, it is best placed to address a particular issue.

In its work CCME will work for coherence in the ecumenical witness in Europe. It will therefore, together with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches, engage in work on a number of cross-cutting themes. Within the wider ecumenical family CCME will also contribute to the monitoring of developments influencing the life of migrants, such as economic development, conflicts around the world, climate change.

CCME's work will both reflect a socio-political analysis of current contexts and theological reflection on migration.

CCME's work will reflect children's rights as a cross cutting issue.

Wherever possible, CCME will work in interregional cooperation particularly with advocacy or using interregional partners as resource persons.

CCME will establish a forward thinking group which will explore creative solutions to migration challenges.

1. Europe's role in refugee protection in the 21st century

1.1. The large majority of refugees are currently hosted by poorer countries in the world, many of them on the doorstep of Europe. In the 20th century, Europe was the scene of displacement but also of providing protection. New forms of displacement and forced migration (e.g. due to environmental degradation) will pose challenges in the years to come. Violent conflicts have in recent years erupted on Europe's doorsteps. Therefore, in the past years, the overall numbers of refugees in Europe has increased. At the same time, refugees find it increasingly difficult to access Europe, and access to effective protection is becoming increasingly difficult. Effective access to a fair and just asylum procedure for those in need of protection remains crucial. At the same time, the increasingly high numbers of refugees stranded on the doorsteps of Europe further

underline the need to extend solidarity to those refugees who will not be able to access European territory.

1.2. While the EU and its members states are formally committed to transposing the legal instruments establishing a Common European Asylum System, procedures and conditions for obtaining refugee status as well as recognition rates vary considerably across the EU. There is a need to further harmonise EU legislation and practice across EU member states. CCME will therefore as a priority inform the European Commission and European Parliament about practical experiences with implementing the CEAS in member states. In order to assist with practical cooperation in matters of asylum, CCME will continue its thematic cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office EASO.

1.3. The numbers of refugees and asylum seekers vary significantly between different European countries and the current "Dublin III" system of allocating responsibility for asylum claims places over-proportional responsibility on the EU member states - and non EU members - at the external border of the EU. CCME will therefore, particularly in the context of the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), further stimulate discussions on fair ways of sharing the responsibility for refugee protection among the EU member states. In this context, CCME will campaign for more solidarity between European States in responsibility sharing

1.4. CCME will take forwards initiatives to promote additional and meaningful forms of refugee protection; in particular the resettlement of refugees to Europe. The aim of the high quality resettlement of 20.000 refugees annually to the EU will guide CCME's efforts. CCME will, where possible in cooperation with partners from other regions, seek to strengthen the role of churches in promoting and implementing refugee resettlement.

1.5. CCME will focus on the issue of religious identity and persecution.

1.6. CCME will cooperate with WCC on the issue of statelessness.

1.7. CCME will monitor initiatives of UNHCR to redefine the need of protection in view of present challenges in refugee protection.

1.8. CCME will continue to represent CEC in ECRE.

2. Human Dignity in the process of labour migration

2.1. 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.

2.2. While they are welcome when (cheap) labour is needed, permanent settlement and participation in societies meet barriers and restrictions. In countries recovering from the economic crisis, a trend to increase labour migration can be observed, while migrants' status and rights remain uncertain. In many countries, migrants have become scapegoats for the consequences of the crisis. The right to family life for migrants is particularly under threat in many countries.

2.3. 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 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.

2.4. CCME will continue its advocacy for a uniform set of rights for all migrants in the debates on EU wide migration policies. In particular CCME will promote the ratification of binding legal instruments Europe-wide and globally.

2.5. In ecumenical cooperation CCME will underline the importance of the right to family life for migrants, both as a human right and as sine qua non of integration. CCME will in particular provide information to the European Commission on the implementation of the Commission's guidelines on implementing the EU Family Reunification directive.

2.6. CCME will continue to monitor and encourage the development of EU legislation on legal migration.

2.7. CCME will continue to support and facilitate exchange among members on monitoring of expulsion, detention and removal of migrants and recommend such activities to churches in Europe. In particular CCME will monitor and give input on implementing the (few) positive aspects of the EU return directive, particularly in view of the European Commission's plans for a handbook on the directive. The work will in particular focus on re-entry bans, monitoring of removals as well as detention conditions. If resources allow CCME will explore how practical cooperation with partners in other regions can be enhanced in this field.

2.8. CCME will continue the cooperation with children's rights organisations in their advocacy for the best interest of the child in return and removal procedures. CCME will organise for its membership a consultation on practical aspects of the best interest of the child determination in asylum and migration cases.

2.9. CCME will cooperate with CEC in following-up on the Council of Europe Social Charter Complaint against the Netherlands for not providing shelter and basic needs for migrants, thus creating unbearable and undignified situations of destitution.

2.10. CCME will, where appropriate, cooperate with the Platform for Information and Coordination on Undocumented Migrants PICUM in its work of addressing situations of migrants in irregular situation, and seek to involve CCME members in the work of broader platforms such as the International Detention Coalition on the issue of detention. CCME will continue to advocate for regularization and comprehensive perspectives of undocumented persons.

2.11. CCME will observe discussions on the freedom of movement of EU citizens and enable networking between members on the opportunities and difficulties associated with it.

3. Countering contemporary forms of slavery, in particular trafficking in human beings

3.1. 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 various forms of exploitation remains still a significant problem. Expertise on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation is fairly developed, but policy responses are still insufficient. Other forms of exploitation, e.g. forced labour are still a rather unknown field. Activities of civil society are still mainly focussed on areas of "damage control" such as prevention and assistance, with issues of rights and compensations often being side-lined.

3.2. The human rights of trafficked persons are generally still insufficiently protected. However, implementation of both legislation by the EU and the Council of Europe Convention and relevant jurisprudence offer opportunities to better protect the rights of trafficked persons.

3.3. The basis of the work and the rights-based approach of CCME against trafficking are laid down in the 2008 CCME position paper "if the son sets you free" on trafficking.

3.4. CCME will maintain its role as a centre of expertise for churches in Europe wishing to address trafficking in women. CCME will contribute to events organised by churches and Christian agencies across Europe and based on experiences from the field give input to European policy debates.

3.5. CCME will further develop expertise on patterns of labour trafficking and best practice to combat it – if possible in partnerships and with specific projects. Particular focus will be on the role of civil society organisation in identification of victims and on models of guaranteeing the access to rights, such as compensation.

3.6. CCME will explore possible connections between the disappearance of persons seeking asylum and trafficking

4. Uniting in Diversity: Migration as an opportunity and a challenge for the unity of the Church

4.1. There is an increasing awareness that migration is changing the ecclesial landscape in Europe: 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. The way churches in Europe manage to achieve the goal of uniting in diversity will in many ways determine the future of Christianity in Europe. The credibility of Christian witness for inclusive communities in Europe will largely be influenced by the way in which churches achieve inclusiveness in their own midst.

4.2. As one of its priorities CCME will further advance activities assisting and encouraging churches in Europe in the process of "Being Church Together" with "migrant churches" (including migrant-led, black majority and minority ethnic churches). Based on the updated study "Mapping Migration in Europe – Mapping Churches Responses", CCME will seek to enhance exchange on good and best practice.

4.3. CCME will seek to encourage input from ecumenical bodies on the specific role religion can play in integration of migrants and host societies. The theological reflection on migration will be encouraged by CCME.

4.4. CCME will cooperate with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe CPCE in elaborating recommendations for common worship with migrant churches.

5. Churches as witness to inclusive communities in Europe

5.1. Various forms of exclusion continue to exist in societies, some of which 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

minority ethnic persons are often marginalised. Anti-discrimination legislation provides an important instrument even if it also poses challenges.

5.2. CCME will maintain its involvement in anti-racism networks, both ecumenical and secular. It will in this context keep informed about anti-discrimination legislation and, where appropriate, contribute to its promotion in churches. Where possible CCME will participate in platforms for the Inclusion of ethnically discriminated groups within church and society.

5.3. CCME will organise an exchange on initiatives against right wing extremist groups, hate speech, xenophobia and racist attacks.

5.4. The issue of discrimination of Roma has in recent years received considerable attention. EU policy declarations have highlighted the need for decisive action by member states as well as the need for civil society involvement in overcoming the discrimination of Roma. Churches and Christian agencies in some countries have begun to address the issue in a more coherent fashion.

5.5. CCME will continue to enhance the cooperation with Eurodiaconia to develop synergies between the two organisations working in this field.

5.6. CCME will in particular continue to seek funding for a programme looking at the role of churches in overcoming the discrimination of Roma. Activities could include team visits and studies on acknowledging the role of the Roma community in national and church history.

5.7. In cooperation with other partners CCME will monitor discussions on migrants' integration. CCME will where appropriate contribute to them, based on the conviction that integration in all aspects is a two way process, that should include migrants' rights and anti-discrimination and should create a logic of better inclusion rather than pre-emptive exclusion of certain groups of (potential) migrants.

6. Migration and development

6.1. 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. The process around the Global Forum on Migration and Development has shown interest in the issue, but equally signalled the difficulty to get actors from both fields, migration and development, into communication.

6.2. 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.

6.3. CCME will continue to seek cooperation with APRODEV, its agencies and global bodies like ACT Alliance to monitor policy developments at European level. CCME will where possible advance project cooperation with partners from other regions in the area of migration and development, in particular with the network "Churches witnessing with migrants" and around the Global Forum on Migration and Development. One aspect of particular attention for CCME should be the development perspective of returning migrants.

7. (Beyond) Borders

7.1. Over the past two decades, known deaths and casualties at the European borders have constantly increased. The treatment of migrants and refugees at the EU's external border has become a litmus test for the humanity of Europe as a whole.

7.2. CCME and CEC will encourage their members to hold a day remembrance and intercession for persons who have lost their lives on their way to dignity and safety, e.g. on a Sunday around International Refugee Day in June.

7.3. With its members, CCME will develop a monitoring of the EU's Southern borders and promote policies providing safe access to Europe and legal migration possibilities for both asylum applicants and labour migrants.

7.4. CCME will continue its involvement in the Consultative Forum on fundamental rights of the EU border agency FRONTEX.

C. HOW WE WILL BE WORKING

1. Elements of planning

1.1. Potential activities of CCME will need to be evaluated against their potential:

- 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;
- 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 otherwise voiceless.

2. Planning stages

All activities need to be scrutinised in a process following a number of stages:

2.1. A thorough needs assessment,

2.2. Reflection on possible alternatives (e.g. other actors addressing issue, other working method),

2.3. Initial reflection on strategy and methodology of activity;

2.4. 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,

2.5. Reflection on how CCME activities would link to similar activities undertaken by other actors in the same thematic area,

2.6. Analysis of potential impact on CCME's advocacy work for refugees, migrants and minority ethnic people,

2.7. Identification of thematic and financial support, in particular among members and strategic partners,

2.8. Support for project methodology among members,

2.9. Adequate methods of impact assessment and evaluation will need to be developed.

3. Working mechanisms

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

3.1. *... to serve the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives.*

- Communication with CCME members: in this context CCME will further explore mechanisms of information sharing with and between members, e.g. through facebook;
- fora of exchange of members with European institution on matters of concern;
- working groups, ad hoc task forces and regional consultations convened by CCME members;
- trainings and project activities;
- visits;
- membership in and cooperation with follow up mechanisms to the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration of WCC.

3.2. 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.

3.3. 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
- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE
- UN (UNHCR, ILO)
- Global Forum on Migration and Development
- IOM

4. Partnerships

As ecumenical agency in Europe, CCME 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. Conference of European Churches CEC: CEC has decided in 2013 at its Budapest Assembly that asylum and migration as well as diaspora and migrant churches should be thematic priority areas for CEC. CCME will in the context of negotiations with CEC seek agreement how CCME can undertake or contribute to the overall work of CEC in these thematic areas.

b. World Council of Churches WCC: After the Busan Assembly 2013, WCC is currently setting its work priorities. CCME will seek agreement with WCC on future cooperation particularly with regard to interregional cooperation.

PARTNERSHIPS BEYOND THE MEMBERSHIP

c. within the European ecumenical family

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

d. In the global ecumenical family

- World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches.
- All Africa Conference of Churches, CLAI, Middle East Council of Churches, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program USA.

2. Secular partners

European Council on Refugees and Exiles ECRE

European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration EPAM

European Network Against Racism, ENAR

European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Life

Adopted by the CCME General Assembly on 28 June in Sigtuna/Sweden

Annex 2: CCME Budget 2015-2017

As adopted by the 19th General Assembly, 28 June 2014

CCME Budget 2015-2017

Ecumenical work on migration and integration, asylum and refugees and against racism and discrimination in Europe is recognised as important by the members of CCME and many others. Yet, churches in many countries, and even more so the ecumenical organisations, face challenges of identifying and finding the necessary resources and capacity for the identified tasks as the financial and economic crisis had an impact on churches' financial situations, too.

The attached budget seeks to strike a balance: The plans are largely based on experience of diverse funding opportunities over the past years. While more capacity would be desirable, a careful planning for expenses in the different working areas has been done.

To accomplish the CCME work programme 2015-2017, CCME members are requested also to help identify potential resources and capacities for the implementation of the work areas.

The overall budget is indicated for the three coming years. For the various work areas, more detailed annual budgets will be drawn up and decided by the ExCom.

Some projects co-funded by external donors have different durations than the CCME financial year. E.g. the FineTune project against trafficking in human beings has a contract until 2015; the application for the project on freedom of movement has been submitted, but the response is not yet received.

Expenses

Expenses are calculated largely based on actual figures of the past. Slight increases are planned for staff costs and travel, as these are likely to increase a bit.

Expenses for rent and charges are kept at the same level, as savings on energy and water costs after the renovation of the Ecumenical Center in Brussels are expected to balance rising costs.

Details for the distribution of costs between work areas are indicated in the 2015 detailed budget. A new analytical line has been included for "Safe passage". This budget line comprises work for refugee resettlement from crises situations, advocating for legal channels for migrants and refugees, and monitoring borders. To be effective and have an impact, the work area requires more partners and funds than are indicated in this budget: Ideally, with joint fundraising, capacity particularly for the Southern European members can be raised. The budget only contains direct CCME expenses and income.

Income

While recognising difficulties, the ambition and aim to raise the membership contributions to cover the general functions of CCME is maintained. In the same direction, and against the trend, the line for general contributions is maintained: This will be vital to ensure necessary co-funding for e.g. EU funded projects, which do not only enable CCME to undertake important tasks according the work programme, but also build capacity for members and partners in these fields.



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

Budget 2015-2017 (comparison 2014)

GA 2014
as adopted

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Expenditure				
Salaries and related costs	265.000,00 €	298.000,00 €	300.000,00 €	300.000,00 €
Rent and upkeep of office	21.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
Equipment and services	4.500,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
Services incl. Accounting	22.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
Telephone/Postage	9.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.600,00 €
Photocopies	6.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.600,00 €	4.600,00 €
Office supplies	5.000,00 €	4.000,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €
ExCom Travel	12.000,00 €	12.000,00 €	12.500,00 €	13.000,00 €
Staff Travel	20.000,00 €	18.000,00 €	19.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	10.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
Working Groups/Task Forces	10.000,00 €	4.000,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €
CCME General Assembly	25.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	25.000,00 €
Meetings	50.000,00 €	60.000,00 €	70.000,00 €	50.000,00 €
	<u>460.500,00 €</u>	<u>475.000,00 €</u>	<u>489.600,00 €</u>	<u>491.200,00 €</u>
Income				
Memberships	135.000,00 €	135.000,00 €	135.000,00 €	135.000,00 €
General Grants	61.500,00 €	90.000,00 €	85.000,00 €	85.000,00 €
CEC contribution	32.000,00 €	40.000,00 €	45.000,00 €	50.000,00 €
Assembly fees and grants	15.000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	15.000,00 €
Earmarked grants	92.000,00 €	115.000,00 €	134.600,00 €	116.200,00 €
EU grants	125.000,00 €	95.000,00 €	90.000,00 €	90.000,00 €
	<u>460.500,00 €</u>	<u>475.000,00 €</u>	<u>489.600,00 €</u>	<u>491.200,00 €</u>



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

CCME Budget 2015

CCME GA 2014
as adopted

2015 Budget Breakdown

Expenditure	General	Fundraising	Net-working, member-ship dev	Refugee	Safe Passage	Trafficking	Formidable	Migrant churches	Roma	Migdev	Removals/ detention	Total
Salaries and related costs	68.000,00	5.000,00	22.300,00	32.000,00	55.000,00	45.000,00	48.000,00	5.000,00	8.000,00	2.500,00	7.200,00	298.000,00
Rent and upkeep of office	12.500,00	500,00	1.500,00	3.500,00	1.500,00	500,00						20.000,00
Equipment and services	2.500,00	200,00	1.300,00	200,00	800,00							5.000,00
Services incl. accounting	10.000,00		1.000,00		1.000,00	1.000,00	1.000,00	500,00	5.000,00		500,00	20.000,00
Telephone/Postage	1.200,00	800,00	1.500,00	300,00				200,00	500,00			4.500,00
Photocopies	800,00	200,00	1.000,00	500,00	500,00	700,00		300,00	500,00			4.500,00
Office supplies	2.600,00	100,00	1.000,00	300,00								4.000,00
ExCom Travel	10.000,00		2.000,00									12.000,00
Staff Travel	1.000,00		4.000,00	1.000,00	2.000,00	1.000,00	6.000,00	500,00	1.000,00	1.000,00	500,00	18.000,00
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	700,00	1.200,00	4.900,00	200,00	6.000,00	7.000,00						20.000,00
Working Groups/Task Forces	1.500,00		500,00		1.000,00				1.000,00			4.000,00
CCME General Assembly	5.000,00											5.000,00
Meetings	20.000,00		4.000,00	2.000,00	15.000,00	16.000,00		2.000,00	1.000,00			60.000,00
Total	135.800,00	8.000,00	45.000,00	40.000,00	82.800,00	71.200,00	55.000,00	8.500,00	17.000,00	3.500,00	8.200,00	475.000,00

Income	General	Fundraising	Networking	Refugee	Safe Passage	Trafficking	Formidable	Migrant church	Roma	MigDev	Removals	Total
Memberships	105.800,00	4.000,00	5.000,00		5.500,00		5.000,00	1.000,00	2.000,00	1.500,00	5.200,00	135.000,00
General Grants	10.000,00	4.000,00	28.500,00		10.000,00	10.000,00	6.000,00	7.500,00	12.000,00		2.000,00	90.000,00
CEC Contribution refugee				40.000,00								40.000,00
GA contributions and grant												0,00
Earmarked	20.000,00		11.500,00		40.000,00	5.200,00			3.000,00	2.000,00	1.000,00	82.700,00
Project partner contributions					27.300,00	5.000,00						32.300,00
EU grants						51.000,00	44.000,00					95.000,00
Total	135.800,00	8.000,00	45.000,00	40.000,00	82.800,00	71.200,00	55.000,00	8.500,00	17.000,00	3.500,00	8.200,00	475.000,00

Annex 3: Resolution CEC-CCME

The future ecumenical work on migration of CCME and CEC

Resolution of the 19th CCME General Assembly, Sigtuna, 26-29 June 2014

“Christians are migrants by vocation!” This conclusion from biblical reflections on migration in the Year of European Churches Responding to Migration 2010 remains valid, whatever configuration churches and church-related organisations will find appropriate. It is a reminder and a calling at the same time: Christians are called to identify themselves with the migrants and refugees, with minority ethnic people, not only the well-off ones, but particularly those at the margins. The gift of diversity is a challenging one: often diversity is (mis-) understood as dividing and as a punishment; discovering that diversity is indeed a blessing requires reflection and commitment.

Globally, migration has become a reality for societies. Churches at all levels, local, national, regional, continental and global, and to various degrees seek to find appropriate responses: welcoming migrants and refugees, provide social and legal assistance, improve the conditions of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons, advocate vis-à-vis political institutions and society at large for a humane and just migration and asylum framework and for inclusive policies.

CCME and the Conference of European Churches

Since 1999, the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe, the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches have cooperated based on a negotiated agreement. It was hoped to foster closer cooperation through CCME forming a Commission of CEC.

In 2013, the Assembly of the Conference of European Churches has opted for a different structure not foreseeing Commissions as working instruments.

The CCME Assembly has received and welcomed the report of the CCME General Secretary on the future ecumenical work on migration of CCME and CEC elaborated after the first meeting of the negotiation group between CEC and CCME.

The CCME Assembly welcomes the decisions of the CEC Assembly to include migration and asylum work under the aims and objectives of the new CEC. CCME members share the conviction expressed in this decision that migration and asylum, as well as work with and on diaspora and migrant churches are indeed of core relevance for the work of ecumenical organisations in Europe and beyond.

The CCME Assembly took note of the three scenarios discussed in the negotiation group between CEC and CCME. The CCME GA agrees that any scenario for the future cooperation shall be measured by the common aim,

- to enhance and strengthen the visible witness of churches, Councils of Churches, black and migrant churches as well as church-related agencies with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons.

Therefore the CCME Assembly appreciates the first initiative for finding an agreement between CCME and CEC, as was expressed in the Message by the CEC President Christopher Hill transmitted to the CCME Assembly by the Vice President of CEC, Very Rev. Karin Burstrand.

In the light of the report by the CCME General Secretary, the message from CEC and the recommendations elaborated by the working group during the assembly, the CCME Assembly resolves:

- CCME appreciates the agreement with CEC that the aim of integration and/or cooperation is to strengthen the churches' common witness and service ... "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 reiterates that any scenario has to provide the space for CCME members who are not and cannot be members of CEC according to CEC' constitution to participate and contribute in a meaningful way in the future ecumenical work on migration;
- CEC and CCME shall jointly look for improved visibility for this commonly defined area of work to facilitate broad participation by the members of CEC and CCME to better serve the aims of working for inclusive policies;
- Accountability and trust, mutuality have been key words throughout the negotiation process between CEC and CCME. This requires good and reliable information sharing, and regular exchange and agreement on procedures.
- Effective witness and service with and for migrants, refugees, minority ethnic persons requires capacity and secure funding. Therefore clear agreement between CCME and CEC needs to be reached to share the work and resources in a mutually agreed way.

I. Scenarios:

- I. The scenario 1: **Incorporation** of CCME's work and property in CEC - Dissolution of CCME was not regarded as providing the necessary conditions for giving visibility for effective work in the areas of migration and asylum, and therefore not considered an option.
- II. For the second scenario, "CCME in CEC – **"two in one"** or **"one in two"** not all aspects have yet been clear, as following the Budapest Assembly CEC is currently in transition. If and when questions like membership and others are clarified this could turn into an option, when CEC could adopt a working model allowing the existence of an agency/entity inside its structure. This model would enhance that both organisations, while remaining legally separate, are seen and governed as one.

III. A third scenario consists of **enhanced cooperation** between CCME and CEC.

The CCME Assembly favours the third scenario taking into consideration a possible passage towards scenario two, and mandates the ExCom of CCME to negotiate a new

agreement of cooperation with the CEC governing board, initially for the next three years. This could be done in the CEC framework of agreements with “organisations in partnership”.

The agreement of cooperation should stipulate common areas of work and clear budget agreements between both organisations. It is understood, that such an agreement will formulate rights and responsibilities of both organisations vis-à-vis the other. Therefore, building of mutual trust will be necessary. The CCME Assembly commits CCME to sharing relevant information with CEC and recommends to the CEC governing board to ensure appropriate information flows. Common working methods and mechanism will have to be agreed upon.

The CCME Assembly hopes that the negotiation group between CCME and CEC can elaborate the content of a cooperation agreement on behalf of the ExCom and Governing Board. The Assembly recommends that

- An evaluation of the cooperation is undertaken in the second half of 2016 in order to make available recommendations to CEC and CCME 6 months prior to the CCME Assembly 2017.

Annex 4: CCME Message WCC

CCME Assembly message to WCC Central Committee meeting, 1-8 July 2014, Geneva

Dear Presidents and General Secretary of the World Council of Churches,
Your Eminences,
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you assemble for the first time as Central Committee after the WCC Assembly in Busan 2013, the 19th Assembly of CCME, meeting at Sigtuna, Sweden from 26-29 June 2014, wishes to send its best wishes and greetings to your meeting.

This year CCME is celebrating 50 years of its ecumenical work on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and against racism and discrimination. At the celebratory conference held in Frankfurt/Main, Germany at the end of March 2014, we were reminded by the vice-moderator of CCME, Dr Antonios Papantoniou, who had also been present at CCME's founding conference in Arnoldshain 1964, of the WCC initiatives and decisions to form this ecumenical committee. The World Council of Churches deserves credit for taking this initiative in the 1960s. In CCME we have - and do - cherished the strong connections and relations existing with the World Council of Churches ever since.

Of course, over 50 years ecumenical organisations, the ecclesial landscape, countries and societies have changed, and so have CCME, the World Council of Churches, the Conference of European Churches, and other regional organisations. Migration trends and patterns have changed, too. By its very nature migration means people crossing borders, and the CCME Assembly is convinced that only by strengthening our common work and response, the Christian witness together with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people can bear fruit.

The CCME Assembly has discussed the theme "Crossing Borders – at what price?" at the opening of the Assembly, and CCME appreciated the contributions from representatives of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Middle East Council of Churches. The current crises situations in and around Syria and Iraq, Eritrea and Nigeria, to name but a few, have led to yet another refugee crisis of enormous and challenging scale.

In CCME we recognise that many of our members are responding to these challenges, as also church-related agencies have done in providing assistance to refugee camps in many countries, taking in and caring for refugees.

While we recognise efforts of some states to increase humanitarian responses and refugee resettlement, we nevertheless deplore the many persons who lose their lives on their way seeking refuge.

Thus, in CCME as in many of our member churches and organisations, and as we learn also in the other regions, we are searching for meaningful and effective cooperation

- Combining and enhancing the services for the protection of refugees, asylum, refugee resettlement and emergency humanitarian responses, in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and governmental authorities. In this respect CCME together with the International Catholic Migration Commission and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles has issued a call to European governments meeting at the UNHCR Annual Tripartite Consultations in Geneva on 27 June 2014.
- Keeping together advocacy vis-à-vis governments and authorities with the services provided by churches and church-related agencies;
- Giving more visibility and capacity to this important area of churches' witness and service. As we were told in a presentation in the conference "Beyond Borders" is a calling to overcome the trend to fence our societies into gated communities. Reaching out to the persons at the margins, beyond the borders, means rebuilding relationships and overcoming fears. Thus, we believe these are essential themes relating to peace and justice, as "the other is my neighbour".

We attach the statement from the CCME Assembly, wish for good deliberations in and God's blessings for the work of the WCC Central Committee, as we hope and trust we will together be able to foster our ecumenical cooperation in the coming period.

With our best wishes and greetings,

Dr Victoria Kamondji
Moderator of CCME

Doris Peschke
General Secretary

Annex 5: CCME Mission Statement

CCME is an ecumenical organisation that serves the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives.

Adopted by the 19th CCME General Assembly, 28 June 2014

Annex 6: Public Message: „A Call for a change of attitudes regarding migration in accordance with European values.“

Europe is enriched and shaped as it is today because of historical patterns of movement and settlement of people; migration has always been part of human existence. However, more people than ever are currently on the move as a result of conflicts, environmental degradation, lack of future for themselves and their families. While most refugees are internally displaced persons or find temporary shelter in neighbouring countries, many lose their lives trying to cross borders. Meanwhile European countries are constantly increasing barriers of security measures for those in need of protection, becoming a “gated community”. Its responses can be described as incoherent, divided, selfish and inhumane.

25 years after the Berlin Wall came down we see many new walls built. Even more internal borders have been set up within Europe preventing people from free movement and social inclusion. This applies particularly to minority groups. Some of these borders are visible, some are invisible. Fears have been fuelled and exploited in order to justify the reinforcement of borders. This has led to even higher walls and more repressive measures, such as the systematic use of detention as well as the inhumane and degrading treatment of detainees.

As churches and church related agencies we therefore call for a change of attitudes regarding migration in accordance with common European values. This also implies a truly human approach to refugee protection in line with the relevant European and international conventions. This includes legal and secure access to Europe for those in need of protection.

We advocate for a Common European Asylum System including decent reception conditions as well as a Common European Resettlement Scheme that puts the human being and his/her dignity at the centre of the processes. Therefore, we call upon the European governments to embark upon policies that aim to address the main causes for forced migration.

We urge the European governments to take responsibility in particular for the situation of minors, the most vulnerable group, who are often deprived of basic stability, a full family life and education.

As members of CCME we commit ourselves to continue to go beyond borders and to pull down walls of separation. In the same perspective we call on churches in Europe to value diversity, to promote inclusive communities within their own structures and in the wider society.

CCME Assembly, Sigtuna, Sweden, 28 June 2014

Annex 7: Voting distribution at 19th General Assembly

	Country	Member organisation	Total votes
1	Austria	Diakonie Austria	3
2	Belgium	Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique	3
3	Cyprus	Church of Cyprus	3
4	Czech Republic	Ecumenical Commission for Refugees in the Czech Republic	3
5	Finland	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	3
6		Finnish Ecumenical Council *	
7		Orthodox Church of Finland *	
8	France	Fédération Protestante de France	3
9		La Cimade	
10	Germany	Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)	3
11		Diakonie Deutschland	
12	Greece	Church of Greece	3
13	Hungary	Reformed Church in Hungary	3
14	Italy	Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI)	3
15	Netherlands	Council of Churches in the Netherlands	3
16		Protestant Church in the Netherlands	
17	Norway	Church of Norway	3
18	Romania	Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)	3
19		AIDRom-Ecumenical Association in Romania	

	Country	Member organisation	Total votes
20	Slovakia	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia	3
21	Spain	Evangelical Church in Spain	3
22	Sweden	Church of Sweden	3
23		Christian Council of Sweden	
24	Switzerland	Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (SEK/FEPS)	3
25	United Kingdom	CTBI-Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	5
26		Methodist Church of Great Britain	
27		Council of African & Caribbean Churches	
28		Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches	
29		Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches*	
30		Conference of European Churches (CEC)	2
31		World Council of Churches (WCC)	2
Total votes			60

*New members who received voting rights after being accepted by the Assembly

Annex 8: Participants in the 19th CCME Assembly

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Church/Organisation
1	Mr.	Andreas Henriksen	Aarflot	Church of Norway
2	Rev	John	Adegoke	Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim Church, UK
3	Revd	Dorritt Stewart	Akinbobola	Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches, UK
4	Ms	Elisabeth	Almesjö	Church of Sweden
5	Ms	Semegnish	Asfaw Grosjean	WCC World Council of Churches
6	Mr	Johannes	Brandstätter	Diakonie Deutschland
7	Mag	Michael	Bubik	DIAKONIE Austria
8	Very Rev	Karin	Burstrand	CEC Conference of European Churches
9	Revd Dr	Rui Manuel	Calvalho-Narciso	Liga Evangelica Missionaria, Portugal
10	Rev	Björn	Cedersjö	Christian Council of Sweden
11	Mr	Lemma	Desta	Church of Norway
12	Ms	Franca	Di Lecce	Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy FCEI
13	Ms	Seta	Hadeshian	Middle East Council of Churches MECC
14	Ms	Kristina	Hellqvist	Church of Sweden
15	Rev	Heikki	Huttunen	Ecumenical Council in Finland
16	Rev	Nektarios	Ioannou	Church of Cyprus
17	Rev Dr	Darrell	Jackson	CCME consultant/Morling College, Australia
18	Ms	Minea	Kaartinen	Steward, Ecumenical Council in Finland
19	Mr	Emmanuel	Kabalisa	CCME staff
20	Dr	Victoria	Kamondji Johnston	French Protestant Federation / CIMADE
21	Ms	Dóra	Kanizsai-Nagy	Reformed Church in Hungary
22	Ms	Tabitha	Kentaro Sabiiti	All Africa Conference of Churches
23	Deacon	Vida	Kessey	Ecumenical Council in Finland

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Church/Organisation
24	Mr	Edouard	Kibongui Kanza	CEC Conference of European Churches
25	Mr	Sven Thore	Kloster	Church of Norway
26	Ms	Marja-Liisa	Laihia	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
27	Rev	Thorsten	Leisser	Evangelical Church in Germany-EKD
28	Rev	Peter Sorie	Mansaray	Evangelical Church in Germany-EKD
29	Ms	Vera	Melucci	CCME intern
30	Ms	Solfrid	Molland	Musician/ Norway
31	Dr	Torsten	Moritz	CCME staff
32	Ms	Elizabeth	Nasimbwa	Church of Sweden
33	Ms	Imogen	O' Rourke	CCME intern
34	Apostle	Adejare	Oyewole	Council of African & Caribbean Churches, UK
35	Dr	Antonios	Papantoniou	Church of Greece
36	Ms	Efthalia	Pappa	KSPM ERP Church of Greece
37	Ms	Alessia	Passarelli	CCME consultant
38	Ms	Doris	Peschke	CCME staff
39	Ms	Lena Victoria	Peschke	Steward, Belgium
40	Rev	Cristian	Popescu	Ecumenical Commission on Refugees, Czech Republic
41	Rev	Tapani	Rantala	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
42	Ms	Tetty	Rooze	United Protestant Church in Belgium
43	Mr	Simon	Röthlisberger	Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches-SEK/FEPS
44	Mr	Razvan	Samoila	Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants-ARCA
45	Rev	Jenny	Sjögreen	Church of Sweden
46	Ms	Elena	Timofticiuc	Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania – AIDRom

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Church/Organisation
47	Mr	Lars	Tormod Jensen	Musician/Norway
48	Dr	Jan	van der Kolk	Council of Churches in the Netherlands
49	Mr	Gheorghe	Vasile	Musician/Norway
50	Mr	Valentin	Vasile	Musician/Norway
51	Ms	Geesje	Werkman	Protestant Churches in The Netherlands
52	Ms	Pat	White	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
53	Mr	Michael	Williams	Church of Sweden

Annex 9: Conference Programme 26th June 2014

Crossing borders - at what price? Sigtunastiftelsen, Sweden, Thursday 26th June 2014

9.00 Welcome to Sigtuna and Morning Prayer:

Alf Linderman, Director Sigtunastiftelsen
Karin Wiborn, Secretary General, Christian Council of Sweden,
Bishop Åke Bonnier, Church of Sweden

9.30-12.30 Public conference

100 years after national borders were installed it is more difficult than ever to enter Europe, especially for those seeking to escape persecution and war. Despite the EU's ever increasing budget for keeping people out it seems that border surveillance and walls cannot prevent people from coming. It rather moves the migration routes to other borders and makes border crossing even more risky and costly. Many of those who attempt to enter Europe never arrive but die at sea or are pushed back to insecurity, war or conflict areas.

What are feasible measures for granting safe entry to Europe for those in need? How can we prevent people losing their lives at the EU borders? Can we imagine a world where we invest less in borders and more in protection, reception and integration?

9.30 European borders and human consequences - state of play

- David Qviström, Swedish journalist and author of the new book "Nyttiga människor" ("Profitable People")
- Meron Estefanos, Swedish-Eritrean journalist and Human Rights' activist

10.30 Coffee/tea break

11.00 European borders and human consequences - a theological reflection

- Rev. Håkan Sandvik, Church of Sweden

11.20 Crossing borders – Churches' views and actions, panel discussion

- Seta Hadesian, Middle East Council of Churches
- Tabitha Kentaro Sabiiti, All Africa Conference of Churches
- Doris Peschke, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Welcome to the 19th CCME General Assembly,
Victoria Kamondji, Moderator of CCME

Message from World Council of Churches,
WCC President for Europe Archbishop emeritus Anders Wejryd – video message

Message by the Vice President of the **Conference of European Churches**,
Very Rev. Karin Burstrand

14.15 **Mapping Migration in Europe:** Presentation of preliminary findings of the new study
Darrell Jackson, Alessia Passarelli

15.00 Coffee/tea break

15.30 Parallel workshops with GA delegates and guests

1. **Our God is undocumented.** How can we articulate our faith in times of xenophobia and racism? Presentations and sharing of good practices in working with theology as a tool for countering racism and exclusive nationalism.
2. **Make Space!** How do we welcome refugees and migrants in our societies? How do we make space in our churches and in our cities? Presentations and sharing of good practices in actions for a welcoming community and a welcoming church that - in different ways - provide space.
3. **Because I believe.** Faith can lead to the need of protection. How can churches contribute to religious literacy among migration authorities and provide faith-sensitive country-information? How do we relate to persons that convert to Christianity during the asylum process? Presentations and sharing of good practices regarding faith and protection.
4. **In limbo.** More and more people all over Europe end up as undocumented. Some cannot "go home" because they are no longer welcome in their country of origin or because of an on-going war. Others face a Kafka-like bureaucracy for keeping their documents valid. How do we act when more and more people around us are stuck in limbo, being neither able to stay nor to leave? Presentations and sharing of good practices.
5. **The right to have rights.** When pointing to the problem of statelessness, Hannah Arendt stated that the most central of all rights is the right to have rights. What is the state of play when it comes to statelessness today and what can we do about it? A policy discussion.

17.30 End of Workshops

18.00 Devotion in Maria Church, Sigtuna (the oldest brick church in Sweden, 13th Century) on the theme "Beyond borders" Sermon by Karin Wiborn, Christian Council of Sweden

