Conference of European Churches

Governing Board
Brussels, 22-24 November 2018

Draft CEC Strategic Plan: 2019-2023
Together in Hope and Witness

AIM 1: CEC promotes peace, justice and reconciliation in Europe

Building peace and reconciliation in Europe	Contributing to the future of Europe	Supporting interreligious dialogue	Educating on diversity and plurality
CEC will ✓ work on current issues related to peace, security, and reconciliation in Europe (e.g., organise a peace conference in 2019) ✓ follow European political developments regarding peace, security, and military solutions ✓ strengthen churches' competence in the field of reconciliation ✓ provide broader theologically grounded understanding on how to deal with polarising discussions ✓ share the best practices of Member Churches in the field of reconciliation ✓ work on Christian approaches to fear dissatisfaction, and insecurity ✓ promote solidarity and mutual justice ✓ discuss nationalism in relation to ecclesiology ✓ reflect on the sense of non-participation and marginalisation in relation to democracy ✓ provide and exchange best practices for Member Churches on how to strengthen democracy, human rights and rule of law, to respond to xenophobia, populism and nationalism within the church framework	CEC will ✓ work on a new narrative for Europe (e.g., organise a conference on a new narrative for Europe) ✓ discuss the future of Europe under the motto "unity in diversity" ✓ strengthen a theological understanding of social and ecological justice in Europe ✓ reflect on the issue of EU internal migration ✓ follow broader political developments in the European Continent (e.g. Brexit, entry of Balkan states to the EU))	CEC will ✓ apply the commitments of *Charta Œcumenica* and strengthen dialogue with Islam, Judaism, and other religions ✓ contribute to the shaping of a Theology of Religions ✓ address anti-religious prejudice, including Antisemitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia in Europe ✓ share best practices, create a network of church representatives involved in interreligious matters * Staff needed	CEC will ✓ empower its Member Churches in the discussion about diversity and pluralism in our societies ✓ monitor and contribute to current developments in intercultural education and dialogue policies (e.g., *Competences for Democratic Culture* program of the Council of Europe) ✓ develop Intercultural learning on the basis of an ecumenical project to enable Member Churches to become bridge builders ✓ discuss the issue of education on religions in school

AIM 2: CEC deepens church communion and ecumenical fellowship

Seeking growth as an ecumenical church fellowship	Continuing the theological dialogue	Being Church together with migrant and minority churches	Acting with ecumenical partners in Europe
CEC will ✓ provide space for dialogue and encounter (e.g., by organising regional church meetings on ecumenical, ecclesiological and ethical issues, and by organising a kind of "Erasmus program" of a different length, exploring the possibility of European funding) ✓ commit itself to strengthen Member Churches' participation in CEC ✓ develop a communications strategy enhancing the churches' fellowship, especially in creating a network of communicators ✓ raise participation in at least one CEC program in 2019-2023 to at least 100 Member Churches ✓ increase cooperation with Member Churches (e.g., organise an annual meeting of ecumenical officers; enhance cooperation with National Councils of Churches by organising an annual meeting) ✓ offer training to church leaders and ecumenical officers on ecumenism with elements on specificities on European context, specific ecumenical agreements, and so on ✓ organise regular meetings with Organisations in Partnership	CEC will ✓ reflect on our different ecclesiologies and understanding of "communion" ✓ reflect on our different cultural contexts and church relations with nation and state ✓ carry out an inventory of the theological dialogue between and among Member Churches and identify priorities and key questions of concern, working theologically on common relevant topics ✓ encourage further reflection on Christian witness and evangelisation in a secularised society ✓ deepen the theological foundation of CEC programs	CEC and CCME will ✓ organise conversations and cooperation between European churches on migration and displacement ✓ intensify and enhance ecumenical cooperation and fellowship at national and European levels with migrant and minority ethnic churches ✓ discuss ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe in dialogue with ecclesiologies of 'migrant' churches ✓ reflect on the impact of the changing religious landscape (new Churches, other religions) on the self-understanding of churches	CEC will ✓ build further on existing work with CCEE, particularly on *Charta Œcumenica* and populism ✓ strengthen cooperation with COMECE, especially to improve the functioning of the dialogue in the framework of TFEU Art 17. ✓ strengthen cooperation with and give expression to our relationship with inter-confessional partners in Europe (e.g., engaging young theologians with their work and common history, annual training, Global Christian Forum, especially in the regional level) ✓ clarify and strengthen the relations with WCC, contribute to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and cooperate in preparing their assembly in Karlsruhe

AIM 3: CEC raises the Churches voice in Europe and toward the European Institutions

Continuing and strengthening the dialogue with the European Institutions (European Union, Council of Europe)	Promoting human rights and freedom of religion or belief as essential for justice and human societies	Advancing economic and ecological justice	Analysing and reflecting on the issue of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and human dignity	Monitoring and engaging with science, bioethics and technology	Defending the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seeker with CCME, according to our agreement
CEC will ✓contribute to high level meetings in the European Institutions, work for a better effectiveness of the dialogue (Art 17) and develop dialogue seminars in cooperation with COMECE ✓monitor the work of the European Institutions and engage in advocacy on CEC's strategic priorities ✓contribute proactively to faith networks and networks of NGOs ✓meet with the EU presidency in cooperation with local Member Churches.	CEC will ✓help to broaden its Member Churches' understanding of human rights and advance their implementation ✓support its members in cases of human rights conflicts or violations, especially concerning freedom of religion or belief ✓provide expertise on human rights issues, in particular freedom of religion or belief, by institutional and political actors (European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN)	CEC will ✓work to increase engagement of Member Churches in care of creation and global sustainable development and sustain the ECEN network ✓advocate at the European level for an alternative and sustainable economy ✓work together in effective cooperation with other ecumenical actors (WCC, organisations in partnership from civil society) ✓monitor and contribute to the development, the discussion and the European political decision making on the changes (or future) of work in Europe	CEC, in cooperation with CPCE, will ✓provide an inventory of the questions linked to this issue ✓organise a conference on the subject ✓collect the churches' views on this issue ✓produce a theological reflection document and orientation guide * Staff needed	CEC will ✓create a network to enable Member Churches to participate in the ethical, social and theological debate relating to science, bioethics, and technology ✓monitor and respond to policy developments in the European Institutions (in particular the Council of Europe) in these areas	CEC and CCME will ✓advocate and network to enable safe and legal access to Europe for those in need of protection ✓defend international refugee protection in Europe and EU member states ✓advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system of migration to Europe based on fundamental rights of migrants ✓address the protection of those groups discriminated against in the context of ethnic, social, racial, religious and gender-based exclusion ✓provide a space for dialogue where there are divergent views among Member Churches on the

					consequences of migration to Europe and within Europe

* There is no specific field of work on youth. The involvement of young people will be ensured through an effective presence in all working groups and conferences and regular meetings with representatives.
* There will be a work on a global communication strategy.

Acronyms

CCEE	Council of European Bishops' Conferences	CPCE	Community of Protestant Churches in Europe
COMECE	Commission of Bishop's Conferences in the European Union	WCC	World Council of Churches
		OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CALL	Church Action on Labour and Life	ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network
ICCS	Intereuropean Commission on Church and School		
CCME	Churches' Commission on Migrants in Europe		