



Conference of European Churches  
Conférence des Églises européennes  
Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen  
Конференция Европейских Церквей

GENSEC-2019-007

To  
Member Churches  
Organisations in Partnership  
National Councils of Churches

Brussels, 18 January 2019

Respected church leaders,  
Sisters and brothers in Christ,

At the beginning of the new year and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we send you our cordial greetings from the CEC offices in Brussels and Strasbourg. We turn to the CEC constituency with an important question regarding our strategic plan for the new mandate period that started with the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly.

The Novi Sad General Assembly approved the new CEC constitution in its final form, adapted to Belgian legislation, thus marking the conclusion of a long period of renewal in our organisation leading to the new CEC. We now have the opportunity to turn to strategic planning and concrete work according to the needs of the churches, the challenges of the broader European context, and the vision of the Ecumenical Movement. The decisions of the General Assembly, in particular the reports on Strategy and Policy as well as Public Issues, offered the basis for a Strategic Plan, which the Governing Board developed in its November 2018 meeting.

The strategic plan is organised according to the theme for the five-year period leading to the next General Assembly – *Together in Hope and Witness* – and has three main aims:

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

**AIM 2: CEC deepens church communion and ecumenical fellowship**

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

#### BRUSSELS

Rue Joseph II, 174  
BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
tel.: +32 2 230 17 32  
fax: +32 2 231 14 13  
e-mail: [cec@cec-kek.be](mailto:cec@cec-kek.be)

#### STRASBOURG

8, rue du Fossé des Treize  
FR-67000 Strasbourg, France  
tel.: +33 3 88 15 27 60  
fax: +33 3 88 15 27 61  
e-mail: [cec-strasbourg@cec-kek.be](mailto:cec-strasbourg@cec-kek.be)

[www.ceceurope.org](http://www.ceceurope.org)



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We present here this plan to our Member Churches, Organisations in Partnership, and National Councils of Churches for consultation, feedback, and possible proposals. **We will be grateful to receive your contributions by 31 March 2019 to [cec@cec-kek.be](mailto:cec@cec-kek.be).**

Conscious of the major challenges that Europe is facing in these demanding times, this Strategic Plan is purposefully ambitious. Its full implementation will require additional human resources – we are developing some promising initiatives – and clear prioritising by the Governing Board.

The Strategic Plan is complemented by the creation of a working group with the task to develop a communication plan for CEC by the end of 2019. This is why communication is not prominently mentioned in the document.

In general, the Governing Board is determined to follow one of the main aspects of the General Assembly—the enhanced presence of young people in the working groups and practices of CEC. The aim is 20% of persons of the age 18 to 30 in all our thematic groups, task forces, and events. The same principle of balanced participation needs to be strengthened also in terms of gender, disability and other varied experiences in the life of the churches.

Looking forward to Your response,

We remain

Yours in Christ

Rev Christian Krieger  
President

Fr Heikki Theodoros Huttunen  
General Secretary

Enclosure: Draft CEC Strategic Plan 2019-2023

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BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
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fax: +32 2 231 14 13  
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[www.ceceurope.org](http://www.ceceurope.org)