



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

beyond borders

since 1964

Report

20th CCME General Assembly

22-25 June 2017

Prague, Czech Republic



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MINUTES OF THE 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME)

Thursday 22nd June 2017

Churches' Role in the Integration of Refugees and Migrants

The 20nd General Assembly of CCME was held in Prague, Czech Republic from 22-25 June 2017. A public conference preceding the Assembly was organised jointly with the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren on 22 June 2017 with the theme: The Churches' Role in the Integration of Refugees and Migrants. A conference programme is annexed.



Opening of the General Assembly

In the evening, participants were welcomed by the Moderator of CCME, Victoria Kamondji Johnston, who opened the business session of the Assembly. She thanked the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) for hosting this 20th General Assembly. Greetings were received by Ms Eva Grollova from Diakonie ECCB. She thanked the General Assembly for its encouragement and inspiration, as it gives hope. She wished that each member will send this hope to colleagues and people back home.

Roll call

Victoria Kamondji Johnston called out all members and the names of the respective delegates. It was noted that the Swiss member was absent and had transferred the votes to the one of the German delegates of EKD. The Slovak member was missing and had not notified a transfer of votes. A quorum was attained with a total number of 57 votes out of 60.

Victoria Kamondji Johnston continued by welcoming the guests present.

Message on behalf of the Conference of European Churches

Fr Heikki Huttunen, General Secretary of CEC, introduced the Message from the President of CEC to the CCME Assembly and underlined the importance of finding structures which are appropriate for the work at hand.

Message on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation

Rev Dr Ireneusz Lukas representing the Lutheran World Federation addressed the General Assembly emphasising the existing cooperation.

Adoption Assembly agenda

Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME, explained the distribution of votes in the General Assembly and introduced the draft agenda.

No amendment to the agenda was suggested. It was unanimously adopted.



Membership applications

The Moderator stated that the General Assembly would decide on memberships individually on each applicant. She invited representatives of the organisations applying for membership to introduce their organisations.

David Bradwell introduced the membership application of the Church of Scotland, the two main reasons for applying being the current European situation on migration and the particular situation of the United Kingdom leaving the EU. Following the recommendation of the ExCom the motion to admit the Church of Scotland as member was adopted by the General Assembly with 57 YES votes.

Doris Peschke excused Churches Together in Wales as no representative could be present. She explained the membership application motivated by similar reasons as the ones of the

Church of Scotland. Following the recommendation of the ExCom, a unanimous decision to admit Churches Together in Wales was adopted by the General Assembly with 57 YES votes.

Michael N. Jagessar introduced the membership application of the United Reformed Church, which had cooperated in various fields with CCME in the past years, e.g. the project with CPCE on migrant churches. Following the recommendation of the ExCom, the motion to admit the United Reformed Church was adopted by the General Assembly with 57 YES votes.

Gretjee van der Veer explained the membership application of the European Methodist Council; a considerable number of Methodist churches, members of the European Council, have cooperated with CCME in the past years in various fields. Following the recommendation of the ExCom, the motion to admit the European Methodist Council was adopted by the General Assembly with 57 YES votes.

Balázs Acsai introduced the membership application of Kalunba Charity. Following the recommendation of the ExCom, the motion to admit the Kalunba Charity was adopted by the General Assembly with 57 YES votes.

Doris Peschke presented the membership application of the Indian Orthodox Church in the Republic of Ireland. She explained the late application, the roots of this Oriental Orthodox Church and its tie among the Irish Churches and ecumenical family (current applications for membership of CEC and WCC). After a question by a participant regarding this church, Fr Heikki Huttunen gave some information about the Indian Orthodox Church. One member commented that accepting this Church as member only ten days after application may be too quick. Doris Peschke underlined the importance of the migration background of this Church and welcomed the idea of having an Irish member. Following the recommendation of the ExCom, the Indian Orthodox Church was accepted as a member by the General Assembly with 50 YES votes and 7 abstentions. The member from Cyprus notified that his abstention was motivated by the short time for evaluating this application.

All six were welcomed into the membership of CCME, raising the **total of possible votes in the Assembly to 63 and 57 present**, as for the short notice, the Indian Orthodox Church in Ireland could not participate.

Election of rapporteurs

The ExCom suggested Torsten Moritz and Elise Boissenin as rapporteurs. No other candidates were proposed and both were unanimously elected.

Election of Nomination Committee

Thorsten Leisser, treasurer and member of the ExCom gave some explanations about the role and functioning of the Nomination Committee: the Nomination Committee would aim at coming up with one slate as a proposal for the ExCom elections; usually outgoing ExCom members who could after two terms of office not be re-elected are nominated for the Nomination Committee; and participation in the nominations process excludes a person from being eligible for election. One member asked if the mandate was personal or not and this was confirmed by Thorsten Leisser.

The ExCom proposed Victoria Kamondji Johnston, Thorsten Leisser and Elena Timofticiuc as members of the Nomination Committee. No other nominations were brought forward

by the Assembly. The three persons were elected unanimously. Following this election, Thorsten Leisser welcomed all applications for ExCom and gave as deadline for submitting nominations 19.00h the next day.

As the Assembly was running late, Doris Peschke proposed to postpone the last item on the agenda of the day to the next day. The proposal was accepted by the Assembly.

Friday 23rd June 2017

Message on behalf of the AACC

A message from the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) was given by Tabitha Kentaro Sabiiti, staff member of the AACC representation to the African Union.

Activity report 2014-16

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

In the following discussion, several speakers expressed thanks and appreciation for both the quality and quantity of the work undertaken. It was expressed that CCME work has a real impact on everyday life and everyday work in the member churches. One delegate wished to recall, and possibly to be included in the future work, the fate of people without status who are among us but cannot really live their life.

Finance report 2014-16

Thorsten Leisser as treasurer introduced the report; describing CCME as a well-established organisation with few financial means, and therefore limited in its work. Some points were underlined regarding figures of recent years: a general decrease of EU funds; a slight increase of membership fees, though not enough regarding the great needs as core operations of CCME are not fully funded by them. It was also noted that the risk reserve created as a buffer if projects go wrong remains intact. He expressed thanks to the members.

Participants asked about CCME capacity regarding fundraising and what can be done to increase this area. Thorsten Leisser acknowledged the

importance of fundraising but highlighted the lack of capacity, both in time and energy. He suggested as an example that a member with a good fundraising service could work with CCME. Doris Peschke underlined the importance of collections in parishes to show their support.



Adoption activity and finance report and discharge of ExCom:

The two reports were unanimously adopted and the ExCom discharged.

Integration of CCME and CEC

Doris Peschke reminded the Assembly that a decision on the three alternative scenarios had been taken in Sigtuna. She explained that cooperation was difficult at first but since the adoption of the agreement in 2014 has been working well in a practical way.

She introduced the proposal she and Heikki Huttunen had drafted which details activities and principles of enhanced cooperation between the two organisations. Sometimes it appears that some in the CEC leadership still think about a merger into one organization only. She recalled Heikki Huttunen's words from the day before: structure should be here to help us in the work.

In the discussion, a speaker mentioned the possibility to create an area of work aside to structures, an extra-space as it takes time to change structures. Another member underlined the reactivity and rapidity of CCME. Doris Peschke thanked them but reminded that cooperation between CEC and CCME is needed as flexibility alone could not work sufficiently. A participant asked about the joint Assembly in 2023 mentioned in the last sentence of the document. Doris Peschke clarified the situation as nothing is fixed yet and no practicalities are set, but this possibility is contemplated and needs further reflection, also on the side of CEC after its Assembly in 2018.

Refugees and Communications Rights in Europe - Looking at the media portrayal of refugees in Europe, Francesca Pierigh, CCME consultant

Francesca Pierigh presented the one-year project on which CCME and the World Association of Christian Communication (WACC) Europe are working to promote refugees' communication rights, highlight media practices and support refugee-led organization and networks. The project includes a multi-day monitoring of the press in eight European countries. After both quantitative and qualitative analyses, the goal is to use the results for public discussions and advocacy purposes, among others with media professionals. More information can be found here: <http://www.refugeesreporting.eu/>

During the discussion, some participants drew the assembly's attention to some local projects in relation to the subject: a newspaper made by migrants in the UK as it is important to promote a good image of migrants; the Alma project in Berlin aiming to amplify the voice of refugees. Someone asked if social media were taken into account during the monitoring. Francesca Pierigh answered that only printed newspapers were used.

CCME Draft Work Programme 2018-2020

Doris Peschke introduced the draft work programme 2018-2020, highlighting the areas of ecumenical discussion and encounter as a focus and the UN Compacts on migration and refugees, with serious threats to the 1951 Geneva Convention as another topic of concern and work. One area will see its attention diminished: trafficking in human beings.

Reactions to the presentation were focused on two topics. One participant asked about the issue of forced returns. Doris Peschke stated that CCME advocacy work on the return directive was effective as the directive is not opened for revision for now. Detention is

debated in the Council and the issue is followed at EU level. On those areas, not much more can currently be done at European level. Another one asked for details about the decision to do less on trafficking. The participant was informed that it was both a matter of lack of resources and of a lower priority because the focus is now on national implementation of EU law now.

CCME Draft Budget 2018-2020

Doris Peschke introduced the draft budget 2018-2020 with planned income and expenses of 485,300.00 € in 2018, 504,500.00 € in 2019 and 520,200.00 € in 2020. She also explained the 2018 Budget breakdown.

Churches' position and actions on refugees and migrants at a time of crisis

Elise Boissenin and Ariadni Zormpa, interns at CCME, gave a presentation on how churches have responded to the situation of refugees and migrants over the last two years, based on documents sent by members.

One participant asked about CCME position on returns and the idea of open borders. Doris Peschke answered that CCME respects states' rights to govern access to their territories, particularly regarding their borders, but advocates for decent and human-rights based conditions of returns.

The two afternoon sessions were spent in working groups.

Saturday 24th June 2017

The first morning session was spent in working groups.

Nomination Committee: presentation and elections of the ExCom

The plenary of the Assembly opened with the announcement of the nominees for the new Executive Committee (ExCom) by Thorsten Leisser on behalf of the Nominations Committee.

The following names were suggested:

Moderator: Lemma
Desta Gonamo, Church of Norway/Christian Council in Norway



Treasurer:	Adejare Oyewole, Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim Churches, UK
Members:	David Bradwell, Church of Scotland, UK Sabine Dreßler, Evangelical Church in Germany Dana Gavril, AIDRom, Romania Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, Reformed Church in Hungary/Kalunba Charity Efthalia Pappa, KSPM-ERP, Church of Greece
Substitutes:	Talvikki Ahonen, Orthodox Church of Finland Cristian Popescu, Refugee Commission of the Ecumenical Council in the Czech Republic

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

All candidates had the opportunity to give a short presentation introducing themselves. Unfortunately Dana Gavril and Sabine Dreßler could not be present. Thorsten Leißer and Elena Timofticiuc gave a short presentation of both nominees.

No further nomination was made by the Assembly which proceeded to voting.

Relationship of CCME and CEC

Waiting for the results of the votes, the Assembly moved on to discuss the outcomes of the Working Group on the CEC-CCME relationship. After thanking the working group for its work, Elena Timofticiuc presented a draft motion summarising the conclusions reached by the group. The working group had studied the draft for an agreement and recognised the need for more understanding. They sought to be simple and not to complicate things. The question was raised whether the possible re-establishment of a CEC-CCME negotiation groups should be mentioned in the motion.

In the discussion that followed, questions were raised about the relevance of another negotiating group because it had not been very effective in the past. Several people answered that this group will be launched "if needed", especially since CEC will hold its General Assembly in 2018. It was also reiterated that even if cooperation works well on a daily basis, the negotiating group might be necessary to settle some things. Finally, a participant noted that it seemed as if cooperation in itself was the point whereas the point is the mission of the churches. He was advised to look at the first paragraph referring to the mission but that could not be seen by participants previously because of technical issues.



The document drafted by the working group was unanimously adopted.

Results of the election of the ExCom

Lemma Desta Gonamo was the first nominee voted upon, receiving a unanimous vote of 57 votes as Moderator. He accepted the election.

Adejare Oyewole received a majority vote of 56 to the position of Treasurer. He accepted the election.

Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy:	a majority of 55 votes
Efthalia Pappa:	a majority of 55 votes
Dana Gavril:	a majority of 55 votes
Sabine Dreßler:	a majority of 55 votes
David Bradwell:	a majority of 55 votes
Talvikki Ahonen:	57 unanimous votes
Cristian Popescu:	57 unanimous votes



They all accepted the election.

Work programme 2018-2020

Talvikki Ahonen presented the modifications and amendments to the Work Programme proposed by the relevant Working Group.

The main amendments were the following:

- A title was given to the work programme "The hope in which we stand. Ro 5:2"
- "Xenophobia" was in a number of places added to the issues on which CCME works.
- In the section dedicated to diversity and solidarity, it was added: "CCME will monitor the development of groups and parties working with an anti-immigrant sentiment and find ways for members to engage and respond constructively with the challenges such groups present.
Together with the World Association of Christian Communication (WACC) CCME will further develop the work on the medias portrayal of refugees and migrants." Later under another paragraph, it was added "CCME will contribute to the work of CEC on the areas of freedom of religion and belief (FORB) and interfaith relations."
- A new section was created: "1.2 Agency of right holders
CCME will work to amplify the voices of migrants, refugees and minority groups in policy, culture and practice, particular focus will be paid to gender perspectives and the rights of women and children."
- Consequently, the section "1.2" was changed to "1.3" and "and cooperation" was added to the title after "conversation". In this part, the sentence "Elements of capacity building and resource sharing will be included in this programme area." at the end of the last paragraph was added.
- In the section 2.2, two sentences were added to the first and the second paragraphs: "with access to free, adequate legal aid." and "Private sponsorship is

seen as a possibility to increase national resettlement capacity and not to replace the state's engagement in this area."

- In the following section an addition was made: "In its advocacy, CCME will have a particular focus on dignified returns, including perspectives of reintegration of returnees, working with agencies to improve standards and reviewing the legal frameworks concerning detention.
CCME will continue to advocate for the decriminalisation of acts of solidarity with undocumented migrants, and migrants who face the threat of deportation."
- In the following section, "religious and gender based" exclusion were added to the list of the first paragraph as well as "and xenophobia" in the last one.
- In the "Uniting in Diversity" section, the acronym CPCE was explained: "Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)". At the end of that paragraph was added: "This work will take place on understanding that migration presents an opportunity for European churches."
- In the section about working mechanisms, some modifications regarding communication were made: "and other social media, website" was changed to "other social media platforms and the CCME website" and the following point was added right after this "- sharing information on current asylum and migration policy, including country of origin information". "Xenophobia" was also added between "racism" and "and discrimination" in the next paragraph.
- The first paragraph of section 4 was complemented with "An important aspect is to have partnerships with churches and ecumenical organisations in countries of origin, to enable rooted advocacy cooperation."
- In section 4.1. the phrase "For 2014-2017 CCME and CEC reached an agreement of cooperation" was changed to "For 2018-2020 CCME and CEC are seeking to reach"
- "European Network on Statelessness, ENS" was added to the list of secular partners.

A discussion developed around the suggested amendments. A debate about the quote used for the title took place as the original quote in many translations is "the Grace in which we stand" but the word hope is present later in the verse and more understandable by civil society. The suggestion to keep "hope" and to change the direct biblical reference to "inspired by Romans 1, 5" was agreed upon. In the amendment about groups and parties with anti-immigrant sentiments, "with the challenges" was changed to "to the challenges". On a following paragraph, "and interfaith relations" was changed to "on a migration perspective". Referring to the section dedicated to agency of right holders, a participant asked to add the aspect of family reunification. After several proposals on the rights to family life and permanent residency, the suggestion to add the following sentence was adopted: "CCME will continue to advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system of migration to Europe – based on fundamental rights of migrants. The right to family unity is central in this field". About the amendment made on "free adequate legal aid", a



participant noticed the repetition of “adequate” in the sentence. After a debate on losing “adequate” or replacing it by “quality”, the decision was taken to keep only “free” and to split the sentence in two as it was considered too long. The amendment on dignified returns was changed to the following wording: “In its advocacy, CCME will have a particular focus on dignified returns, including perspectives of reintegration of returnees, working with agencies to improve standards and reviewing the legal frameworks concerning detention”. Later in the same section, “acts of solidarity” was changed to “humanitarian actions” in accordance to current EU wording. A participant proposed to add some aspects monitoring to the work programme in this section. It was agreed to keep it in mind but not to add it to the work programme. A debate on the repetition – or not – of “racial” and “ethnic” took place with final agreement on keeping the amendment as it is. There was also a debate about the repetition of “in the context of” and “continue” in section 2.4. The final wording states: “CCME will continue its commitment against racism and xenophobia particularly when related to migration. CCME pursues its work with the European Network Against Racism ENAR.” In the following section, the amendment was corrected to “on the understanding”.



The word “available” was added after “country of origin information”. The final wording on cooperation with global partners was changed to “An important aspect is to have partnerships with ecumenical organisations related to countries of origin to enable rooted advocacy cooperation”. A participant proposed to add something about social and economic root causes to migration but the proposition was dismissed after a reminder that some partners already specifically address those issues. With regard to secular partners, the European Resettlement Network was added to the list. The sentence “The ExCom shall explore membership to PICUM” was agreed after a proposal to add PICUM to the list and a debate about the costs related to such membership.

After this, the Work Programme 2018-2020 and all its amendments were unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

Budget 2018-2020

Michael N. Jagessar presented the proposals from the working group on finances and budget.

The group called for collections on International Refugee Day in the member churches. They expressed the will to strengthen membership support by co-financing and co-operating in experts' consultations and meetings. Social sponsorship in businesses, collected by members and then transferred to CCME was mentioned, in particular joint ventures in order to enable corporations to employ refugees. They proposed that members could offer expertise for crowdfunding and fundraising on a temporary basis. They mentioned the URC application to the Council of World Mission (CWM Europe) in favour of programmatic topics like trafficking. They also talked about co-sponsoring research and academic work like scholarships. The speaker mentioned that the group wants to explore a permanent post with the following mission: research and advice to the members on how to

employ refugees; a part time post giving legal advice on demand. The group would like to see a mapping of intercultural skills, language skills, interreligious skills of people (e.g. in partnership with UNHCR) so that capacities and opportunities are not wasted. Finally, they expressed their wish to have a



narrative budget to make it more attractive.

A participant reacted to the proposals with a question about their nature as including them in the work programme would mean great changes. It was answered that the proposals are recommendation to the ExCom and they were voted as such unanimously.

No change to the budget was proposed and the entire 2018-2020 budget was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

Community building: Potential projects and fundraising

Torsten Moritz announced that two calls for projects by the European Commission are likely to be issued in the coming months. He would like to know if some members have or plan to have projects that would fall under these calls to be prepared on time. He presented the first one: the call will look for project on community building, probably integration between newcomers and welcoming communities. Elena Timofticiuc talked

about the creation of this new job in Romania, “intercultural mediators” who are the link, the bridge between people from the community and refugees. Lemma Desta informed about a Pentecostal Cultural Festival organised in Norway which is about sharing and diversity in music, food, etc. with many different people. David Jakobsson mentioned the interfaith programme led by the diocese of Stockholm. A participant asked about the application and follow-up as it is perceived quite complicated and time consuming. Torsten Moritz explained that CCME would be the leading organisation taking care of the procedure but that some thematic input and reporting would be required by participating member churches.

David Bradwell mentioned a second call for project already issued by the European Commission on tackling racism, xenophobia and any form of discrimination. It covers very broad activities and the deadline for applying is in November. He asked any member interested to make contact with him for more information and coordination.

Assembly Message

The Assembly heard the report of the working group tasked with drafting a public statement presented by David Bradwell. After some general comments of participants about the well-developed message, debates on the wording started:

- In the second paragraph, the words “across Europe” have been added after “hundreds of thousands of people”.
A debate about the sentence “people who have been forced to flee their homes” started as a participant noticed that some chose to leave. It was left as such since it applied in the particular context of the paragraph.
- A participant proposed to add something about Europeans being migrants in other parts of the world in paragraph three. A debate about the word “newcomers” followed. The final wording was adopted with additional words in the first sentence, the creation of a new second sentence and no modification to the term “newcomers” as such: “We see hope in the contribution of refugees, migrants and minority ethnic groups to European societies. European societies have a history of immigration and emigration themselves and are constantly evolving. Newcomers are helping to expand cultural horizons, and are vital to work which breaks down fears between people from different backgrounds, religions and nationalities.”
- The working group suggested a sentence about the particular political situation in the UK and left it to the decision of the Assembly. It was replaced by “The Churches of Europe belong together.”
- In the fifth paragraph, a participant noted that the probability induced by “may be transformed” in the first sentence was problematic. The word “positively” was inserted.
- A debate about “the attitudes of European societies and Churches” being transformed started. Some asked for a removal of “Churches” while others advocated for it to stay as there is a strong tendency against refugees in their Church. It was settled to leave mentioning Churches in this sentence but to add one right after: “For Churches this includes theological reflection.”
- The verb “put” is replaced by “prioritise” in paragraph eight.
Some concerns were voiced about “do not be afraid” as it is perceived not strong enough. Proposals to add “do not play with fear” and to replace the first part by the word of the 2016 Conference “have no fear”.

- Paragraph nine underwent several modifications. In the first bullet point, the first sentence is changed to "persons living in Europe not granted a permit" and the word "ensured" is replaced by "guaranteed".
Debates on removing or not "swift" and adding family life as a right rearranged the second point into: "the protection and expansion of swift family reunification; as Churches we affirm that family life is a fundamental human right [footnote: Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights] and is essential for the integration of a newcomer."
- Finally, all the bullet points were reordered to have safe passage first, family reunification second and rights of persons without permit third.
- In the last paragraph, "We have hope." is added before the last sentence. Debates about adding or not words on the spiritual barriers ended on leaving the text as originally written and "Do not be afraid!" is once again changed to "Have no fear!"

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

Celebration

To close the 20th CCME General Assembly, celebrate and bid farewell to and thank the previous members of the Executive Committee, a reception and festive buffet with Czech specialties was held on a boat on the Vltava River.



Annex 1: CCME Work Programme 2018-2020

As adopted by the CCME General Assembly on 24 June 2017

"The hope in which we stand"

Work Programme 2018-2020 of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

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 cooperates closely with the World Council of Churches.

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

2. Mandate of CCME

The 20th CCME General Assembly 2017 affirms 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, xenophobia and discrimination, undertakes research, initiates, develops and implements projects in these fields;
- CCME represents the common voice of 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 membership was in preparation for the General Assembly invited to present issues for the work programme.

The General Assembly in Prague 22-25 June 2017 discussed, amended and adopted this CCME Work Programme 2018-2020.

B. WHAT WE WILL BE DOING – PRINCIPLES AND THEMES

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.

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.

The last years have shown that migration is an overall concern for societies and churches in Europe. Churches far beyond CCME's membership have started to address migration, and they should eventually become members of CCME. This broader appeal makes a slight broadening of CCME's approach necessary.

CCME's work 2018-2020 will therefore be divided into activities addressing a number of overarching questions and principles and into work on more detailed specific themes.

1. Principles

1.1. Diversity and Solidarity

In this area, CCME with members and partners will be examining how biblically rooted demands and commandments on migration can guide Christians and churches all over Europe. Values such as love, respect, solidarity and openness for diversity are often neglected or forgotten in times when fears and security concerns seem to be the dominating issues in migration policy. The work will address how security can become a commonly shared notion, which is built on inclusive societies and respects diversity. The theme of overcoming fear of the other will feature centrally in this context. It will build on the statement of the CCME-CEC-WCC-PKN consultation in Lunteren 2016 and work done by members and unite them to a European network.

CCME will monitor the development of groups and parties working with anti-immigrant sentiment and find ways for members to engage and respond constructively to the challenges such groups present.

Together with the World Association of Christian Communication (WACC) CCME will further develop the work on the media's portrayal of refugees and migrants.

Work in this area will also look at the question of integration between newly arrived persons and receiving societies, the need for common principles in society among wide diversity, and the specific role of churches in achieving community cohesion, solidarity, justice and unity.

CCME will contribute to the work of CEC in the areas of freedom of religion and belief (FORB) and interfaith relations from a migration perspective.

1.2. Agency of right holders

CCME will work to amplify the voices of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic groups in policy, culture and practice, particular focus will be paid to gender perspectives and the rights of women and children as well as the right to family life and security of residence.

1.3. Conversations and cooperation between European churches on migration and displacement

This area will provide space for discussions between diverse churches with sometimes different approaches to migration and refugee protection. Work in this area takes up strands of discussions which began between different churches in 2015 and 2016 when responses to the so-called "refugee crisis" were rather diverse across Europe. The work in this area seeks to develop a broad consensus among European churches on the role of churches towards migration and refugee protection. It will include bilateral and multilateral exchanges and visits of solidarity between churches in Europe. Elements of capacity building and resource sharing will be included in this programme area.

The efforts for consensus building among European churches will include efforts of coordinating the positioning of different ecumenical actors such as the ACT Alliance, CPCE, LWF, WCRC, and WCC in Europe. These conversations will be undertaken in close cooperation with CEC and the consultation process on the Future of Europe.

The work under this heading will also have a specific focus on the questions of ecclesiology in times of migration, continuing the work undertaken by CEC and CCME in the Copenhagen consultation in December 2016. The issues of so-called "migrant churches" and unity in diversity will prominently feature in this work area.

2. Specific themes

2.1. Safe Passage

Under the heading of "Safe Passage" CCME will continue its work to overcome the current European¹ migration and border regime, which costs the lives of thousands every year. Activities will be undertaken with and through members and partners and include

¹ Reference to European/Europe is meant to include EU member states and non EU states with similar policies

observation of search and rescue as well as reception at Europe's external borders. CCME will continue its membership in the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights until end 2018. In the course of 2018, the CCME ExCom will evaluate and decide whether to continue this engagement. The main focus will however be put on continued advocacy and networking efforts to enable safe and legal access to Europe for those in need of protection, but also for those migrating in search of labour. The main instruments proposed will remain family reunification, resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes, humanitarian visa, lifting of visa requirements as well as legal channels for labour migration, the mutual recognition of protection status between states and fairer sharing of the responsibility to provide for protection. CCME's work will be closely coordinated with similar initiatives of members and partners.

CCME will consider in this context promoting a **European Citizens Initiative** on migration, which foresees a focus on creating a legal framework for sponsorship for refugees.

2.2. Europe and International Refugee Protection

The EU's agenda on refugees and asylum will continue to be one of the main preoccupations of CCME's work. In its advocacy efforts with EU institutions, CCME will seek to uphold the right of persons in need of international protection to access a fair, speedy and high quality procedure with adequate reception conditions. This includes access to free legal aid. CCME will further support the search for solidarity in responsibility sharing for refugee protection between different states. The group of Christian organisations² and ECRE will remain privileged fora of addressing these issues.

CCME will continue to advocate for lesser known forms of refugee protection such as resettlement and further explore churches' positions on private sponsorship in resettlement. Private sponsorship is seen as a possibility to increase national resettlement capacity and not to replace the state's engagement in this area.

Addressing a growing concern, CCME will work with members on the issue of conversion in the asylum procedure, exchange relevant information and seek to improve asylum procedures through dialogue with relevant authorities on this subject.

Together with international partners such as ACT Alliance and WCC, CCME will follow the processes of new norm setting at UN level, such as the UN "Refugee Compact", and try to influence its impact on Europe in favour of refugees' rights.

2.3. Europe and International Migration

While the current European migration policies are still mainly designed around the mantra of "no immigration", migration is happening through many, often informal channels. CCME will continue to advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system of migration to Europe – based on fundamental rights of migrants. The right to family unity is central in this field. Also in this context, the group of Christian organisations will provide a privileged tool for addressing these issues, together with other specialised organisations in the European Platform on Asylum and Migration.

² Currently: ACT Alliance EU, Caritas Europa, CCME, COMECE, Don Bosco International, Eurodiaconia, ICMC, JRS-Europe, Protestant Church in Germany, Quaker Council on European Affairs, St. Egidio Community

The review of the EU Migration Agenda of 2015 will start already in summer 2017. CCME will follow the developments and seek to intervene in favour of migrants' rights, solidarity and social cohesion whenever possible. After the European elections and prior to a new Commission taking office in 2019, some principles for the development of EU migration policies could be formulated.

CCME will work together also in this area with international partners to influence international norm setting, such as the work on a UN "Migration Compact" with its impact on Europe.

Special concern will be given to the most vulnerable in international migration, such as undocumented migrants, women and children. In its advocacy, CCME will have a particular focus on dignified returns, including perspectives of reintegration of returnees, working with agencies to improve standards and reviewing the legal frameworks concerning detention. CCME will continue to advocate for the exemption of humanitarian support to undocumented migrants from punishment, and the decriminalisation of migrants who face the threat of deportation.

CCME will continue to follow efforts against trafficking in human beings in legislation and practical work, and act as an expertise centre for European churches on the issue.

2.4. Upholding the Dignity of Persons, addressing discrimination

Work in this area will address the protection of those groups discriminated against in the context of ethnic, social, racial, religious and gender based exclusion.

CCME will together with CEC and in cooperation with WCC address the issue of statelessness in the context of the UNHCR decade to end statelessness by 2024.

Further efforts will be undertaken in addressing the issue of Roma discrimination, with particular focus on the role played by churches. CCME will continue its commitment against racism and xenophobia, particularly when related to migration and pursue its work with the European Network Against Racism ENAR.

2.5. Uniting in Diversity

As migration changes the ecclesial landscape of European countries considerably, the topics of diversity and "Being Church Together" will stay on the ecumenical agenda. While some of the relevant topics may emerge during ecumenical visits and encounters (see points 1.1 and 1.2.), closer cooperation with migrant or minority ethnic churches will be important.

CCME will cooperate with CEC to intensify and enhance the ecumenical cooperation at national and European levels with migrant and minority ethnic churches. CCME will continue the cooperation with the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) for exploring possibilities towards church communion with migrant and minority ethnic churches. This work will take place on the understanding that migration presents an opportunity for European churches

CCME will explore how research and relevant publications can be promoted, building on the publication of "Mapping Migration". When appropriate and sufficient funding allows, a European ecumenical conference with migrant-led and minority ethnic churches will be organised in 2019 or 2020.

C. HOW WE WILL BE WORKING

1. Elements of planning

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 develop mechanisms of information sharing with and between members, e.g. through Facebook, other social media platforms and the CCME website;
- Sharing information on current asylum and migration policy, including country of origin information where available;

- 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 of networking and support;
- 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, xenophobia 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, including its agencies such as EASO or FRONTEX
- Council of Europe
- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE
- UN (UNHCR, ILO, IOM)
- Global Forum on Migration and Development

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. An important aspect is to have partnerships with ecumenical organisations related to countries of origin to enable rooted advocacy cooperation.

Existing partnerships, which will be maintained, include:

4.1. 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. For 2018-2020 CCME and CEC are preparing an agreement on the cooperation. CCME will seek to further enhance the cooperation.

b. World Council of Churches WCC: CCME will seek agreement with WCC on future cooperation particularly with regard to interregional cooperation.

4.2. Partnerships Beyond the Membership

a. within the European ecumenical family

- Group of European Christian organisations on migration and asylum (ACT Alliance EU, Caritas Europa, COMECE, Don Bosco International, Eurodiaconia, International

Catholic Migration Commission ICMC, Jesuit Refugee Service JRS Europe, Quaker Council on European Affairs, St. Egidio Community).

- Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe EYCE, WSCF-Europe, Community of Protestant Churches in Europe.
- b. In the global ecumenical family
 - ACT Alliance, Lutheran World Federation and World Communion of Reformed Churches
 - All Africa Conference of Churches, Middle East Council of Churches, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program USA.

4.3. Secular partners

- European Council on Refugees and Exiles ECRE,
- European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration EPAM,
- European Network Against Racism, ENAR,
- European Network on Statelessness, ENS.

Council of Europe, European Asylum Support Office EASO, EU Fundamental Rights Agency FRA, Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights.

The ExCom shall explore membership in the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).

Adopted by the CCME General Assembly on 24 June 2017 in Prague/Czech Republic

Annex 2: CCME Budget 2018-2020

As adopted by the 20th General Assembly, 24 June 2017



Budget 2018-2020 (comparison 2017)

GA 2017-7

	2017 Total	2018	2019	2020
Expenditure				
Salaries and related costs	335,000.00 €	337,000.00 €	339,000.00 €	340,000.00 €
Rent and upkeep of office	21,500.00 €	21,500.00 €	21,500.00 €	21,500.00 €
Equipment and services	3,400.00 €	3,500.00 €	3,500.00 €	3,500.00 €
Services Incl. Accounting	42,500.00 €	40,000.00 €	40,000.00 €	40,000.00 €
Telephone/Postage	4,100.00 €	4,500.00 €	4,500.00 €	4,600.00 €
Photocopies	6,100.00 €	4,500.00 €	4,600.00 €	4,600.00 €
Office supplies	3,300.00 €	3,300.00 €	3,400.00 €	3,500.00 €
ExCom Travel	10,000.00 €	12,000.00 €	12,500.00 €	13,000.00 €
Staff Travel	15,800.00 €	18,000.00 €	19,000.00 €	20,000.00 €
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	7,800.00 €	10,000.00 €	10,000.00 €	10,000.00 €
Working Groups/Task Forces	3,000.00 €	4,000.00 €	4,500.00 €	4,500.00 €
CCME General Assembly	30,000.00 €	7,000.00 €	7,000.00 €	25,000.00 €
Meetings	17,500.00 €	20,000.00 €	35,000.00 €	30,000.00 €
	<u>500,000.00 €</u>	<u>485,300.00 €</u>	<u>504,500.00 €</u>	<u>520,200.00 €</u>
Income				
Memberships	165,000.00 €	165,000.00 €	165,000.00 €	165,000.00 €
General Grants	70,500.00 €	80,000.00 €	85,000.00 €	85,000.00 €
CEC Contribution	70,000.00 €	60,000.00 €	70,000.00 €	80,000.00 €
GA contributions and grant	5,000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	10,000.00 €
Earmarked	160,500.00 €	95,300.00 €	94,500.00 €	96,200.00 €
Project partner contributions	9,000.00 €	9,000.00 €	10,000.00 €	9,000.00 €
EU grants	20,000.00 €	76,000.00 €	80,000.00 €	75,000.00 €
	<u>500,000.00 €</u>	<u>485,300.00 €</u>	<u>504,500.00 €</u>	<u>520,200.00 €</u>



CCME Budget 2018

CCME GA 2017-7

2018 Budget Breakdown

Expenditure	General	Fundraising	Inclusion of migrants	Refugee	Safe Passage	Trafficking	Migrant churches	Roma	Migdev	Removals/detention	Total
Salaries and related costs	90,000.00	5,000.00	28,000.00	62,000.00	103,000.00	18,000.00	4,000.00	7,000.00	15,000.00	5,000.00	337,000.00
Rent and upkeep of office	12,500.00	500.00		3,500.00	4,000.00	1,000.00					21,500.00
Equipment and services	1,000.00	200.00		200.00	1,900.00		200.00				3,500.00
Services incl. accounting	7,500.00				30,000.00	200.00	500.00	500.00	800.00	500.00	40,000.00
Telephone/Postage	1,200.00	600.00	200.00	500.00	1,000.00	100.00	200.00	300.00	400.00		4,500.00
Photocopies	500.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	1,500.00	200.00	300.00	200.00	400.00		4,500.00
Office supplies	600.00	100.00		300.00	1,500.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00		3,300.00
ExCom Travel	12,000.00										12,000.00
Staff Travel	1,000.00		1,300.00	1,200.00	6,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	18,000.00
Communication (Circulars, publications etc.)	700.00	1,200.00		200.00	5,000.00	700.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	200.00	10,000.00
Working Groups/Task Forces	1,000.00				1,000.00		2,000.00				4,000.00
CCME General Assembly	7,000.00										7,000.00
Meetings	1,000.00		6,000.00	2,000.00	8,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00		20,000.00
Total	136,000.00	8,000.00	36,000.00	70,400.00	162,900.00	22,400.00	10,900.00	9,200.00	22,800.00	6,700.00	485,300.00

Income	General	Fundraising	Inclusion	Refugee	Safe Passage	Trafficking	Migrant church	Roma	MigDev	Removals	Total
Memberships	114,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	8,500.00	2,000.00	165,000.00
General Grants	22,000.00	4,000.00		1,400.00	38,900.00	1,900.00	3,900.00	2,200.00	1,000.00	4,700.00	80,000.00
CEC Contribution			20,000.00	30,000.00			5,000.00	5,000.00			60,000.00
GA contributions and grant											0.00
Earmarked			1,000.00		87,000.00	2,000.00			5,300.00		95,300.00
Project partner contributions					9,000.00						9,000.00
EU grants			9,000.00	34,000.00	8,000.00	17,000.00			8,000.00		76,000.00
Total	136,000.00	8,000.00	36,000.00	70,400.00	162,900.00	22,400.00	10,900.00	9,200.00	22,800.00	6,700.00	485,300.00

Annex 3: Relationship of CCME and CEC

Towards an Agreement between CEC and CCME 2018-2025

The working group of the General Assembly of CCME on CEC-CCME cooperation has the following recommendations to the General Assembly after studying the Draft as of 29 May 2017 Towards an Agreement between CEC and CCME 2018-2025:

The General Assembly recognises the need for CEC and CCME to deepen the understanding of migration today and to strengthen their impact by cooperating more deeply. The purpose of the cooperation is to serve the churches in their joint witness and service in Europe with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons.

The General Assembly further acknowledges the significant improvement of the cooperation between CEC and the CCME in recent years and regards the proposed agreement of enhanced cooperation as a good way of growing together.

The General Assembly appreciates the draft of the agreement of cooperation that the General Secretaries of the CCME and CEC have provided. It sets out basic principles and practical instruments of cooperation for the common work. After a long period of discussions about forms of cooperation, the time frame up to 2025 would now allow CEC and CCME to put their energy into the common work.

The General Assembly mandates the Executive Committee to work together with CEC to finalise the agreement along the lines set out in the draft.

In this work, the General Assembly wants to highlight the following aspects:

- There is a need to develop a roadmap to clarify the implementation of the instruments of cooperation in the coming years.
- In order to strengthen the impact of our common work, we underline the need to work closer together on communication, visibility, joint planning and fundraising.
- We underline the importance of ensuring mutual participation in the governing structures of CEC and CCME.
- If needed, the Executive Committee of the CCME and the Governing Board of CEC should be able to appoint a negotiating group to clarify the instruments of cooperation.

Draft as of 29 May 2017

Towards an Agreement between CEC and CCME 2018-2025

Preamble

"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 all 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.

Theologically and ecclesologically, churches are challenged to be a witness of God's presence and grace, and to reconcile differences between churches of diverse denominations.

CEC and CCME – working together on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and against racism and discrimination in Europe

CEC and CCME have cooperated on the basis of the Agreement of Cooperation between the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches, adopted in 1999 and signed in January 2000. Based on the decisions of the CEC Assembly in Budapest 2013 and the CCME Assembly in Sigtuna 2014, CEC and CCME resolved in December 2014:

"To recommit themselves to a closer working relationship between CCME and CEC for the period 2015-2017 before finally deciding what form integration should take or what form of cooperation would be envisaged.

To strengthen the joint witness and service of churches and church-related organisations in Europe with and for migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons.

To accomplish these commitments, building of mutual trust will be essential. CCME is an ecumenical organisation in partnership with CEC, and therefore this agreement constitutes the partnership agreement between CEC and CCME."

Growing together – towards enhanced cooperation

CEC and CCME strive for an ever closer cooperation. As a result and due to intensified cooperation in recent years, both are often seen as one organisation on the outside, while formally they have different management and governance structures. These were

developed through consultation with the respective constituencies and membership and the capacities and resources available.

The respective mandates are decided by the Assemblies of CEC and CCME:

Mandate

2. In its commitment to Europe as a whole, the vision of the CEC is to promote a community of Churches sharing their spiritual life, seeking reconciliation, strengthening their common witness and service, and fostering the unity of the Church. In providing an authentic, credible and socially responsible Christian witness, it will work towards a humane, social and sustainable Europe at peace with itself and its neighbours in which human rights and solidarity prevail. CEC commits itself to continued work in the thematic areas of, i.a. migration and asylum, and diaspora and migrant churches. (CEC Constitution July 2013)
3. 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, CCME Assembly June 2014)

To enhance the cooperation, the Governing Board of CEC and the Assembly of CCME are requested to resolve:

Agreement

CEC and CCME recognise that migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and the work against racism and discrimination in Europe are of common concern: the discourse on migration and refugee issues, the recognition of minority ethnic persons and diversity in societies in Europe remains controversial. For Christians the commandment to “love your neighbour as you love yourself” is a guiding principle. The Christian tradition remembers that the People of God were strangers in Egypt, they found refuge in Egypt from starvation, and they were liberated from enslavement. The biblical traditions of the exodus, the exile experience, and as a people on the move are critical for the churches’ understanding of migration today. According to the Gospel, Jesus Christ became a refugee in Egypt with his family during the very first time of his earthly life. The Saviour is referred to as the Stranger by some spiritual traditions, and he can be encountered and received through the people who come as refugees and newcomers to our midst.

CEC and CCME seek to deepen the understanding of migration today and to strengthen their impact by cooperating more deeply.

- CEC and CCME will inform each other on initiatives which touch on each other’s mandate. CCME and CEC will coordinate outreach into each other’s constituencies, respecting each other’s needs, particular procedures and time frames to act on specific issues in their mandate.

- CEC and CCME will seek stronger representation and participation of migrant and minority ethnic churches in CEC beyond migration issues in all areas of CEC fellowship and work.
- CEC and CCME will strive for coherent advocacy vis-à-vis European institutions.

Therefore CEC and CCME will strengthen their instruments of cooperation:

- To ensure interaction in governance, CEC and CCME will strengthen the linkage between the Governing Board of CEC and the Executive Committee of CCME. CEC representation in CCME governance is currently stipulated in CCME articles of association, which guarantee two CEC delegates with voting rights in the CCME Assembly and one representative appointed by CEC in the Executive Committee of CCME. To ensure CCME representation in CEC governance structures, the CCME moderator, or a representative of him/her will be invited to meetings of the CEC Governing Board. The Governing Board will ensure CCME participation in the CEC General Assembly by indicating to CCME the number of CCME participants in the CEC Assembly.
- The CEC Governing Board and CCME ExCom shall at least every second year meet in the same venue back-to-back with a joint session to discuss pertinent issues and plan jointly.
- CEC and CCME will jointly develop their annual work programmes and ensure transparency through regular reporting; timelines will be agreed to avoid duplication and additional work-loads.
- CEC and CCME will develop common financial planning, development of projects and joint fundraising. To this end, the CCME treasurer and the moderator of the CEC Budget Committee and the General Secretaries of both organisations will define the best modes of cooperation and exchange of information. CEC will cover the costs of a least one executive secretary working in CCME, as long as further joint planning has not been put in place.
- CEC and CCME will explore how CCME staff can be employed by CEC and according to the CEC salary scheme, while at the same time working under the responsibility and auspices of the CCME ExCom.
- CCME executive staff will participate in the CEC collegium, CCME administrative staff will participate in the CEC staff meetings to further improve the cohesion of different areas of work in which CCME and CEC already cooperate.
- CEC and CCME will seek to enhance the communication of concerns and issues both to the respective constituencies and externally. CCME will continue to cooperate ecumenically in the group of Christian organisations and with other civil society actors on joint advocacy statements, advise CEC and WCC when joint statements are recommended, and elaborate relevant CEC statements, where appropriate.

A joint CEC and CCME Assembly shall be envisaged for 2023.

Annex 4: 20th CCME General Assembly Message: "HAVE NO FEAR – BUT HOPE!"

Message from the 20th CCME General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 22-25 June 2017

HAVE NO FEAR – BUT HOPE!

Christ is Alive! And in Christ we have a message of hope and peace for all the world.

We see expressions of hope in those multiple prayers and actions of European citizens that have supported the common good. They are working to share Christian principles of solidarity, peace, generosity and the imperative to welcome the stranger. We have seen hope in the contribution of hundreds of thousands of people across Europe. Many people are giving their time to offer a welcome in Europe to newly arrived people who have been forced to flee their homes.

We see hope in the contribution of refugees, migrants and minority ethnic groups to European societies. European societies have a history of immigration and emigration themselves and are constantly evolving. Newcomers are helping to expand cultural horizons, and are vital to work which breaks down fears between people from different backgrounds, religions and nationalities. We celebrate that newly arrived people are playing their part in our common life. We rejoice in the opportunities that new encounters provide to help transform attitudes and opinions, which help everyone to have a deeper perspective on life.

We see hope in the future for longstanding solidarity between the Churches of Europe to work together. At our Assembly we welcomed several new organisations from the United Kingdom, Hungary and Ireland into the membership of CCME. The Churches of Europe belong together.

We are hopeful that the attitudes of European societies may be positively transformed by their experience of intercultural dialogue with refugees and migrants. For Churches this includes theological reflection. Hearing the voices and respecting the opinions of newcomers in decisions and programmes which affect them is critical, and so we commend the principle that: 'Nothing about us without us is for us'.

We commend citizens and church members to support a process of integration. We believe that: "Integration is a dynamic two-way process of mutual accommodation where all parties give and receive. In this sense integration means respect for different cultural identities. This involves a shift in the majority communities' ways of thinking."³

We encourage all those who have acted, volunteered or donated to continue with their efforts and support the growth of a movement which seeks to make societies welcoming and safe for those forced to leave their homes. We hope that their actions will be a challenge to those in positions of authority.

³ Definition taken from CSC/CCME response to the Council of Europe White Paper consultation on Intercultural Dialogue, 14 June 2007

http://www.ccme.be/fileadmin/filer/ccme/70_DOWNLOADS/95_ARCHIVE/2007/2007-06-14_CSC-CCME_Response_to_the_CoE_White_Paper_consultation_on_Intercultural_Dialogue.pdf

We urge all Governments and political actors not to be afraid of making challenging and courageous decisions in the face of xenophobia. We say to them: have no fear, do not play with fear, do not betray core European values but have hope that policies which prioritise human dignity and the common good have the support of Churches, church members and many fellow citizens.

Particular attention must be paid to:

- the opening of safe passage for those in greatest need, in order to prevent the continuing catastrophic loss of human life as people desperately try to seek sanctuary in Europe.
- the protection and expansion of swift family reunification; as Churches we affirm that family life is a fundamental human right⁴ and is essential for the integration of a newcomer.
- the situation of persons living in Europe not granted a permit who cannot return to their country of origin. They deserve to have their fundamental rights respected and guaranteed at all times.

So we say: Have no fear! Christ is Alive! We have hope. We can move beyond borders, physical barriers and walls in our hearts and minds.

Adopted unanimously on 24 June 2017

⁴ Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights

Annex 5: Distribution of votes at the 20th CCME General Assembly

Country	Member organisation		Total votes
Austria	Diakonie Austria	Christoph Riedl	3
Belgium	Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique	Monique Hélène Tchang	3
Cyprus	Church of Cyprus	Nektarios Ioannou	3
Czech Republic	Ecumenical Commission for Refugees in the Czech Republic	Cristian Popescu	3
Finland	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	-Marja-Liisa Laihia -Barnabe Koko	3
	Finnish Ecumenical Council	Mari-Anna Pöntinen	
	Orthodox Church of Finland	- Talvikki Ahonen - Edom Betre Tadesse	
France	Fédération Protestante de France	-Victoria Johnston -Chrystel Raharijaona	3
	La Cimade		
Germany	Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)	-Ansgar Gilster -Thorsten Leisser	3
	Diakonie Deutschland	-Katharina Stamm	
Greece	Church of Greece	-Panteleimon Papasynefakis -Efthalia Pappa	3
Hungary	Reformed Church in Hungary	-Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy -Ágnes Székely	3
	<i>Kalunba Charity*</i>	Balázs Acsai	
Ireland (Republic of)	<i>Indian Orthodox Church*</i>		3
Italy	Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI)	Luca Baratto	3
Netherlands	Council of Churches in the Netherlands	Jan van der Kolk	3
	Protestant Church in the Netherlands	Johan Frederik Karel Jungheim	
Norway	Church of Norway	-Hege Merete Andersen -Lemma Desta Gonamo -Steinar Ims	3
Romania	AIDRom-Ecumenical Association of Churches from Romania	Elena Timofticiuc	3

Country	Member organisation		Total votes
	Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)		
Slovakia	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia		3
Spain	Evangelical Church in Spain	Alfredo Abad	3
Sweden	Church of Sweden	-David Jakobsson -Maria Klasson Sundin -Sofia Sjöberg	3
	Christian Council of Sweden	Peter Karlsson	
Switzerland	Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (SEK/FEPS)	Thorsten Leisser	3
United Kingdom	CTBI-Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	David Bradwell	5
	Methodist Church of Great Britain		
	Council of African & Caribbean Churches	Fidelia Onyuku-Opukiri	
	Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches	Dorritt Akinbobola	
	Unification of Council of Cherubi & Seraphim Churches	-Richard Fasunloye -Adejare Oyewole	
	<i>Church of Scotland*</i>	David Bradwell	
	<i>Churches Together in Wales*</i>		
	<i>European Methodist Council*</i>	Greetje Van der Veer	
	<i>United Reformed Church*</i>	-Michael N. Jagessar -Grace Pengelly	
Conference of European Churches (CEC)		-Andreas H. Aarflot -Heikki Huttunen -Edouard Kibongui	2
World Council of Churches (WCC)		Katalina Tahaafe-Williams	2
Total votes			63

*New applicants who receive voting rights after admission by the Assembly

Annex 6: Participants in the 20th CCME General Assembly

N°	Title	First Name	Last name	Address
1.	Mr	Andreas Henriksen	Aarflot	CEC (Church of Norway) National Council Kirkerådet, Pb. 799 0106 Oslo, Norway
2.	Revd	Alfredo	Abad	Evangelical Church in Spain Calle Calatrava 25, 4ºD E-28005 Madrid
3.	Ms.	Talvikki	Ahonen	Orthodox Church of Finland University of Eastern Finland, Carelia building / tutkijahuone 227, Yliopistokatu 2 80 100 Joensuu, Finland
4.	Ms	Dorritt	Akinbobola	Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches 71 BOYD Road Colliers Wood SW19 2DF, London
5.	Ms.	Hege Merete	Andersen	Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations Rådhusgata 1-3, 0106 Oslo, Norway
6.	Revd	Luca	Baratto	Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy Via Firenze 38 IT-00184 Rome, Italy
7.	Ms	Magdalena	Böhm	ICMC-International Catholic Migration Commission Rue de Washington 40 1050 Brussels, Belgium
8.	Ms	Elise	Boissenin	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels
9.	Mr	David	Bradwell	The Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN, Scotland
10.	Mr	Lemma	Desta Gonamo	Christian Council of Norway, Rådhusgata 1, 0151 Oslo
11.	Special Apostle Dr	Richard	Fasunloye	Unification Council of Cherubim & Seraphim Churches UK & Europe Chapter, 28 Seymour Garden, Ilford, Essex IG13LN, UK

12.	Revd Dr	Vilmos	Fischl	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary H-1117 Budapest, Magyar tudósok krt. 3.
13.	Mr	Ansgar	Gilster	Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland - Kirchenamt, Herrenhäuser Str. 12, 30419 Hannover, Germany
14.	Fr.	Heikki	Huttunen	Conference of European Churches 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium
15.	Rev.	Steinar	Ims	Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, Rådhusgata 1-3, 0106 Oslo, Norway
16.	Fr.	Nektarios	Ioannou	Representation of the Church of Cyprus to the EU Square Ambiorix 2 1000 Brussels, Belgium
17.	Rev. Dr	Michael N.	Jagessar	United Reformed Church 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, London, UK
18.	Mr	David	Jakobsson	Church of Sweden Syslomansgatan 4 751 70 Uppsala, Sweden
19.	Dr	Victoria	Johnston	Fédération Protestante de France, 23 rue Paul Cézanne, 59155 Faches Thumesnils, France
20.	Mr	Johan Frederik Karel	Jungheim	Kerk in Actie, Joseph Haydnlaan 2A, Utrecht P.O. Box 456, 3500 AL Utrecht, The Netherlands
21.	Mr	Emmanuel	Kabalisa	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium
22.	Ms.	Dóra	Kanizsai-Nagy	Reformed Church in Hungary Abonyi 21, 1146 Budapest, Hungary
23.	Mr	Peter	Karlsson	Christian Council of Sweden, P. O. Box 14038, S - 167 14 Bromma, Sweden
24.	Ms.	Tabitha	Kentaro Sabiti	All Africa Conference of Churches Liaison to African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25.	Mr	Edouard	Kibongui	Conference of European Churches - CEC Viale della Bella Villa 31, 00172 Roma, Italy

26.	Rev.	Mogens	Kjaer	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark Peter Bangs Vej 5B DK-2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
27.	Revd Dr.	Maria	Klasson Sundin	Church of Sweden Syslomansgatan 4 751 70 Uppsala, Sweden
28.	Dr	Michael	Knoch	Liga Evangelica Missionara Rua do Bairro dos Passarinhos 41 P – 2205 -658 Tramagal, Portugal
29.	Mr	Barnabe	Koko	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland Rantaraitti 6A1 70820 Kuopio, Finland
30.	Ms	Marja-Liisa	Laihia	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland P.O. Box 210 Eteläranta 8, 00131 Helsinki, Finland
31.	Revd	Thorsten	Leisser	EKD Kirchweg 4 D-31275 Lehrte, Germany
32.	Rev. Dr.	Ireneusz	Lukas	Lutheran World Federation Route de Ferney 150, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
33.	Dr	Torsten	Moritz	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium
34.	Archbishop	Fidelia	Onyuku-Opukiri	Council of African and Caribbean Churches 77 Beechwood Road, Hornsey London, N8 7NE, UK
35.	Apostle	Adejare	Oyewole	Unification Council of Cherubim & Seraphim Churches UK & Europe, 38 Ramsden Road, Erith, Kent DA8 3BU, UK
36.	Mr	Burkhard	Paetzold	Presbyterian Church (USA), World Mission Wiesenstr. 15, 15370 Petershagen, Germany
37.	Archimandrite	Panteleimon	Papasynefakis	Church of Greece 1, Iassiou Str. 11521 Athens, Greece
38.	Ms	Efthalia	Pappa	Church of Greece Ecumenical Refugee Program Moschonision 5, Kypseli 112 52 Athens, Greece
39.	Ms.	Grace	Pengelly	United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, London, UK

40.	Ms	Doris	Peschke	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium
41.	Ms	Francesca	Pierigh	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium
42.	Dr	Mari-Anna	Pöntinen	Finnish Ecumenical Council, Eterläranta 8, PL 210, 00131 Helsinki, Finland
43.	Fr.	Cristian	Popescu	Ecumenical Commission for Refugees, Vranovska 849/48, 61400 Brno, Czech Republic
44.	Ms	Chrystel	Raharijaona	Organisation Fédération d'entraide protestante 33 rue du Capitaine Marchal F-75020 Paris, France
45.	Mr	Christoph	Riedl	Diakonie Austria Schwarzspanierstraße 13, AT-1090 Wien, Austria
46.	Ms	Sofia	Sjöberg	Church of Sweden Sysslomansgatan 4 751 70 Uppsala, Sweden
47.	Ms.	Katharina	Stamm	Diakonie Deutschland, Caroline-Michaelis-Str. 1, 10115 Berlin, Germany
48.	Ms.	Ágnes	Székely	Reformed Church in Hungary Abonyi 21, 1146 Budapest, Hungary
49.	Ms	Edom Betre	Tadesse	Orthodox Church of Finland Kotikyläntie 4E 76 02770 Espoo, Finland
50.	Dr	Katalina	Tahaafe-Williams	World Council of Churches Route de Ferney 150 PO Box 2100 CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
51.	Ms.	Monique Hélène	Tchang	Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique, Wijerstraat 1B/1, 3740 Bilzen, Belgium
52.	Ms	Elena	Timofticiuc	AIDRom 14 Ilarie Chendi Street, sector 2 RO-021504 Bucharest, Romania
53.	Ms	Seda	Tonoyan	Armenia Round Table Foundation Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Etchmiadzin, 1101 Armenia
54.	Dr	Jan	van der Kolk	Council of Churches in the Netherlands Van Deventerlaan 41 2271 TV Voorburg, The Netherlands

55.	Ms	Greetje	Van der Veer	European Methodist Council, Loc. Toppito snc, 67069 Villa S. Sebastiano (AQ), Italy
56.	Ms	Ariadni	Zormpa	CCME Secretariat 174, rue Joseph II 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Annex 7: Conference Programme 22nd June 2017

Conference - Thursday 22nd June 2017

**"No longer strangers and aliens,
but fellow citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God"
(Ephesian 2: 19)**

Churches' Role in the Integration of Refugees and Migrants

- 11.00 Welcome and prayer:
Revd Daniel Ženatý, Synodal Senior ECCB
Dr Victoria Kamondji Johnston, Moderator CCME
- 11.30 Integration from a Czech perspective
Ms Pavla Novotna, Deputy Director of the Section of Asylum and Migration Policy in the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic
Good practice examples
Ms Alena Fendrychova and Mr Tomas Tozicka, Diakonie of the ECCB
Discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Migrants' and Refugees' Integration: opportunities and challenges**
Mr Thomas Huddleston, Migration Policy Group
Scotland: Mr David Bradwell, Church of Scotland
Italy: Revd Luca Barrato, Federation of Protestant Churches Italy
Romania: Ms Elena Timofticiuc AIDRom
Discussion
- 16.00 Coffee/tea
- 16.30 **Integrating Refugees in a difficult environment**
Ms Olivera Vutokic, UNHCR Budapest office
Czech Republic: Mr Bořivoj Tydlitát, Caritas Parish organization, Prague
Hungary: Ms Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, Reformed Church/Kalunba
Armenia: Ms Seda Tonoyan, WCC Armenia Round Table
Discussion
- 18.00 Conclusions: Dr Torsten Moritz, CCME
- Concluding prayer:* Mgr. Petr Jan Vinš
General Secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic