

## **Conference of European Churches**

### **Communique Revision Working Group 6-7 February 2010**

At the gathering of the CEC Assembly in Lyon in 2009, a Revision Working Group (RWG) was constituted with a mandate to carry out a revision of CEC. The second meeting of this RWG took place on 6-7 February in Berlin by the kind invitation of the EKD.

#### **Preparatory Papers**

The RWG received drafts of two papers from its working groups. The first paper begins to explore the vision, mission and values of CEC, drawing on existing documents (such as those provided for the Lyon Assembly) seeking to bring these together into a coherent whole that offers a way forward for the future. The second paper provides an outline analysis of the current internal environment within CEC, identifying key concerns and issues that need to be addressed in order to build structures that can serve the organisation in the years ahead.

These two papers were discussed by the RWG. It was agreed that they will continue to be revised, drawing on evidence and information gathered. They will form part of the final report and recommendations of the RWG to be submitted to the CEC Central Committee by December 2011.

#### **Interviews**

The majority of the meeting involved a series of structured interviews with key CEC senior staff members. These were confidential, and sought to enable the RWG to gain a deeper and fuller understanding of the challenges, both external and internal, facing the organisation.

The questions asked covered such areas as:

- The vision and values that should direct the work of CEC.
- The external context in which CEC finds itself in Europe.
- The critical issues faced by CEC in its internal working.
- The financial issues and concerns faced by CEC.

Each interviewee was also free to share any information that they wished to communicate to the RWG.

Evidence will continue to be gathered, and this will be essential to developing proposals for inclusion in the final report.

#### **Communications**

The RWG reaffirmed its commitment to a transparent process, and was concerned that its communiqué following the first meeting had not been made available to all member churches. It can now be viewed on the website (see below).

It was reaffirmed that a report of each meeting would be prepared, and in future these – together with other important documents – would be made available on a website designed to assist the RWG and linked to the CEC website. The address is: [www.cecrevision.dk](http://www.cecrevision.dk)

Ongoing relationships with the Central Committee and Presidium have been established, and vice President Cordelia Kopsch attended the meeting of the RWG.

### **Future Plans**

The RWG agreed to do further work on the two preparatory papers. It will also reflect carefully on the question, 'Why should CEC exist in 2020?', so seeking to provide an analysis of the possible future European environment.

In addition, a communication will go to all member churches. This will provide details of the website, and give opportunity to member churches, institutions and individuals to communicate with the RWG according to the advice on the website.

The next meeting of the RWG is planned for 1-4 October 2010 in Hungary.

---