

## **Conference of European Churches**

### **Communiqué Revision Working Group 9-11 May 2011 Bossey, Switzerland**

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 RWG, which started its work in November 2009, had its fifth meeting on 9-11 May 2011 at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Switzerland by the kind invitation of the Federation of Protestant Churches of Switzerland (La Fédération des Eglises Protestantes en Suisse, FEPS).

#### **Liaison**

The RWG welcomed the presence of CEC Vice-President OKRin Cordelia Kopsch, who attended the meeting in an advisory capacity according to the RWG mandate. Her presence and contribution was very important for the Group to liaise with the Presidium and the Central Committee.

#### **Preparing the draft report**

The main task on the agenda of this meeting was to carry on the work on the draft report of the RWG. Building on the discussions at the last RWG meeting in Paris and on the contributions from the RWG members during the time after that meeting the new version has taken several steps towards a more complete draft. It is structured with two main chapters, one with the RWG proposals for the vision, mission, values and strategic objectives of CEC and one with the proposals for a new organisational model. Most of the time in Bossey was dedicated to a thorough consideration and fine-tuning of these parts of the draft report.

#### **Financial analysis**

Another major item on the agenda of the meeting was to undertake a thorough analysis and reflection on CEC's financial situation. While it is not a task for the RWG to deal with current financial issues of the Conference, it is nevertheless crucial to clearly assess those issues in order to include a coherent and sustainable financial plan in the revision proposal.

In order to undertake this analysis the RWG had invited the Financial Consultant of CEC, Arne Kasten, to Bossey to provide the Group with an assessment of the current financial situation and of the possible future financial developments within CEC. Mr. Kasten was provided in advance with a comprehensive set of questions to prepare his presentation, building on which he gave a detailed overview of the financial situation,

analysing among others CEC's income and expenditures, accounts and liabilities, membership fees, fundraising. The RWG found Mr Kasten's contributions informative and helpful in order for the Group to shape the chapter on finances in the draft report to the Member churches.

### **Constitutional matters**

As the revision proposal is taking shape the RWG had in Bossey its first deeper discussion about a new CEC constitution which could reflect this shape. The different elements emerging from this discussion will serve as a basis to produce a draft which will be discussed and perfected at the next RWG meeting.

### **Next steps and future meetings**

The RWG according to its mandate has to deliver its report to the Central Committee in December 2011. The draft report will therefore be finalised at the next meeting of the Group in October. Before that the RWG will nevertheless present an interim report at the Central Committee meeting in September.

As Kaisamari Hintikka had left the RWG due to her new position as Director of Churches in Dialogue the RWG had to appoint a new contact person to the Assembly Planning Committee (APC). The RWG decided that Charlotte Kuffer and Charles Reed should represent the RWG at the next APC meeting in June 2011.

The RWG would like to thank Kaisamari Hintikka for her precious contribution to the work of the Group, and wish her all the best for her new appointment.

The next meeting of the RWG will take place from 21 to 24 October 2011 in Manchester or Prague (venue to be confirmed).

As the RWG according to its mandate will have a role to play at the General Assembly in 2013 the group had a first discussion about its work during the time up to the Assembly. However, the timetable for further meetings depends on the plans of the Central Committee for the period of consultation with the Member Churches and the CEC Commissions.

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