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### **Communication from the first meeting of the CEC Revision Working Group**

The CEC Revision Working Group met in Helsinki from 5-6 November, 2009 at the kind invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Orthodox Church of Finland, to begin the process of a revision of the CEC as mandated by the General Assembly meeting in Lyon, France in July 2009.

The primary aim of the first meeting was to confirm the mandate, constitute the group and decide a process of working that will lead to a draft proposal being forwarded to the Central Committee by 31 December 2011.

The group constituted itself with two co-moderators whose role it is to act as a point of contact, to be the public face of the Revision Working Group, and to moderate the group process. Katerina Karkala-Zorba and Colin Ride were appointed to this role.

The group recognised that its mandate has been born out of a process, which has been under way in CEC for several years. The motion adopted at the General Assembly in Lyon reflects this and states that it establishes

*“a working group of 15 members to carry out the revision of the CEC as a whole, including a common purpose and vision and the setting of strategic goals and which structures would serve these goals in an optimal way and in accordance with the wishes and needs of the Member Churches. In this process, it is important to pay due consideration to the present status of the General Assembly, the Central Committee and the Commissions. This revision should include both constitutional, legal and decision-making aspects deemed necessary.”*

In order to further this mandate the group made the following decisions on how to proceed:

- A task group (A) will analyse the external environment in which CEC is operating in order to draft a mission, vision and values statement for CEC. The work will be based on existing documents and entries offered in the pre-assembly consultation on CEC vision and priorities. The work of the task group will be brought back to the Revision Working Group after which it is intended to have a period of reflection with Member Churches regarding this document.
- A task group (B) will make a situational analysis on the ways in which CEC as an organisation works at present. This will enable a future analysis on the structures that will best serve to help CEC fulfil its mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as affirmed by the Member Churches.
- The General Secretary of CEC and the Directors of the three CEC Commissions, the Finance Secretary and a representative of the CEC Presidium are to be invited to the next meeting of the CEC Revision Working Group to contribute to an analysis of the current structures of the organisation and its operating environment.

The CEC Revision Working Group plans to meet again in Germany from 6 February, 2010.

6 November 2009