



GENSEC-2026-086

To CEC Member Churches

Brussels, 1 June 2026

**Respected Church leaders,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Dear friends,**

Kind greetings from the office of the Conference of European Churches in Brussels. I hope this letter finds you well.

In keeping with CEC tradition, I am pleased to report back to you from the Governing Board meeting held from 21 to 23 May in Uppsala, at the invitation of the Church of Sweden, one of our Member Churches.

We returned to our offices enriched by the encounters we had and the conversations we engaged in, whether in person or online.

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Virtual General Assembly – 15 June 2026

We will begin with the opening prayer and a thematic plenary session at 10:00 (CEST), with a contribution by The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds Em. and former member of the Governing Board of CEC. Bishop Em. Nick Baines recently published a report into future of Europe: [‘Reimagining Europe: A Christian Reflection’](#) and following my invitation will share his findings and reflections with participants in the virtual General Assembly.

At a time of global upheaval, I would like to invite you to join us in reflecting on Europe, the role of Christians, and the role of the Church. I am looking forward to an inspiring discussion.

We recognise that a virtual General Assembly, particularly one focused on reviewing financial results and approving the next budget, may not initially seem like an exciting or stimulating event. However, proper financial management and budget approval by the Member Churches are essential for the Conference of European Churches. This aligns Belgian law requirements, but it also reflects our self-understanding as a church organisation.

By participating through your Church's delegate(s), you are demonstrating your Church's commitment but also making a vital contribution to the strength and unity of the CEC fellowship. Together, we can ensure that our shared mission and programmes continue to thrive, providing clarity, direction, and impact.

We kindly ask you to [register your delegate\(s\)](#) at your earliest convenience. This will enable the General Secretariat to finalise preparations, **ensure the Assembly achieves quorum**, and guarantee that CEC can advance its mission without interruption.

Budget Committee

We are looking to replace two non-Governing Board members on the Budget Committee of CEC. The ideal candidates must be versed in finances and not be afraid of handling figures. The Budget Committee is chaired by Very Revd Anders Gadegaard (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark) and usually meets two to four times a year online for 90 to 120 minute meetings under normal circumstances.

Fundraising

In order to improve the financial situation of CEC, the Governing Board has tasked the General Secretariat with developing a fundraising strategy. This will consider EU funds, as well as **church** and **secular foundations** that might support European programmes such as Pathways to Peace. Therefore, I would like to ask you to inform the CEC General Secretariat of any foundations or financial grants programmes in your country. I would love to find out if CEC can apply for its programmes.

2028 General Assembly - Athens

At its meeting last week, the Governing Board decided that the 2028 General Assembly of CEC **will take place in Athens**, specifically at the Ionian Centre, at the invitation of His Eminence Metropolitan Gabriel of Nea Ionia and Philadelphia. We are looking forward to organising the meeting of CEC's highest decision-making body at the newly inaugurated Ionian Centre in Perissos. The Governing Board also appointed the **Assembly Planning Committee**, which will begin its work in the coming weeks. I would like to thank all Member Churches of CEC who nominated a candidate to this Committee, and I look forward to cooperating with our Member Churches through other channels in preparing for the 2028 General Assembly of CEC.

Legal Adviser

In this context I would like to remind and invite all Member Churches to consider seconding a legal adviser to assist Mr Huibert Logmans in the preparation, but also during the next General Assembly. The task of the legal advisors is to oversee that all decisions made, including the processes, are in line with the CEC Constitution and in conjunction with other CEC legal texts. The legal advisor is *not* responsible for questions regarding CEC as a Belgian association operating under Belgian association law.

Pathways to Peace

The members of the Governing Board of CEC met online with the Bishop of Greenland, **Paneeraq Siegstad Munk**, and **Mr Birger Nygaard**, Director of the Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark. A good opportunity for the Board to hear first hand from Bishop Paneeraq how the recent statements by US President Donald Trump suggesting the possible purchase or military occupation of Greenland have affected the population and where CEC can help and best support the Diocese of Greenland and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark.

For more information please see: <https://ceceurope.org/cec-conveys-solidarity-churches-greenland-during-governing-board-session>

It is still time to participate in the survey on “**Countering Ideology, Misinformation, and Conspiracy World views**” with regards to churches affected by this, [using this link](#). This survey is a concrete step toward addressing these questions. It will help CEC to learn from existing good practices within the European church fellowship, identify opportunities for collaboration, and develop resources to support churches in responding thoughtfully and effectively to these challenges.

Human Rights – Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

The Governing Board received Job van Lobenstein’s first report on his work in this CEC work area. Job van Lobenstein started working for CEC at the beginning of this year. The Governing Board welcomed the report and requested that this work be developed further on this basis. I am glad and thankful that CEC is able to engage in this area, which was highlighted as essential for CEC in the Call & Witness strategy. You will receive more information about the development of this work in the coming months.

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Charta Oecumenica

I am delighted to inform you that a new landing page for Charta Oecumenica is now live on our website and awaiting your visit on <https://ceceurope.org/charta-oecumenica-2>.

We invite you to visit the page and make use of the resources available, with an official translation in English, French (still to come), and German as well as translations provided by CEC Member Churches from across Europe.

Organisations in Partnership

The Governing Board was delighted to decide on a Memorandum of Understanding as Organisation in Partnership with the International Association for Christian Education (IV), a European network engaged for Christian education as well as Christian schools. See: <https://int-v.org/>



Forthcoming CEC Events

Annual meeting of the European National Councils of Churches, Bern, 21-23 September 2026

This meeting will focus on the reception of the updated Charta Oecumenica.

For more information, please take a look at:

<https://ceceurope.org/events/annual-meeting-of-general-secretaries-of-national-councils-of-churches>

Annual meeting of the Ecumenical Secretaries - Prague, 20-22 October 2026

„Europe and churches in a changing world“ is the theme of the Ecumenical Secretaries conference this year, organised in Prague.

For more information:

<https://ceceurope.org/events/cec-annual-meeting-of-ecumenical-secretaries>

With all this information I would like to thank you for all your support for the Conference of European Churches.

In this time of global upheaval, and manifold crisis and challenges, it is a gift and an inspiration that churches are walking together. All Member Churches have recently celebrated Pentecost. I hope and pray that God's Holy Spirit will comfort, inspire and encourage us in our ecumenical work.

United in Christ,

Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach

General Secretary