
Conference of European Churches (CEC)
Conférence des Eglises européennes (KEK)
Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen (KEK)

Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (CCEE)
Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE)
Rat der Europäischen Bischofskonferenzen (CCEE)

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Press release No. 03-45/efg

St. Gallen/Geneva, 18.11.2003

THE CHARTA OECUMENICA PROCESS GOES ON
A consultation in Leányfalu, Hungary, 27-30 November 2003

To evaluate the ecumenical situation in Central and Eastern Europe, and to identify how the *Charta Oecumenica* process can contribute to overcome the present difficulties: this is the objective of the consultation which will take place from 27-30 November in Leányfalu, Hungary, upon invitation of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The *Charta Oecumenica* is a short document presenting "Guidelines for the growing cooperation among the Churches in Europe". It was signed in 2001 by the Presidents of CEC and CCEE, and sent to all Churches and Episcopal Conferences for study, implementation and adaptation to the local context. The *Charta* has now been translated into 30 different languages.

The consultation in Hungary is a new step, which has been planned by the Joint Committee of CCEE and CEC. The programme includes reports from the different countries of Central and Eastern Europe on signs of hope and difficulties on the ecumenical journey. Participants will also try to identify future working perspectives in order to progress in ecumenical relations and to face the challenge of the European integration process together.

There will be some 40 participants at the consultation, representing churches and Episcopal Conferences from 16 countries: Albania, Armenia, Bielorrussia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Turkey.

The consultation will also be an opportunity to present the new volume edited by the CCEE and CEC secretariats: "*Charta Oecumenica. A text, a process, and a dream of the Churches in Europe*". The book includes, besides the text of the *Charta*, contributions on the story of the *Charta* and on the hopes which have been raised through the initiatives of the European Churches. The book has been published in English, French, German and Italian.

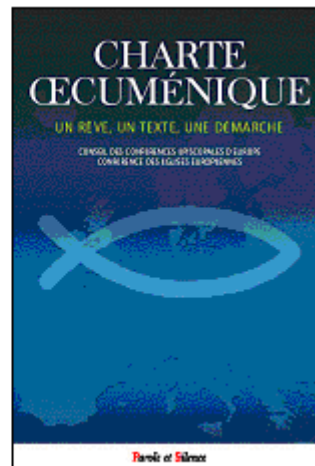
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A press release will be published at the end of the Consultation.

A Press Conference will be held on Friday 28 November at 11.30 at the Exerzitienhaus (Móricz Zs u. 14, HU-2016 Leányfalu/Budapest, phone +36 26 383212, fax +36 26 383302).

For information during the consultation please phone +36 26 383212 or +39 335 6041576.

The text of *Charta Oecumenica* is available on the CEC and CCEE websites: www.cec-kek.org – www.ccee.ch, or in the following book:



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The Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) comprises the Presidents of the 34 bishops' conferences that are in Europe. Its president is Mgr. Amédée Grab, Bishop of Chur (Switzerland); the vice-presidents are Card. Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster and Archbishop Josip Bozanic of Zagreb (Croatia). The General Secretary of CCEE is Mgr. Aldo Giordano. For further information: www.ccee.ch

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is a fellowship of 125 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 associated organisations. Founded in 1959, CEC has offices located in Geneva, Brussels and Strasbourg. The General Secretary is Rev. Keith Clements. For further information: www.cec-kek.org