



World Council of Churches

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Conference of European Churches

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To: CEC Member Churches  
CEC Associated Organisations  
CSC Task Force on Globalisation

26 May 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,  
Dear friends,

On behalf of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches, we invite a representative of your church to the Consultation on Poverty-Wealth-Ecology in Europe. The joint event of CEC and WCC, in cooperation with the churches in Hungary, is a European contribution to the global ecumenical discussion on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology launched at the WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre. The Consultation will take place from 8–12 November 2010 in Budapest in the facilities of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary.

The economy and progressive globalisation have become important issues for churches. Assemblies and meetings of ecumenical bodies and a number of churches have paid significant attention to these topics. The recent economic and financial crisis added a new dimension to the debate. The 13<sup>th</sup> CEC Assembly has underlined that: "the substance of the current crisis is not limited to the realm of economics, but has also highlighted, for example, the relationship between economics and politics and between economics and the environment. In revealing the scale and impact of economic factors on human life, the crisis has also highlighted its significant ethical and spiritual dimensions". In a call to the churches of Europe the Assembly encourages them "to deepen our ethical and spiritual reflection on the causes and meaning of the financial and economic crisis", as well as "to promote examples of faith-based economic praxis which provide alternatives to current economic structures".

A guide to intensifying the work on economic impacts of globalisation was also given at the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu which encourages churches to work on "a consultative process, addressing European responsibility for ecological justice, facing the threat of climate change; European responsibility for the just shaping of globalisation" and to do it in cooperation with the churches of other continents.

In responding to this call, the Consultation on Poverty - Wealth - Ecology will provide a space for sharing among representatives of European churches, will facilitate networking among existing initiatives and strengthen coherence of churches' action. It will follow up the initiatives of the CSC from the earlier part of this year, in particular the launching of the CALL network. Under the overall heading of the Consultation, the meeting will focus on three main areas of concern:

- Poverty and Wealth in Europe, with particular attention to the situation in Central and Eastern Europe;
- The challenge of a low-carbon economy and an economy of sufficiency;
- The need for dialogue with the power structures and dialogue among ourselves.

In addition, the Consultation will offer an exciting possibility for a direct exchange between delegates from Europe and ecumenical partner organisations from other continents. At the same time, the Consultation will be a contribution to the CEC initiative: '2010 year of European churches responding to migration'.

The meeting is targeted at experts involved in churches' work in the areas of concern addressed by the Consultation. Registered participants will be invited to contribute to the programme of the meeting and to take part in the consultative process before the meeting.

The Consultation will start on Monday, 8 November by providing a possibility to take part in the excursion: Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in the context of Central Europe – the engagement of churches in Hungary. Participation in the excursion is optional. The meeting will end on Friday, 12 November in the afternoon.

**We would appreciate receiving your reply to this invitation at your earliest convenience, in any case no later than 15 June 2010.**

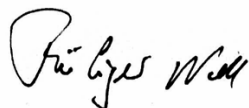
The costs of the Consultation will be 440€ for accommodation in a single room and 320€ per participant in a double room. This includes board, accommodation and the conference fee. For those opting not to participate in the excursion, the costs will be 350€ for a single room and 280€ for a double room. For those who are not able to cover fully or partially the cost of their participation, it is possible to request a grant using the enclosed registration form. Unfortunately, however, the funds available for this purpose are very limited.

CEC is committed to work for gender mainstreaming in all its activities. We would appreciate your support for this effort when responding to this invitation. We are equally committed to minimising the impacts of necessary travel on the environment. For this reason, we invite all participants to consider a contribution of 15€ to the CSC climate compensation scheme.

The conference language will be English.

Further material for the Consultation, as well as confirmation of your participation, will be distributed to all those who register in the meeting in due time. For any other information, you are welcome to contact the CEC/CSC office in Brussels: Tel: +32 2 230 17 32; fax: +32 2 231 14 13; e-mail: [lhs@cec-kek.be](mailto:lhs@cec-kek.be).

With kind regards,



Rev. Rüdiger Noll  
Director  
Church and Society Commission  
Conference of European Churches



Dr. Rogate Mshana  
Director, Justice, Diakonia and Creation and  
Programme Executive, Poverty Wealth and  
Ecology  
World Council of Churches

Attached:

- Tentative programme of the consultation
- Registration form