

# INFORMATION NOTE **1**

**TOGETHER ON THE WAY TO TRONDHEIM**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES  
12<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY  
Trondheim (Norway)  
25 June to 2 July 2003**

**JESUS CHRIST HEALS AND RECONCILES -  
OUR WITNESS IN EUROPE**

**TOGETHER ON THE WAY TO TRONDHEIM**

Time has gone by quickly and it is now only two months before our CEC General Assembly in Trondheim. There is still a lot of work and preparation to be done, but the organisers in Geneva and Trondheim are sending this message to say that we are well prepared to receive the CEC Constituency and we all look forward to seeing you here.

First and foremost we welcome all the delegates from the Member Churches. However, the CEC Assembly is not only for delegates and other official participants. Individuals and groups from churches are welcome and invited to take part in the Assembly program. The Assembly will provide a unique opportunity to learn more about the churches in Europe.

Apart from a number of worship services in the Nidaros Cathedral, nearly all the Assembly events will take place in the SPEKTRUM, Trondheim's internationally renowned Conference Centre close to the heart of the city.

We hope that the Member Churches of CEC will inform possible visitors that they will have access to many parts of the official program of the Assembly, such as the worship life, special plenaries, Bible studies and cultural events. One of the most exciting venues will be the Torg, the exhibition area. ("Torg" is a Norwegian/Scandinavian word for marketplace)

**TRAVEL TO TRONDHEIM**

Those who have not yet booked their travel should note that there are an increasing number of flights to Trondheim via Amsterdam (three flights per day on KLM) and Copenhagen (SAS).

**THE ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME**

The Official Programme of the Assembly is attached at the end of this Note. It is available on our website: [www.cecassembly.no](http://www.cecassembly.no), where another Programme for Visitors can also be found.

## **ORIENTATION FOR NEWCOMERS**

For those for whom Trondheim will be their first experience of CEC and a CEC Assembly, a special Orientation Programme is being provided **10h30-16h30 on Wednesday 25 June**.

## **WORSHIP, MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS**

Worship will be a very significant part of the Assembly. The daily morning and evening worship services will be held in the Trondheim Spektrum, The large and extraordinary worship services will be in the Cathedral and on the riverbank of the Nidelven.

The Assembly will open formally at **17h00 on Wednesday, 25 June 2003**, when we hold the first Plenary business session. All delegates and representatives should be present. For the first evening prayer, as for all prayers and worship services, we invite everyone to join. At the end of this prayer those who will want to attend the Bible-study groups which will meet most mornings of the Assembly, will join with others for a first meeting of the group they wish to belong to for the coming days. Visitors who want to attend a Bible Study group will have special groups for visitors. The morning inter-confessional prayers will reflect different denominational traditions, whereas the evening prayers will be prepared by different groups or minority churches within the CEC Constituency.

The Nidaros Cathedral will be the venue for the **Opening Worship at 08h30 on Thursday 26 June**, in the presence of His Majesty King Harald of Norway together with Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, and the preacher will be his All Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch.

*This service will also highlight the symbolic significance of water, and each delegation is invited to bring a small bottle of clean water – preferably from a natural source – from its respective country, which will be poured into a common bowl during the service.*

The Cathedral will also be the site for a most significant part of the Assembly worship life which will take place from **Saturday night to Sunday morning (28-29 June)**. This time of worship will start with a Protestant (Lutheran) Eucharist Service on Saturday evening, at which the preacher will be Revd Dr Isabelle Graesslé of Geneva, and continue with a Vigil and cycle of prayers throughout the night and into Sunday morning. Sunday morning worship will start at 09.00 with an Armenian Liturgy followed by an Eastern Orthodox Liturgy.

The **Closing Worship (Wednesday, 2 July)** will be take place on the riverbank of the Nideleven where St. Olav was originally buried (1030) before his relics were removed to the church. St. Olav's water source is also there. The preacher will be His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams. At the end of the service, the river will be blessed to remind us all of our relationship to the whole of the creation and our dependency on water.

## **THEME AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Theme Paper deals with the overall Assembly theme **"Jesus Christ Heals and Reconciles – Our Witness in Europe"** in terms both of a theological exposition and a survey of current challenges in the life of Europe and the churches' engagement with them. It is intended to inform and stimulate thought and discussion at the Assembly and not to be a text for revision and "final approval."

As key-note speaker on the theme, **on the morning of Thursday 26 June**, we shall welcome His Excellency **Dr Kenneth Kaunda**, former President of the Republic of Zambia and now "President-in-Residence" at Boston University, USA. It is 35 years since Dr Kaunda addressed another ecumenical gathering in Scandinavia – the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the WCC in Uppsala. He will bring a unique lifetime of experience and reflection on justice, healing and reconciliation and set our Assembly firmly within the world scene.

## HEARINGS

**On the Thursday and Friday (26-27 June)**, a special feature will be the fifteen (15) Thematic Hearings, in three sessions with five hearings in parallel with each other. These will be set up by a number of CEC's Partner organisations to give an introduction to a whole range of issues represented by "healing and reconciliation" and the ways in which the CEC Constituency is engaged with them in Europe. The hearings will also serve as a challenge to the future work of CEC. As five hearings will take place at the same time in each session, it will not be possible to attend more than three of them. You will therefore have to make a choice between the rich varieties of offers: reconciliation processes, globalisation, witness and mission, gene-technology, minority/majority churches, communication and the information society, HIV/Aids, dialog between religions, and more. You can leave this choice until you get to Trondheim.

## SECTIONS

**On the Friday evening and on Saturday (27-28 June)**, apart from certain committees, the official work of the Assembly will be carried out in four Sections. It is in the Sections that the reports presented by the General Secretary and Central Committee, the ***Graz to Trondheim Report***, the key-note address, the contributions of the Thematic Hearings and various written inputs will be considered and proposals worked out for future priorities for CEC. The Sections will be:

1. **Growing in Solidarity**
2. **Growing Together in Europe**
3. **Growing Witness in Society**
4. **Growing Fellowship Between Churches**

*Nearer the time, you will receive more detailed information on the content of these Sections, together with a form on which you can indicate your order of preference for which Section to attend.*

## THEMATIC PLENARY SESSIONS (3)

As well as business sessions in plenary, there will be three special plenary sessions:

1. **The *Charta Oecumenica*** – the document of guidelines for the growing co-operation among the Churches of Europe prepared by CEC and the Council of European Catholic Bishops' Conferences and presented to the Churches in 2001.
2. **A Youth Plenary**, organised by the youth organisations associated with CEC, which will present to the whole Assembly the ecumenical vision and challenges as seen by the younger generation.

3. **A Plenary on Europe and its future.** Coming at a critical time in the process of European integration – both inside and outside the European Union – this session will explore what is happening in the search for “unity in diversity” in Europe, the role of Europe in the wider world, and the role of the Churches in engaging with these issues.

## **FURTHER OPTIONS**

The **Torg** will offer a special program every day. Each day a specially significant and interesting personality will be presented, interviewed and available to be questioned. There will be a daily briefing to inform about the ongoing work at the Assembly. More hearings, presentations, music and other cultural inputs are also planned as a part of the programs at the Torg.

The City of Trondheim has an interesting history as a Church and pilgrimage centre. ”Guided pilgrimages” will bring you through some of this history. Every day the tourist office of the city will offer ordinary guided tours through the sites of Trondheim.

Every night Vår Frue (Our Lady) Church will be open for cultural happenings, movies linked with the Assembly theme will be presented.

The Café ”Børsen” right across the street from the Vår Frue Church will be a common meeting place for all those who want to enjoy the long, late nights together with others. We will enjoy a Barbecue Sunday night followed by a gospel night in the Trondheim Spektrum.

There will also be an additional Youth programme.

We also hope that all of us will meet new friends and that, together, we may enjoy the CEC fellowship and the summer sun in the city of Trondheim.

## **VISITORS**

If there are people in your Church who wish to come as visitors, they should go to the CEC Assembly website : **”How to Participate:Visitor section”** and find the registration form, fill it in and send it directly to TVETE Arrangement (address below).

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

All Participants will need to pay a conference fee of NOK 1000 (regardless of whether they are delegates, visitors, others) for the whole period. The daily fee is NOK 150. Board and lodging are not included in these fees. At the time of writing, the exchange rate is 7.79 NOK to 1 Euro.

All meals and hotels are to be booked through TVETE Arrangement via the Registration form. **Please be reminded that Registration forms of official participants from the CEC Constituency should be returned to the General Secretariat, in Geneva.**

More information on the Assembly and the Assembly Registration process are to be found on our website: [www.cecassembly.no](http://www.cecassembly.no)

## **PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NGOs ARE WELCOME AS EXHIBITORS ON THE "TORG"**

"Torg" is the grand living room and the exhibition area of the Assembly. Partner organisations, ecumenical organisations and congregations may apply for an exhibition place. We want to see exhibitions that are visible with a message that is presented in an attractive way for a broad European fellowship. The "Torg" has its own Internet Café, Women's café, an Info Centre, an Agora and other activities, which will attract people during the Assembly. All coffee breaks will be served at the Torg. It will be fully working from 26 to 28 June. During this period the booths at the Torg must be fully operating. **Saturday 28 June is a special day** at the Torg with a full program during the whole day. The Torg will function until the end of the Assembly, on 2 July, with eventually lesser activity.

For more information about the Torg, please contact directly KEK – Partners Programme "Torget":

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## **WHAT MORE MATERIAL TO EXPECT**

In the coming days you can expect to receive more material, including:

**The *Graz to Trondheim* Report.**  
**The Assembly *Workbook* (with much practical information)**  
**Information on the Sections with a form to state your preferred choice**

Finally, we hope for your prayers on our Way to Trondheim. Remember to pray also for all the CEC Staff who is working very hard for the preparations of the CEC 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Looking forward to meeting you in Trondheim, with the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Revd Dr Keith Clements  
CEC General Secretary  
Secretary

Revd Berit Lanke  
Assembly Organising

Detailed information can be found on Internet:

[www.cecassembly.no](http://www.cecassembly.no)

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