

**CEC 12th Assembly
Trondheim (Norway), 25 June – 2 July 2003
Partners' Programme
Hearings in the Core Programme
Information about the Hearings**

Hearing 10:

- Title:** Called to Communicate: the Churches' Witness in the Information Society
- Responsible Organization/s:** World Association for Christian Communication (WACC European Region and WACC Global)
- Date and Time of the Hearing:** Thursday 26 June 2003, 1700hrs-1830hrs
- Used languages:** English
- Main Speakers / Presenters:** Chair: Gianna Urizio, WACC European Region President
Participants: Randy Naylor, general secretary, World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) Global, Global perspective on World Summit of Information Society (SIS), Why is it important for the churches?; Myriam Horngren, of the Campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS), The main goals of the Campaign; Karin Achtelstetter, director of the Communication Department of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), How the churches might respond and get involved?
- Description:** The World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) which will be opened by the United Nations in Geneva, December 2003, is also challenging the European churches. What will be the future of communication in a changing information society? Which roles can the churches play in it? The new information technologies are changing the global communication scenario: how is this going to change the church presence in the media? How are the new technologies going to change the way the gospel is communicated by churches?
- The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) is an international, ecumenical organisation that gives priority to Christian values in the world's communication. Its aims and objectives are:

- * To promote democratic forms of communication, enhance people's creativity and solidarity, and respond to people's needs.
- * To contribute towards building a communications environment founded on respect for human dignity.
- * To support processes that lead to the democratisation of the mass media, including advocacy, reflection, policy development and networking.
- * To implement communication programmes and to support projects that lead to the empowerment of people, especially the dispossessed and marginalised, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants, women, children and people with disabilities.

The European Region of WACC is a network of Christian communicators working with these same aims and objectives within Europe. In concrete terms, WACC Europe organises and supports seminars, workshops, events like the TV Religious festivals facilitating exchanges, reflections, and training among professionals of different media in the light of Christian values.