

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

Hearing 13:

- Title:** Healing of Memories – an ongoing task – Roma and the Nordic Churches
- Responsible Organization/s:** Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and the churches in Finland, Norway and Sweden
- Date and Time of the Hearing:** Friday 27 June 2003, 1030hrs-1230hrs
- Languages Used:** English
- Main Speakers / Presenters:** Moderator: Doris Peschke, CCME General Secretary
Participants: Elias Axeleson (Norway); Rev. Ondrej Prostrednik (General Secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia); Rev. Henry Hedman, Rev. Väinö Lindberg and Tuula Åkerlund; Leif Bodin Larsen, Anna Gustafsson and Marianne Grønnerud; Lars Demetri; Rev. Henry Hedman; Rev. Erling Pettersen (Chief of staff of Church of Norway, National Church Council)
- Description:** In May 2001, CCME and CEC had organized jointly a conference on the situation of Roma in Central and East European countries under the theme: ‘Living in Community – Towards equal opportunities and overcoming discrimination’. Roma are a minority in almost every European country, and despite the recognition as a national minority, they still face discrimination and segregation in many places. In the late 90s, the Nordic churches have been particularly active in this process, Churches issued statements of asking for forgiveness and engaged in diaconal and human rights work related to Roma issues. On various occasions, events were organised in cooperation with Roma organisations. Roma organisations from their side have tried to respond to the developments in the churches and an interesting process has developed. Yet statements from inside the Nordic churches show that many church members believe that reconciliation and healing of memories still has a long way to go.

It is the aim of this hearing to reflect how the experience of the Nordic churches in their work in cooperation with Roma and on Roma issues can serve as an example for churches elsewhere. The hearing will try to combine reflections from a perspective from the churches and from the Roma community. The hearing also aims at identifying how European networks such as CCME and CEC can be of help in sharing experience on the work with Roma and on Roma issues.

Programme:

- 10.30 Opening song by Mr. Elias Axelsen, Norway
 - 10.40 Introduction Rev. Ondrej Prostrednik, General Secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia
 - 10.50 Video
 - 11.00 Roma in Finland and the Church of Finland, Rev. Henry Hedman, Rev. Väinö Lindberg and Mrs. Tuula Åkerlund
 - 11.15 Roma in Norway and the churches in Norway, Mr. Leif Bodin Larsen, Mrs. Anna Gustafsson and Mrs Marianne Grønnerud
 - 11.30 Roma in Sweden and the role of the Pentecostal churches, Mr. Lars Demetri, Mrs Elvy Taikon, Sweden
 - 11.45 Expectations of Roma organisations in the Nordic countries and recommendations to the churches in Europe, introduced by Rev. Henry Hedman
- Discussion
Conclusions (Rev. Erling Pettersen, Chief of staff of Church of Norway, National Church Council)
- The meeting will be moderated by Doris Peschke, CCME General Secretary.