



GENSEC-2024-062

To CEC Member Churches
National Councils of Churches
Organisations in Partnership

1 July 2024

Re: Charta Oecumenica – consultation process

Esteemed Church leaders,
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Charta Oecumenica has played a crucial role in shaping the European ecumenical agenda for more than two decades. The joint signatures of the Presidents of CEC and CCEE on the document, and the implementation that followed, contributed to the deepening of mutual trust and cooperation between CEC's Member Churches and the national Bishop's Conferences, member bodies of the CCEE in many countries on the continent. The decision of the CEC-CCEE Joint Committee to update the existing text of the Charta is an important milestone in this trust-building process.

While reflecting the changing circumstances in European society and among Christians, the update of the Charta aims at providing a guiding text that accompanies churches in Europe in their ecumenical journeys for years ahead. The goal is to ensure that the Charta Oecumenica remains relevant in the current context.

In this letter, we would like to share with you the news of the successful completion of the first draft of the revised Charta by the Joint CEC-CCEE Working Group. The draft has been approved by the decision-making bodies of CEC and CCEE respectively. We now share this text with the constituencies of both bodies who are invited to participate in a broad consultation process that

General Secretariat
Rue Joseph II 174
BE-1000 Bruxelles
+32 2 234 68 32
cec@cec-kek.be
www.ceceurope.org



will lead to further updates and improvements of the text, and to the intended adoption and signing of the updated Charta in the next year.

As the revised Charta Oecumenica shall speak about ecumenism in Europe and address the opportunities and challenges you see in your context, we rely on your reactions and contributions. We cordially invite you to discuss this draft within your own settings, in your Church, Council of Churches or amongst CEC's Organisations in Partnership.

The consultation will be carried out on several levels from 1 July to 15 October 2024. We invite CEC Member Churches, the National Bishops' Conferences, the National Councils of Churches, Organisations in Partnership, and other ecumenical stakeholders to participate. Enclosed, we send you the draft, which you can also find on our dedicated webpage together with further information: <https://ceceurope.org/revision-charta-oecumenica>

We encourage you to share your reactions, comments and further contributions to the text with us by 15 October, via the email address: charta@cec-kek.be. Further contributions to the consultation will be possible via participation in specific events organised during the consultation process. More information about these events will follow. All contributions will be evaluated by the Joint Working Group. The Working Group will then prepare the text based on the outcomes of the consultation, which will be assessed by the decision-making bodies of CEC and CCEE.

The consultation within CEC and CCEE is a key component of updating Charta Oecumenica, which finally aims at supporting churches in their ecumenical efforts for the years ahead.

Should you have any questions with regard to the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us. CEC's secretariat will do its best to keep the process clear and transparent.

With thanks for your participation in this process, and best regards,



Rev. Frank Dieter Fischbach

General Secretary



Ms Lea Schlenker

Co-chair

Joint CEC-CCEE Working Group on the update
of Charta Oecumenica