

Press Release

General Secretaries of National Councils of Churches in Europe meet in Berlin

Focus on Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

Berlin / Frankfurt aM (05/21/2015) From 26 to 29 of May the General Secretaries of the National Councils of Churches in Europe will meet in Berlin. Apart from the “Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace”, proclaimed by the World Council of Churches (WCC), the 25 participants from 15 nations will visit the German Bundestag and discuss the relationship between church and state as well as the situation of persecuted Christians.

From Norway to Italy, from Portugal to Poland, the General Secretaries of the National Councils of Churches of 15 European countries will come to Berlin for their annual meeting. They will reflect on concrete steps for the “Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace”. They look forward to discussing how European churches can cooperate on issues like life-affirming economies, the protection of creation, nonviolent peace-building and reconciliation and the protection of human dignity.

The General Secretaries will discuss the relationship between church and state in Europe with members of the German Bundestag and the office of the representative of the Evangelical Church in Germany to the Federal Republic of Germany. They will also gather information about measures taken by European governments to protect persecuted and oppressed Christians and religious minorities. In many countries of the world organisations have been created to provide a reliable basis for multilateral cooperation among churches. They are usually called national or ecumenical councils.

The national councils of churches in Europe stay in continuous contact through these annual meetings of their General Secretaries held at the different locations. They focus on the sharing of experiences and on working together on a topic important to all. In 2014 the meeting took place in the Netherlands and focussed on the global financial crisis. Representatives of the WCC and the Conference of European Churches (CEC), including CEC General Secretary Guy Liagre will also take part in the meeting.

You will find the detailed programme here: http://www.oekumene-ack.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Sonstiges/ENCC_PROGRAMME_Berlin_2015-05-19.pdf