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## CSC Update on European Affairs

### TOPICS COVERED:

European Commission sets priorities for higher education in Europe; CSC makes a critical account of European co-operation in higher education (new Report); CSC writes to Baroness Ashton about the implementation of freedom of religion or belief; Churches meet with NATO officials to discuss nuclear weapons' policy; Plans for ecumenical input to UN Climate Change Conference in Durban and for Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Developments; CSC promotes climate justice in WCC Assembly in 2013; the EU Danube Strategy offers a new framework for co-operation for churches in the region; new publications; CSC-Eurodiaconia seminar "Exploring Europe 2020"; CSC Conference on Education for Democratic Citizenship, and other upcoming events.

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### EDITORIAL

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Given that, after some five years, my service at the Church and Society Commission (CSC) of CEC and as editor of Europe Updates is drawing to a close, I will exceptionally, in the form of an editorial, provide some personal observations on what I hear and see in Brussels right now.

Whereas the economic and financial crisis naturally tops the EU agenda, also another sore wound disturbs Brussels. That is the stumbling start of the European External Action Service (EEAS). Most people blame the weak performance of Baroness Catherine Ashton which, a Belgian university professor claimed yesterday, means that she has performed as expected. The wisdom of Political Science holds that politicians create institutions to do the dirty job, to serve as scapegoats. For Baroness Ashton, being blamed is a part of her job. This said, many now call for stronger leadership, deplore the insufficient funding for the EEAS, and notice the way in which the President of the European Council, Mr Herman van Rompuy, most notably (who has become much more prominent than the humble coordinator of common policies he was assumed to be), as well as the head of the European Commission Mr José Manuel Barroso and even the leader of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, have rushed to fill the power vacuum, thereby doing a disservice to (whose?) ideal of a single face for EU foreign policy. At the same time, Member States – to a large extent responsible for the troubles of the EEAS – continue pursuing their own interests rather than those of our common Europe.

Now debates are being held on whether there is beauty in diversity and in multi-speed Europe and in greater specialisation (I have even heard almost serious proposals been made for Sweden to take the lead on human rights and Germany in economics.. ) or whether the EU should after an x number of more or less ignored strategies, devise *the* foreign policy strategy which defines those regions and issues which are of its most vital interest, and to back this policy with sufficient resources. Whichever track is taken, I hope I am not the only one who expects the leaders soon to enable the EEAS to get on its feet.

Beyond the foreign policy agenda, it seems that the Commission and the Member States are determined to align all EU's internal policies (except justice and home affairs which are in a

different basket) with the 'grand' Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. As the article here below shows, the Commission Directorate-General on Education, advocating for excellence, has this far performed best in this exercise. So, growth may indeed become smart if being smart is about maths, engineering, science and technology. On the contrary, nothing hints at this stage that "inclusiveness" is anywhere close to the heart of the agenda. Here, churches have a job cut out for them.

Those who call for a visionary statesman (or woman) to lead the EU deeper into the 21<sup>st</sup> century might want to consider Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, longstanding MEP (EPP-DE) and former President of the European Parliament. In light of his recent passionate lecture in defence of European co-operation, he would be motivated. Speaking for a mainly German and mainly conservative audience, he reminded the listeners that European co-operation is and should be about more than economics. In our times, when some talk about the end of the Union, we should remember that the preeminent reason why the six countries got together to practice economic co-operation was to ensure peace. And that is what we have had. Abandoning this project for national interests and lack of solidarity would be a fatal error. Neither should economics mislead us not to take serious efforts to combat climate change. Mr Pöttering also emphasised the importance of dialogue of cultures and urged Europe, truthful for its own values, to engage in a respectful dialogue with other regions of the world. Delighted by his words, I wonder if he has been a devoted reader of these Europe Updates..

I wish to thank all the readers of Europe Update and hope that churches continue their work "towards a humane, socially conscious Europe" (Charta Oecumenica) with determination.

Eliina Eloranta

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## HIGHER EDUCATION IN EUROPE

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### European Commission sets priorities for higher education

On 20 September 2011, the European Commission published a new Communication "Supporting growth and jobs – an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems" which sets out priorities for future action in this area for the decade to come. This new Communication builds on the Europe 2020 Strategy as well as the sector specific Strategic Framework for European Co-operation in Education and Training, 'ET 2020', adopted by the Council in May 2009.

According to the Commission, European higher education currently faces the following challenges: untapped potential to contribute to Europe's prosperity; lack of excellence and financial investment in comparison to international rivals; the increasing need for higher education qualifications – it is estimated that 35% of all jobs in the EU by 2020 require this level of knowledge; and mismatch between skills and jobs. As a response, the Commission suggests that the EU Member States focus on achieving reforms in four key areas: 1) to increase the quantity of higher education graduates at all levels (40% of young people should successfully complete higher education or equivalent studies by 2020); 2) to enhance the quality and relevance of human capital development in higher education; 3) to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence; 4) to strengthen the "knowledge triangle" between education, research and business. From its side, the Commission supports these changes with a number of new initiatives and old measures including, for example, launching the U-Multirank, a new performance-based ranking and information tool for profiling higher education institutions and by issuing a Communication on Rethinking Skill in 2012, which provides specific guidance and recommendations on raising basic and transversal skills and overcoming skills mismatches. The Commission will also continue supporting mobility of learners, teachers and researchers and, as a new tool, proposes a European-level student loan guarantee facility. The Commission will promote the knowledge triangle, e.g. by facilitating the creation of knowledge alliances and by disseminating good examples of integrated partnerships, new governance and funding models.

The Communication also explains that changes are to be expected for the respective funding instruments. Three funding mechanisms for the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are **Education Europe**, a single programme for education, training and youth; **Horizon 2020**, the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation; and (the old) **Cohesion Policy instruments** including the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund.

The decision over future priorities will be taken jointly by the Council and the European Parliament. The Council aims at finding an agreement by/at the Education Council meeting on 28 November 2011.

Whereas the Communication acknowledges the role education plays in individual and societal advancement, the emphasis is clearly on its importance with regard to economic delivery. The weight put on the economic side should not be criticised sketchily. It is said that it was precisely for its convincing case - "education is a growth enhancing investment par excellence" - that the EC Directorate-General on education convinced the other Commission DGs to allocate it the single biggest increase in the future MFF. The Commission suggests an increase of 73% to the education budget in comparison to the MFF 2007-2013 and 46% increase in research budget. In the case of education this would mean a jump from 8.8 billion Euros to 15.2 Euros. This proposal is to be supported. At this stage, the use of this amount is not defined in further detail. This said, the churches' voices are needed to ensure that EU governments will also in the future cherish, besides employability, the other three missions of learning: input for research, input for societal development and personal development.

## **CSC Conference builds ground for greater church engagement**

The CSC Conference "Education for Democratic Citizenship: A Role for the Churches?" to be held in Strasbourg on 5-7 October 2011 will provide a forum to stimulate church engagement in European developments concerning education. In the conference, delegates from CEC Member Churches and Associated Organisations will explore how "education for democratic citizenship", as understood and promoted by the European Institutions, relates to the views of churches and actors of religious education. The event is organised in close cooperation with the CEC's Associated Organisations, the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School and the International Association for Christian Education as well as with the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

Background information on the Conference:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/0052-11\\_Education\\_conf\\_2011\\_presentation.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/0052-11_Education_conf_2011_presentation.pdf)

Draft programme of the Conference:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/0055-11\\_Education\\_conf\\_2011draft\\_programme.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/0055-11_Education_conf_2011draft_programme.pdf)

## **New CSC Report offers a critical account of past achievements and future perspectives of European co-operation in higher education**

Granted, the future of higher education in Europe is an issue of importance to churches. To feed their own reflection and, at the same time, to serve the entire CEC constituency, the Church of Sweden commissioned a CSC report on this topic. The document describes what the European co-operation in higher education has achieved and not achieved thus far, where it is heading, how it is organised and how churches can join in. The paper also explains the main points of criticism and allows the officials a possibility to respond. It looks at both the EU and the Bologna Process, now called the European Higher Education Area, which are two separate but intertwined processes.

Read the report at:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/CSC\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Future\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_in\\_Europe\\_-\\_September\\_2011.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Education/CSC_Report_on_the_Future_of_Higher_Education_in_Europe_-_September_2011.pdf)

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# **HUMAN RIGHTS**

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## **CSC writes to Baroness Ashton about freedom of religion**

On 19 September CSC addressed the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union, Baroness Catherine Ashton, with a letter concerning freedom of religion or belief in the world. Reminding the EU that it is founded on human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights (Art 2 of TEU) and that it has pledged to "uphold and promote its

values and interests (..) in its relations with the wider world”, and while assuring that CEC and its member churches are committed to the indivisibility of human rights, CSC offers, in this submission, its views on how the EEAS could use its potential in implementing the right of freedom of religion or belief. The focus on this specific right in this case is justified given the “increasing number of acts of religious intolerance and discrimination, as epitomised by recent violence and acts of terrorism, in various countries, against Christians and their places of worship, Muslim pilgrims and other religious communities”, and in view of the Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 21 February 2011 (see Europe Update N° 36, 35), which invited “the High Representative to report on the measures taken and on concrete proposals to further strengthen the EU action in this regard”.

CSC makes the following recommendations. Firstly, it suggests that the EEAS would develop Guidelines on the Rights to Freedom of Religion or Belief in the tradition of previous guidelines for EU foreign policy. These practical guidelines should facilitate and strengthen the work of EU Delegations in monitoring the implementation of freedom of religion or belief, also in relation to other fundamental rights and freedoms as well as social, cultural and economic rights. Monitoring and reporting would also serve, in case of emerging conflicts, as an “early-warning function”. The Guidelines should also encourage and enable the delegations to establish good contacts with the communities of faith and conviction, with organisations which promote mutual respect and dialogue (e.g. Interreligious or Ecumenical Councils) as well as with human rights and civil society organisations in the respective countries. CSC indicates its willingness to contribute to the preparation of these Guidelines.

Secondly, CSC invites the EEAS to consider special training for its staff, in particular for the staff of the delegations, with a view to increasing their capacity to monitor the implementation of freedom of religion or belief. Ecumenical, interreligious and human rights organisations would be an important asset in this training. With regard to the Brussels’ headquarters, CSC proposes, inter alia, that the EEAS report on the implementation of freedom of religion or belief in its annual Human Rights Report; use human rights dialogues with countries outside the Union to also address issues of freedom of religion or belief, where appropriate, with reference to the human rights’ clause in trade agreements; and that the EU use its own and its Member States’ membership in international fora, such as the UN and its Human Rights Council, to raise violations of the freedom of religion or belief and to dialogue with the countries concerned. Lastly, CSC underlines that despite all of these measures, it remains of utmost importance that the European Union and its Member States provide protection and grant asylum to persons who are persecuted in third countries on the grounds of their religion or belief, as well as to human rights defenders.

CSC’s letter to Baroness Ashton also affirms that the churches in Europe will continue to engage in the protection of human rights, in creating awareness on human rights’ standards and mechanisms and by providing human rights’ training for their membership.

The full letter is available at: [http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Human\\_Rights/0060-11\\_CEC-CSC\\_Submission\\_on\\_Freedom\\_of\\_Religion\\_or\\_Belief\\_to\\_the\\_EU\\_High\\_Representative.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Human_Rights/0060-11_CEC-CSC_Submission_on_Freedom_of_Religion_or_Belief_to_the_EU_High_Representative.pdf)

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## **NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

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### **Churches expect NATO to promote peace and security**

In March 2011, CEC together with the World Council of Churches (WCC), the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and the Canadian Council of Churches, approached NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, as well as all NATO ambassadors, urging them to reset NATO’s nuclear policy in the framework of the current Defence and Deterrence Posture Review (DDPR) (see Europe Update N° 36). The response by SG Rasmussen invited the churches for a meeting with his nuclear weapons experts. On 29 August, CSC/CEC together with WCC and their close partner IKV/Pax Christi, the Dutch interchurch peace council, met with Mr Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Division, and Mr Colin Stockman, NATO’s top nuclear weapons’ expert. The meeting discussed both the policy and the process.

DDPR seeks to operationalize the principles set in the Strategic Concept adopted last November (see Europe Updates N° 35, 33). The main debate concerns the US-promoted plans for NATO missile defence, its impact for the rest of the posture and possible co-operation with Russia. In the

DDPR process NATO also looks at its capabilities to deal with new challenges. According to the officials, a deal has to be struck on missile defence before decisions can be taken on conventional forces or tactical nuclear weapons (TNW). With regard to TNWs, minor progress could be expected. New declaratory policy in line with US's Nuclear Posture Review, as promoted by the churches, is not unrealistic. There are also attempts to increase mutual transparency with Russia. The churches have appealed on both sides to this effect. Yet, as a whole NATO does not seem ready to discard Cold War thinking and focus its sources on measures and capabilities which would factually build peace and security in the 21st century environment.

In their joint letter, the organisations make a number of specific recommendations. They, for instance, encourage NATO to commit itself to the new U.S. policy which holds that nuclear weapons will not be used against non-nuclear weapon states that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in compliance with their NPT obligations. As to the tactical nuclear weapons, the organisations reiterate their earlier – also joint - calls for NATO to end all 'nuclear sharing' tasks of non-nuclear member states, including the withdrawal of these weapons from Europe. The letter notes that the new Strategic Concept, while affirming the need for participation of Allies in peace time basing of nuclear forces, no longer states that these weapons must be based in Europe, as was emphasised in previous Strategic Concepts. The organisations believe that ending 'nuclear sharing' would enhance the credibility of NATO's non-proliferation policy, as it would end doubts about its members' compliance with the NPT which prohibits any transfer of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon states. Moreover, it would reduce the number of countries in the world with nuclear weapons on their soil from the current 14 to 9.

The meeting of 29 August was one in a series of meetings that the four church organisations will hold with decision-makers and policy-setters on both side of the Atlantic. The results of the DDPR process are expected for the NATO Summit in Chicago on 21-22 May 2012. The main discussion on the DDPR will take place at the NATO defence ministers' meeting in October, in the foreign ministers' meeting in December and in the jumbo defence and foreign ministers' meeting prior to the Summit. Consequently, the best moment for the churches to address their governments is ahead of these meetings. Even with changes in CSC staff, CSC seeks to continue mobilising churches around this topic.

The joint letter can be found at: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/wider-ecumenical-movement-incl-wcc/follow-up-on-the-adoption-of-natos-strategic-concept.html>

The response of SG Rasmussen can be read at: [http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Nuclear\\_Disarmament/Reply\\_from\\_NATO\\_28\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Nuclear_Disarmament/Reply_from_NATO_28_March_2011.pdf)

A prominent group of international nuclear weapons' experts, including Mr Laurens Hogebrink who has served CSC as an advisor, addressed SG Rasmussen in their private capacity with a message in line with the policy advocated by CSC/CEC. Read that letter here: <http://www.armscontrol.org/system/files/DDPRltrSGNATO.pdf>

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

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### **Churches prepare for Durban and Rio**

Whereas political, media and even church attention towards climate change waned after the major UN Climate Summit in December 2009 (COP 15) (see Europe Update N° 29), and this is highly regrettable, out of the spot light, counter efforts are still being taken forward, also by the churches.

The ecumenical campaign 'Time for Climate Justice', launched in 2009 for the Copenhagen UN Climate Change Summit, has since then served as the umbrella and brand for all climate activities by churches and their partner organisations and agencies. Led by the WCC, ACT Alliance and Aprovev, the ecumenical organisations have also taken joint action. CEC has been present in this work, and in specific WCC projects, through the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). The coordination meeting earlier this month prepared the joint ecumenical presence and advocacy for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 17) in Durban (South Africa) on 28 November - 9 December 2011 as well as made plans for a joint contribution to the UN Conference

on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), Rio+20, to be held in Rio Janeiro on 4-6 June 2012.

The organisations intend to issue a Joint Message ahead of the Durban Conference. The activities foreseen to be organised by the ecumenical family at the actual event include, *inter alia*, an African campaign 'We Have Faith'; and an interfaith rally in the weekend of 26 November which is to culminate in a public event at the football stadium possibly with the presence of Desmond Tutu, a South African activist and retired Anglican Archbishop, and Mary Robinson, former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. An ecumenical worship service will be held on 4 December and a WCC side event on theological insights on climate negotiations on 5 December.

Rio+20 seeks to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will take place in Brazil to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. The churches plan to contribute with activities related to Green and Just Economy. They also intend to set up an ecumenical secretariat in Rio.

Website of the Durban Climate Change Conference: <http://www.cop17-cmp7durban.com/>

Website of Rio+20: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Website of ECEN: <http://www.ecen.org/>

WCC site on climate change: <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/ecearth-climatechange.html>

Act Alliance on climate change: <http://www.actalliance.org/what-we-do/issues/impact-evaluation>

For Aprove, see:

[http://www.aprodev.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&id=13&Itemid=11&lang=en](http://www.aprodev.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=13&Itemid=11&lang=en)

The EU's official negotiation position is expected on 10 October.

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## GLOBALISATION

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### The Great Challenge calls for the Great Transition

The world is confronted with urgent challenges. The global impacts of climate change constitute the greatest threat to the future of our planet. The concurrence of climate change, limitation of fossil fuels, climate change induced migration, food crisis, water crisis, energy crisis, biodiversity crisis and the current financial and economic crisis all may be indicators that our system of production, consumption and profit maximisation is in a need of an extensive and radical change. This was the underlying message of the CEC-supported WCC consultation on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in Europe, which took place in Budapest on 8-12 November 2010, and of which the results have now been published in a booklet.

This appeal for Climate Justice as well as economic and environmental issues more broadly are likely to feature high on the agenda of the tenth WCC Assembly, scheduled to take place in Busan (South Korea) on 2-13 October 2013. CSC plans to offer thematic input to the Assembly through its dialogue with Latin American churches (see below), as well as through the follow-up of the Budapest Conference. CSC will also serve in the preparation of a coordinated input by European churches. The dissemination of the results of the Budapest Conference, as well as the dissemination of the results of the Europe-Latin American dialogue, serve as invitations to the European churches to engage with this topic. Those interested in taking part in the process or having comments on the documents, please, contact Rev. Dr Peter Pavlovic (ppt(at)cec-kek.be).

To order a hard copy of the booklet, contact: Ms Lois Hough (lhs(at)cec-kek.be). For an e-copy, click at: <http://www.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Globalisation/View-INCEC.pdf>

### CSC/CEC-CLAI document on Threats and Challenges of Globalisation now available in hard copy

The joint publication by the Conference of European Churches (CSC/CEC) and the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) entitled "Threats and challenges of globalisation – churches in Europe and Latin America in dialogue" is now available also in hard copy (a resume of the content was

offered at Europe Update N° 36). We hope that this publication will serve for discussion in church committees and groups on the national as well as the local level. We also welcome comments on the report and on the outcome of the dialogue. Please, address them to Rev. Dr Peter Pavlovic (ppt(at)cec-kek.be).

To order hard copies, contact Ms Lois Hough (lhs(at)cec-kek.be).

The document can be downloaded at:

[http://www.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Globalisation/Amenazas\\_Ingles.pdf](http://www.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Globalisation/Amenazas_Ingles.pdf)

<http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/globalisation/>

Visit the CSC website on globalisation at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/globalisation/>

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## **DANUBE REGION**

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### **New framework for co-operation for churches in the Danube area**

The EU's Strategy for the Danube Region was adopted at the European Council on 24 June. This second ever (the first was the Baltic Sea Region Strategy of 2009) EU strategy for a macro-region involves besides the EU Member States, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia, also the following non-EU-countries: Ukraine, Moldavia, Serbia, Republic of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The Strategy defines four action areas. "Connecting the Danube Region" provides a framework for co-operation on issues related to traffic, sustainable energy, culture, tourism as well as for people-to-people contacts. "Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region" frames action to improve the quality of water, air and soils and to manage environmental risks. "Building Prosperity in the Danube Region" covers research, education, IT-development and competitiveness of enterprises. "Strengthening the Danube Region" is about co-operation in the fight against corruption and organised criminality.

The co-operation in these different areas is administered by the participating states and the European Commission. Every state has established a national contact office for this purpose. No new money is brought in. With regard to the European Commission, action is funded through the existing European funds. The European Commission shall present a revised action plan to the Council of the EU in June 2013.

CSC took an active part in the development of the Danube Strategy. However, despite its efforts to include more social dimension and intercultural elements, the Strategy takes an economic rather than a broader approach. CSC has expressed criticism for the Strategy not taking the historical, political and religious background of the Danube region into account. There are, however, attempts to include civil society in the implementation of the Strategy. The Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) was founded in a conference held in Eisenstadt/Austria from 31 June to 1 July. CSC participated in the event as an observer. The Forum will work in the framework of the four priority areas. Church groups, engaged in related topics, such as environmental protection, might benefit from the Strategy as well as from the forum as a possibility to meet other groups with similar interests and to set up cooperation with them. Project proposals should include partners from a minimum of three relevant countries.

For further details visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/danube/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm)  
And at: <http://www.danubestrategy.eu>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **Welcome to the CSC-Eurodiaconia seminar "Exploring Europe 2020" in Brussels on 21-23 November**

On 21-23 November in Brussels, CSC and Eurodiaconia will organise a high-level seminar "Exploring Europe 2020". The seminar aims to gather leading social affairs experts from churches and diaconia to analyse and discuss the impact of the Europe 2020 Strategy at the national level and how we can contribute to it nationally and at the European level. Europe 2020 Strategy was

adopted in 2010 in order to help the EU and its Member States to deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The EU acknowledges that the successful delivery of the Strategy depends on the involvement of all sections of society.

Invitation to the Exploring Europe 2020 –seminar:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Social\\_Economic\\_Issues/C046-11\\_Invitation\\_Explore\\_Europe\\_2020\\_Final.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Social_Economic_Issues/C046-11_Invitation_Explore_Europe_2020_Final.pdf)

Programme of the seminar:

[http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Social\\_Economic\\_Issues/0062-11\\_Programme\\_Explore\\_Europe\\_2020\\_Final.pdf](http://csc.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/csc/Social_Economic_Issues/0062-11_Programme_Explore_Europe_2020_Final.pdf)

## Join the CSC Conference on Education for Democratic Citizenship in Strasbourg on 5-7 October

See the article above.

## CSC Europe Secretaries meeting

The meeting of Church and Society Secretaries of European Churches will be organised in Strasbourg on 11-13 October 2011. The main theme of this year's meeting is freedom of religion or belief.

## Forthcoming: Consultation on human enhancement

The date for the consultation on human enhancement has been postponed from November 2011 to 25-27 April 2012. The event takes place in Brussels.

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### Church and Society Commission

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**The Church and Society Commission (CSC)** is one of the commissions of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The CSC links CEC's 125 member churches from all over Europe and its associated organisations with the European Union's institutions, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, NATO and the UN (on European matters). It engages its member churches and associated organisations in studies and projects relevant to church and society and thus supports and strengthens the common witness of European churches vis-à-vis the European Institutions and in the respective European societies.

This publication informs CEC members on European developments and related CSC activities. Members are welcome to use this publication as a channel to inform on their respective work. For comments or further information on the issues as well as to subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact [csc@cec-kek.be](mailto:csc@cec-kek.be). CSC Updates on European Affairs are also available on the CEC website at: <http://csc.ceceurope.org/news/europe-updates/>

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