

## **Threats and challenges of globalisation Churches in Europe and Latin America in dialogue**

The first stage of a dialogue on impacts of globalisation between CEC and Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) was concluded by the production of a joint text 'Threats and challenges of globalisation – Churches in Europe and Latin America in dialogue.' A structured dialogue on impacts of globalisation between two regional ecumenical bodies, which featured as one of the major initiatives of the CSC carried in 2009, been initiated already shortly after WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre. Two meetings over the year 2009 in Buenos Aires and Oslo demonstrated good will and readiness of both ecumenical organisations to work together

There is a difference in the experience of the impacts of globalisation on the everyday life of people in different parts of the globe. Differences in opinions and experiences of the industrialised and developing part of the globe call for the strengthening of a dialogue in which churches have a role to play. The main objective of the dialogue between CSC/CEC and CLAI has been to contribute to overcoming mistrust, prejudices and lack of information on both sides and to build confidence between churches from both continents.

Drafted document is witnessing a growing convergence after a period where the gap between churches in Europe and in Latin America seemed to become bigger. The document focuses its attention on three areas:

- clarifying of commonalities and differences between impacts of globalisation and experiences with facing globalisation in two continents;
- joint study work on themes: state - market relation, primacy of politics, alternative models of economy, economies and societies in transition, and the role of the churches in regional integration processes;
- exemplification of impacts of globalisation with outlining a possible agenda to be addressed in the future.

The draft of the document is now submitted to the decisionmaking bodies of CSC/CEC and CLAI for adoption. Afterwards the text will be submitted as a joint CEC/CSC-CLAI document to the churches in both continents, as well as a contribution to the global ecumenical debate.

The document does not represent the final outcome of the process. The text maps the positions of both sides and creates a framework for continuation of the dialogue between churches of both continents, as well as for fostering dialogue within European churches. This is of particular importance in view of one of the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> CEC Assembly in Lyon, as well as the recommendation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EEA in Sibiu, to work on 'a consultative process, addressing European responsibility for ecological justice, facing the threat of climate change; European responsibility for the just shaping of globalisation' and to do it in cooperation with the churches of other continents.

The next stage of the process will be the joint CEC – WCC Consultation on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in Europe, which will take place in November 2010 in Budapest.

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