

## **Conference: Investing in Your Mission: Churches and Socially Responsible Investment**

### **Date**

6 – 7 May 08

### **Venue:**

Brussels: European Parliament (1<sup>st</sup> day), Scotland House (2<sup>nd</sup> day)

### **Joint organisers:**

- Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC)  
[www.cec-kek.org](http://www.cec-kek.org)
- Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland  
[www.evl.fi](http://www.evl.fi)
- Oikocredit  
[www.oikocredit.org](http://www.oikocredit.org)

### **Objectives:**

- Linking faith with the churches' concept of investing money
- Identification of needs of church financial leadership to implement SRI
- Facilitating exchange between financial and spiritual leadership on European level
- Sharing promising initiatives within church circles relating to SRI

### **Target group:**

- Decision makers of European churches (financial and spiritual leadership)
- Church members and church-related organisations

### **Relevance, desired outcome:**

- Sharing insight, information and best practices
- Pooling resources of church related investors to increase impact and efficiency

### **Programme:**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

#### **Venue: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Brussels**

#### **11.00 – 11.15**

Opening of the conference by the Revd Rüdiger Noll, Director of Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and Tor G Gull, Managing Director, Oikocredit. Welcome from Mr Jens Holm MEP.

#### **11.15 - 12.45**

#### **Theological reflections: "Mission responsibility through investment"**

Linking faith and doctrines of church with the churches' concept of investing money  
Is it possible to identify 'benchmarks' concerning ethical investments on the basis of theological reflections? What kind of practical implications are connected with theological considerations?

Chair: The Rev Rüdiger Noll

With reflections from

Prof.Dr.A.J.M. van den Hoogen  
Professor Fundamental Theology, Nijmegen

The Rev Dr David Sinclair

Secretary of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland (Protestant/Reformed);  
Member of the Church and Society Commission of CEC

H.E. Metropolitan Athanasios of Achaïa  
Church of Greece (Orthodox)

### **12.30 – 14.00 Lunch**

### **14.00 – 15.30**

#### **Presentation of Best practices of faith based investors – Church investment policies Discussion**

Presentation of Catholic Diocese Kaernten/Southern Austria, Franz Lamprecht, Treasurer  
Presentation of Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, Magdalena Lönnroth, Project Manager  
Presentation of Church of England, UK, Neville White, Ethical Investment Advisory Group

Facilitator: Ben Simmes, Oikocredit Director Membership and Investments

### **15.30 – 15.45 Break**

### **15.45 – 17.15**

#### **Implementing SRI: Challenges for Church Investors or How to ensure that an investment is socially responsible?**

Topics: What information is required by church leadership? What are the services available? What kind of information can be provided? How important is the social return? How to find products with transparency, SRI screening and appropriate risk controls? Which costs are involved?

#### **Panel:**

Chair: Gert van Maanen, Advisory Council of the Protestant Church, Netherlands

Participants: Thomas Begrich, Evangelical Church of Germany, Dr. M. Schlagnitweit, Director of Catholic Social Academy, Austria, Robert Haßler, Oekom, Germany; Stephen Hine, Eiris, UK, Thomas Koellner, GOE(Gesellschaft fuer Organisation &Entscheidung), Switzerland

### **17.15 – 17.30 Break**

### **17.30 – 19.00**

#### **Mission driven Community Investment opportunities**

Churches make substantial contributions to improve people's life worldwide. Because of their long lasting relationships to churches in different parts of the world, they are close to people, gathered a lot of knowledge about conditions of life in development countries and on how to improve it. Thus they are involved in poverty reduction, health, education, social housing, environment and forestry. How can this experience and mission result in investment opportunities?

#### **Panel:**

Chair: Michiel Hardon, 3iG (Executive Committee of International Interfaith Investment Group), Switzerland

Participants: 1% Campaign, Prianjali Mascarenhas, Manager Community Investing Campaign, SIF, USA, Ben Simmes, Oikocredit

### **19.00**

#### **Dinner**

### **7<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**Venue: Scotland House (Rond-point Schuman 6, Brussels)**

### **9.00h – 9.30**

Welcome from the Head of the Representation of the Scottish Government.

The first session in the morning will be a plenary, where the contents of the workshops are presented to give an insight into the topic for those that are not going to join the specific workshop and to enable participants to make their choice concerning joining the workshops.

#### **Introduction workshop A: How to develop your investment policy?**

Virginie Lecourt, Vice-President of the Association Ethique et Investissement, Paris, France

#### **Introduction workshop B: Churches and Corporate engagement**

Laura Berry, Executive Director, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility ICCR, USA

### **09.30 – 11.00 Workshops**

#### **A: How to develop your investment policy?**

Topics: When a church wants to develop its investment policy – who should be involved? What are the key elements of a church SRI policy? How should they be involved? Which internal and external expertise is needed? Is there a model of SRI policy that can be made use of? Which regulatory issues have to be kept in mind? What are the responsibilities? How to move forward? What kind of support is available?

Panel

Chair: Matthew Ross, Executive Secretary, Church and Society Commission, CEC

Participants:

Stephen Hine, Eiris, UK, Virginie Lecourt, Vice-President of the Association Ethique et Investissement, Paris, France, Dr. Klaus Gabriel, Chair of CRIC (Corporate Responsibility Interface Center) Germany and Austria, Antje Schneeweiss, Suedwind, Germany

#### **B. Churches and Corporate engagement**

Topics: What role do engagement activities play within church SRI policies? How can the financial strength of the churches be used? Are there best practices that can be shared? How can engagement activities and their success and failures be measured? What risks are involved? How to monitor?

Panel

Chair: Miles Litvinoff, Coordinator Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR), UK,

Participants:

Laura Berry, ICCR, USA; Bill Seddon, CIG (Church Investor's Group) and IIGCC (Institutional Investors' Group on Climate Change) UK; Prof. Diefenbacher, Evangelical Church Germany/Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (FEST), Germany

### **11.00 – 12.30**

#### **Closing session: Building up Church-related Alliances**

Topics: Models of church alliances in the field of SRI; What are the possible benefits and risks? What are the requirements to join efforts and build an alliance? Which tools are instrumental?

Chair: Birgit Weinbrenner, Oikocredit Manager Membership and Investments

Inputs by ICCR, 3iG, CIG, CRIC

### **12.30 – 13.00**

#### **Evaluation**

**Followed by lunch in Scotland House**