

Conference of European Churches
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CO-OPERATION WITH MUSLIMS IN EUROPE SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED

Committee for Relations with Muslims in Europe (CRME) Meeting in Berlin, Germany, 6th to 9th December 2007

During its meeting from 6th to 9th December in Berlin/Germany the Committee for Relations with Muslims in Europe, established by the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) and Conference of European Churches (CEC), underlined the importance of seeking common ground with Muslim partners in Europe and to enter into a sustainable and confidence building dialogue. The committee welcomed the letter from 138 Muslim authorities "A Common Word Between Us and You" which was published some weeks ago as a very significant step in the history of Islam, a sincere sign of establishing good relations with the Christian churches and to stand together for a more peaceful and just world. It was recommended to the churches to respond positively and to offer common talks and exchanges which should underline commonalities between the two religions and common tasks but also touch upon differences and existing tensions.

The committee which met in Berlin on invitation of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) consists of 20 members and consultants from Roman-Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches all over Europe - including Turkey - and is mandated to exchange experiences which are made in the different parts of Europe, to advise the churches concerning Christian-Muslim affairs, to intensify co-operation with Muslim partners and to reflect the European integration process from an inter-religious perspective.

The committee contributed to the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in September 2007 Sibiu/Romania and underlined - in evaluating this event - the growing importance of inter-religious dialogue for the churches in Europe.

It is intended by the committee to organise a pan-European conference together with Muslim partners in October 2008, possibly in Brussels, on the subject "Being a Citizen of Europe and a Person of Faith. Christians and Muslims as Active Partners in European Societies". This conference will substantially contribute to the "European Year of the Intercultural Dialogue 2008". The next meeting of the committee in April 2008 in Hungary will include Muslim partners for a shared preparation of this

conference.

Geneva/St.Gallen, 11 December 2007