

REPORT OF LIAISON COMMITTEE 2006-2008

23-28 May 2006 Study-assembly ELF – Saarbrücken

Meetings of Liaison Committee:

2006

22-24 September 2006, Bruges

2007

26-28 January 2007, Amsterdam

24 April 2007, telephone conference

7 May 2007, telephone conference

30 May 2007, telephone conference

5-7 October 2007, St. Gallen

25 October 2007, telephone conference

2008

11-13 January 2008, Warsaw

7 February 2008, telephone conference

6-7 April 2008, Osnabrück

9 June, telephone conference

During the Study Assembly of 2006 was decided that the next Study Assembly would be in Poland.

At the end of January 2008 became clear that Tomasz Arabski, member of the Liaison Committee, had accepted a new function related to the new government of Poland, and was not able to organize the coming Study Assembly any more. Poland promised to organize the meeting of 2010. Katarina Hulmanova took over the responsibility of Tomasz, and organized the Study Assembly 2008 in Bratislava. With all the difficulties that came to it, because of the short term. We are very grateful that she did a lot of work with such a very positive result!

Other meetings and activities of president and/or members of the Liaison Committee

2006

27-29 November - Brussels : meeting presidents/representatives of ComECE, ELF, CCPE, UCESM, ESPACES (Dominicans), OCIPE (Jesuits), AEFJN (Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network)

- exchange of backgrounds and activities of these different church-organizations active within European Union
- strengthen the network/lobby (development synergy) in order the church-voice being heard in the politics of European Union
- possibilities of a joined secretariat of ELF and CCPE with UCESM

2007

15-18 February European Ecumenical Assembly 3 – Wittenberg

The president of ELF was invited and present at the second session of the third Ecumenical Process.

After Rome, the centre of the RC church this time as meeting place was chosen Wittenberg/Lutherstad, the city where one of the founding fathers of Reformation lived.

Main themes: what is the churches' vision for Europe today?

Reconciliation in Europe.

This ecumenical process has four stages:

1. Jan 2006 meeting in Rome
2. 2006-2007 national meetings
3. February 2007 meeting in Wittenberg
4. September 2007 meeting with 3000 participants in Sibiu

25-27 February: presidents meeting St.Gallen

Presidents of UCESM, CCPE and ELF were invited by president of CCEE mgr. Erdö and his assistants (a.o. Aldo Giordano and Thierry Bonaventura) to:

- exchange information about activities and projects of the different European, ecclesiastical councils
- lifelong guidance and education of Catholics on topics of faith and ethics
- cooperation on behalf of the third Ecumenical Process

22-24 June: ELF presidents meeting – Bratislava

Regular meeting of the presidents of the national pastoral councils/committees.

19 participants from 14 countries and UCESM

Main topics

- National reports
- Next Studyassemblee

- will be 1-6 July in Krakow or Warsaw (Poland)
- two themes were with almost equal emphasis chosen for the next Study-Assembly: Religion and Diversity in Europe (12 votes) and 'to live in State and Society in a secularized Europe (11 votes). Both will be integrated.
- possibility to cooperate during the study-assembly with UCESM about the theme: lay-spirituality and the religious traditions. Related to the general theme.
- ongoing discussion about new statutes and standing order of ELF

4-9 September European Ecumenical Assembly 3 – Sibiu

The president and three members of the LC were invited to be present and attended at the final session of the third Ecumenical Process 'the light of Christ shines over all'.

3000 people studied around three themes with each three subtitles:

- I. The light of Christ and the Church: Unity, Spirituality, Witness
- II. The light of Christ and Europe: Europe, Religions, Migration
- III. The light of Christ and the World: Creation, Justice, Peace

19-23 September CCPE in Krakow

Theme: challenges/possibilities of the church in Europe / role of priest-councils with Evangelisation

Results:

- CCPE is very positive about the cooperation with ELF during the study-assembly in Saarbrücken. Would like to think further about:
 - a joined study-assembly / conference of CCEE, CCPE, UCESM and ELF
 - to develop a professional secretariat together with ELF, if possible near to the secretariat of UCESM in Brussels.

2008

11-17 February UCESM – Torhout (Belgium)

General assembly of the council for the religious superiors of Europe.

Theme: 'Passion for Christ, Passion for humanity, lived in community'

What contribution does our community life make to Europe?

Exchange of the new ways religious orders and congregations go to live their commitment with Christ and the world

Results: cooperation between UCESM and ELF during the next study-assembly of ELF around the theme: what is the contribution of traditional religious life to the spiritual life of lay-people in nowadays Europe.

2-4 March meeting of presidents CCEE, CCPE, UCESM, ELF in St.Gallen CANCELLED

21-25 May Katholikentage – Osnabrück ‘du fürst uns hinaus ins Weite’
During three days around 60.000 people, from Germany but also from other countries in Europe, gathered in around 1000 activities in order to strengthen their commitment with the double-commandment Jesus gave: love God with all your heart, and your neighbour like yourself.
ELF was represented by its president.

1-6 July Study-assembly ELF – Bratislava

5th July 2008
Maria Draaijers, president ELF