



The Conference of European Churches and the European Institutions



1. CEC and its areas of activity

2. Political and social commitment of CEC in Europe



1. CEC and its areas of activity

The specificities of the Conference of European Churches as a European ecumenical organisation

- CEC is geographically limited to Europe (about 180 million Christians represented by CEC).

The diversity of the 114 members of CEC:

- Denominational level (Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Reformed, Old Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox).
- Theological level
- Cultural level
- Historical and political level



1. CEC and its areas of activity

CEC was founded in 1959 in Nyborg, Denmark.

Before 1998:

Building bridges between the churches behind the Iron Curtain and the western churches.

Work for reconciliation and peace (in partnership with the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, founded in 1946)

After 1998 :

European integration

The churches promote a unification of the European continent. Without common values, unity cannot be achieved in the long term. We are convinced that the spiritual heritage of Christianity is an inspiring force to enrich Europe.

CHARTA OECUMENICA 2001

2015 Merger of the Church and Society Commission with the General Secretariat.

Headquarters in Brussels and an office in Strasbourg



1. CEC and its areas of activity

Thematic working groups

1. Education, democracy and diversity
2. Ecclesiology and mission
3. Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future
4. Science, New Technologies and Christian ethics
5. Human rights



2. Political and social commitment of CEC in Europe

1. European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

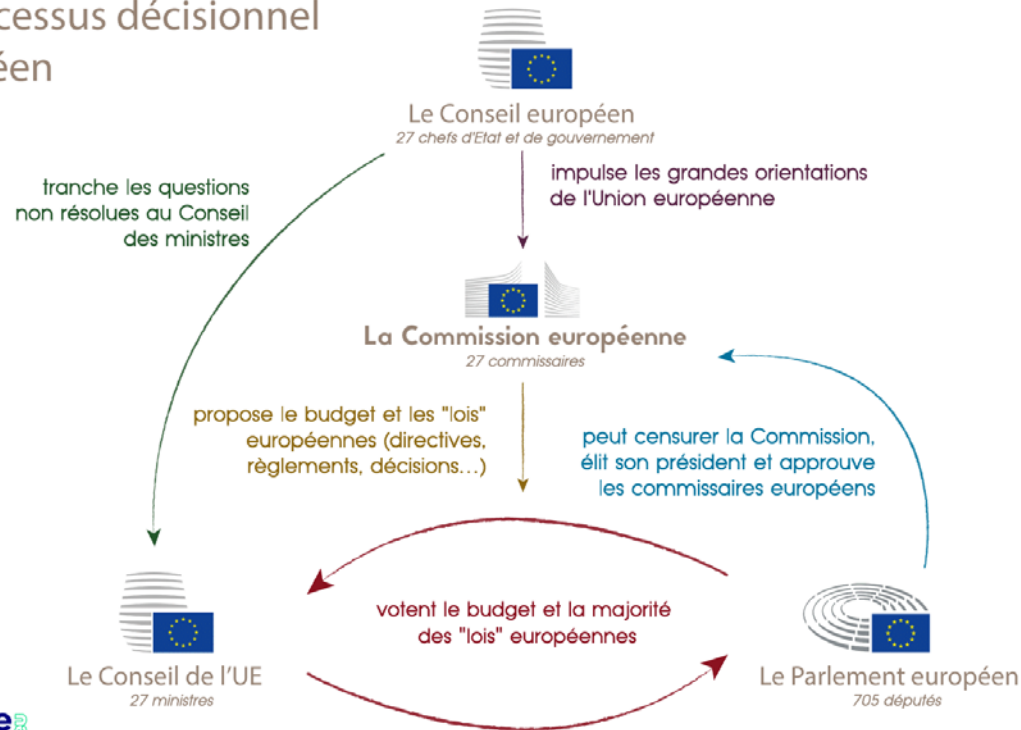


CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

2. Council of Europe

1. European Union

Le processus décisionnel européen





1. European Union

Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):

The Union respects and does not prejudice the status under national law of churches and religious associations or communities in the Member States.

The Union equally respects the status under national law of philosophical and non-confessional organisations.

Recognising their identity and their specific contribution, the Union shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with these churches and organisations.



1. European Union

Implementation of Article 17 TFEU by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council

European Parliament

- Appointment of a vice-president – in charge of dialogue
- Organisation of seminars in relation to Art.17
- Dialogue with partners

European Commission

Appointment of a competent commissioner for dialogue

Regular meetings with the Council Presidency

2. The Council of Europe



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Member States





The Council of Europe

- Established on 5 May 1949 (London Treaty) Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom (RFA 1950/51)

The 3 pillars of the Council of Europe:

Human Rights Democracy Rule of law

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home>



The Council of Europe



COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS

Minister for
Foreign Affairs



PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY

Parliament
delegations



CONGRESS OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL
AUTHORITIES

Local and regional
authorities



EUROPEAN COURT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

One judge by
member state



COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

Independent
institution



CONFERENCE OF
INGOS

NGO with
participatory status



The Council of Europe

CEC has a participatory status with the Council of Europe :

- Participation as an observer in steering committees appointed by the Committee of Ministers
- Participation in parliamentary committees
- Possible participation in the committees of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities



The Council of Europe

Intergovernmental bodies with CEC participation

- Steering Committee on Educational Practice and Policy (CDEDU)
- Bioethics Steering Committee
- Human Rights Steering Committee



The Council of Europe

CEC in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs)

Committee for Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue

To participate in the promotion of interreligious dialogue as a contribution to democratic culture in Europe:

Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2080 (2015) « Freedom of religion and living together in a democratic society ». Create a permanent platform for dialogue between representatives of religions and philosophical and non-confessional organisations within the Council of Europe...

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/interreligious-and-interconvictional-dialogue>



The Council of Europe

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

- Mandatory in international law
- Legal instrument
- living (evolving) instrument
- Foundation of democracy
- Linked to the concept of freedom
- Individual right



The Council of Europe

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Churches and religious communities

- Freedom of religion, conscience (internal/external) Art. 8; 9
- Freedom of expression Art. 10
- Freedom of assembly and association Art. 11

- Right to life
- Right to integrity
- Inalienable rights (no exceptions in extreme situations; see Additional Protocol 13, abolition of the death penalty)



Charta Oecumenica 2001

7.1 Participating in the construction of Europe

[...] The churches support an integration of the European continent. Without common values, unity cannot endure. We are convinced that the spiritual heritage of Christianity constitutes an empowering source of inspiration and enrichment for Europe. On the basis of our Christian faith, we work towards a humane, socially conscious Europe, in which human rights and the basic values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance, participation and solidarity prevail. We likewise insist on the reverence for life, the value of marriage and the family, the preferential option for the poor, the readiness to forgive, and in all things compassion. [...]



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