Improving the situation of Roma people in Europe: Challenges and open questions

CEC-CCEE Joint meeting
5-7 May 2014, Athens – Greece

Monday 5th May

17.00 **Opening session**

Welcome by the Greek Government

Introduction:

- Rt Rev. Christopher Hill D.D., President of CEC
- His Excellency Mgr Jànos Székely, Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom-Budapest

17.30 **A Call for Justice and Dignity for Roma People**
The churches and the Roma in Europe - General perspective and status questionis - overview of the actual situation

- Ms Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME
  The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is a Brussels based ecumenical organisation working in close collaboration with the Conference of European Churches that serves the churches in their commitment to strangers, responding to the message of the Bible, which insists on the dignity of every human being. CCME aims at promoting an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups

Promoting the logic of solidarity

- Mr José Luis Bazan, Legal advisor for Migration and Asylum of COMECE
  COMECE is the Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conferences of the European Community. It is made up of Bishops delegated by the 26 Catholic Bishops' Conferences of the European Union and it has a permanent Secretariat in Brussels

18.10 **Debate**

18.30 Joint prayer

19.00 Dinner

Tuesday 6th May

09.30 **Romas and the European Legislative framework**

- Mr Rudko Kawczynski, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF)

The Forum receives assistance in terms of financial and human resources, and has a privileged access to the various bodies and organs of the Council of Europe which deal with matters concerning Roma and Travellers. In February 2005, the Forum opened its Secretariat in Strasbourg within the Council of Europe's premises

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 **Romas in Greece: local perspective**

- Ms Prof. Thalia Dragona, Solidarity Now

Solidarity Now supports civil society groups working in Greece and is setting up Solidarity Centres—a place for everyone in Greece affected by the crisis to gather and find solutions to shared problems

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Challenges in the field of Education**

- Ms Anca Enache, Helsinki Deaconess Institute, Finland
- Ms Ilona Elaine Veres, Episcopia Reformata Din ArdealCluj-Napoca, Romania
- Mr Paolo Carlo Stasolla, President of Associazione 21 luglio, Italy

Debate

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 **The Roma issue: some remarks in pastoral and theological perspective**

- Orthodox perspective: Archemandrite Athenagoras Loukataris, Director of the Roma Foundation, Lighthouse of the World, Greece
- Protestant perspective: Pastor David Boros, Baptist Union of Hungary
- Catholic perspective: Mgr Martin Cabalas, Romania

17.00 **General debate**

19.00 Dinner

Wednesday 7th May

08.00 Breakfast

09.30 **General debate on main challenges**

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 **Discussion and Approval of the final statement**
12.15 **Public presentation of the final statement**

12.30 Lunch

As of 2 May 2014