



YEARBOOK 2015



FOR A EUROPE OF **DIGNITY, FREEDOM**
AND **RESPONSIBILITY**



We want to thank all our partners for their cooperation in the past year. A special word of gratitude for the VOE foundation and the FICDD who have supported several of our events. We also thank our colleagues from the Christian Political Foundation for Europe for all their assistance and support.



R A EUROPE
DIGNITY
FREEDOM AND
RESPONSIBILITY

YEARBOOK 2015

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT

we envision a Europe in which
human life and relations are
valued, where families flourish
and religious liberty thrives



www.ecpm.info

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ABOUT ECPM

The European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) is the only explicitly Christian European political party. We are genuinely anchored in the political tradition that significantly contributed to the founding of the EU - Christian Democracy. Our goal is to fill the gap in the European political landscape by reiterating Christian Democracy as a viable political alternative in Europe, with a particular emphasis on a Christian relational worldview. Our movement brings together over 50 Christian-Democratic political parties, NGOs, think tanks and individual politicians from over 20 countries within the EU and beyond.

Our Values

- *Priority for the Family:* ECPM upholds the family, centred on the marriage between one man and one woman, as the wellspring of society. Healthy marriages and families are the foundation of thriving communities. Sound public policy places marriage and the family at the centre.
- *Ensure Human Dignity:* ECPM recognizes and respects the inherent dignity of every human life from conception until natural death. The life of every human being is an intrinsic good, not something which value is conditional upon its usefulness to others or to the state.
- *Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Innovation:* To support productivity and growth in Europe, Europe needs creative and innovative entrepreneurs. ECPM encourages the development of small and medium-sized companies and focuses on the improvement of the investment climate for innovative entrepreneurship.
- *Freedom of Faith, Conscience and Religious Expression:* ECPM believes that religious liberty is more than the right to attend a private worship service. Citizens, churches, private organizations and public officials have every right to bring their moral values in public life.
- *Combating Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation:* Human trafficking is the ultimate de-humanizing act that reduces people to trading objects. Since human trafficking is a cross-border crime, combating it requires international cooperation. A majority of the victims is used for sexual exploitation.



Peter Östman

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year after an election is usually a more relaxed year. To a certain extent, this was true for ECPM as an organisation. It was far from true if we look at Europe and the EU. In fact, the challenges of 2015 made many things clear about the European Union. Although many politicians talk about common European values and solidarity, that does not mean that these actually exist. Polarisation is a logical outcome if pro-European forces simplify any criticism of European institutions as being anti-EU. On the other hand, real anti-EU voices do not offer any constructive alternative.

At ECPM, we want to be constructive and realistic. This means that we do not buy into the “Europe can solve all our problems” rhetoric of many European Groups. Nevertheless, we know that the EU can be a great tool for achieving things that countries and governments cannot achieve alone. However, we can no longer deny that western EU countries often have different views than eastern EU countries. Neither can we say that one country is right or that another is wrong. We have to acknowledge and respect each other’s opinions first, if we want real and effective cooperation. It is time to look at what unites us all and move forward based on that.

If I look at ECPM, it is very clear what unites us. We are all believers of the Gospel and this always matters to how we view and deal with issues. It is this solid base that enables the ECPM to move forward in turbulent times. We share a bond that unites us, regardless of the circumstances.

In 2015, ECPM welcomed two new parties: Right of the Republic from Poland and the Christian-Democratic Party of France. Besides this, our Croatian member Hrast entered the Croatian parliament for the first time. Also we welcomed new national Members of Parliament: Valeriu Ghiletschi (Moldova) and Monica Bartos (Hungary).

I am looking forward to 2016. It will be a difficult year. It will be a challenging year. But as a believer, I approach challenges with faith, not with fear.

Peter Östman | President of the ECPM



Guido van Beusekom and Leo van Doesburg

REFLECTION 2015

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

ISAIAH 40:28-29

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. HEBREWS 12:1,3

2015 was a year of many international crises: civil wars, extreme weather phenomena attributed to climate change, terrorist attacks, the influx of refugees and so on. Fear for the future can make us tired and weary. Fortunately, the Bible gives us another message. It spreads a message of hope in turbulent times. God's love for us gives us vision, perspective and guidance so that we can act out of love towards Him and towards others.

Usually, we highlight some of the events and developments of 2015 in this section. However, this year we want to briefly share our view on the role of today's Christians with you. History tells us that Christians have always had to deal with many challenges, hardship and opposition. One of the main reasons that Christianity spread despite this was the way believers dealt with these issues. First century Christians focused on Jesus and not on their own circumstances.

In a large part of Europe, we have lived peacefully and securely for the last 20 years. Now this is changing. We do not feel secure anymore. We cannot control things as we used to. We don't know what the future will bring and what this will mean for us. Many do not trust governments to come up with a solution. Many EU governments do not even trust each other.

In such a time Christians can be more visible and more meaningful, because we do not grow weary and we do not lose heart. Instead, we will be positive, active and full of faith to act justly, wisely and with compassion.

Guido van Beusekom | General Director

Leo van Doesburg | Director for European Affairs



Heiner Studer

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Advisory Council (AC) was established by the ECPM General Assembly (GA) on 7 June 2013 and is a consultative group for both the ECPM board and its members. It can propose topics for the GA and the board. It checks the budget and the annual financial results. New ECPM board members are discussed by the AC first, before the board decides whether they are to be accepted. The AC also checks and amends changes to the programme and statutes. It has at least two meetings per year.

In 2015, the AC convened two times. The first meeting was in Riga, on 8 May. During this meeting, several items were reviewed and the board was advised to accept them. These items included the agenda for the upcoming GA in Seon and the ECPM's financial report for 2014. In addition, for the first time, the ECPM decided to submit several resolutions to the members of the GA. These resolutions had been reviewed beforehand by several appointed AC councillors. The second meeting was in Amersfoort (NL), on 11 November. The main topic was the new vision document for the ECPM, and the AC proposed sending it to all members for feedback.

The year 2016 will be an interesting one for the AC and the ECPM. Most of the AC members will reach the end of their terms and a re-election may take place. This is the first period of existence of the AC.

The AC is very pleased with the work of the ECPM and its members. We hope and pray that they will continue with it in 2016 as well.

Heiner Studer | President of the Advisory Council



INTRODUCTION EVENTS & CONFERENCES 2015

In this yearbook you will find short reports of events that were either organized by ECPM, that we promote amongst our members or that are linked to the work of our Members of the European Parliament.

Therefore, not all events that are mentioned in this yearbook are exclusive ECPM events. For example, Prayer Breakfasts and European Parliament Inter-groups are by definition not linked to one specific party or organization. Yet, we still include these events in our yearbook since we fully support initiatives that bring together Christians in politics from different parties and nations.

It is our vision to work together with you to build a Christian political movement that is able to bridge personal and political differences in order to serve the people of our nations and continents. In this, we are inspired by the teachings, principles and lifestyle of Jesus Christ.”



FIRST QUARTER

FoRB InterGroup

The European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance (EP Intergroup on FoRB & RT) is a group of like-minded MEPs dedicated to promoting and protecting FoRB within the EU's external actions.

The EP Intergroup on FoRB & RT was established in January 2015. On 22 January 2015, ECPM MEP Peter van Dalen, who is co-President of the Intergroup, together with MEP Tunne Kelam and MEP Catherine Stihler hosted an event in cooperation with the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance and

Brussels, Belgium | 22 January 2015 | main speakers:

- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Tunne Kelam, MEP, Estonia
- Catherine Stihler, MEP, United Kingdom

Open Doors on "Persecution of Christians in the World". At the event Open Doors presented their 2015 World Watch List.

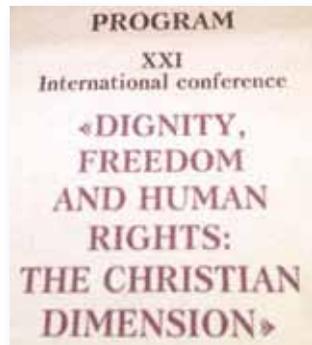
See more events at

www.religiousfreedom.eu/events.



Dignity, Freedom & Human Rights and the Christian Dimension International conference

This event was organised by the International Foundation for the Unity of Orthodox Christian Nations. The messages were focused on the basis of human dignity, the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and that this should be the basis of human rights. Nowadays, there are many attempts to redefine human rights and human dignity. Human rights should not be in conflict with human dignity, the protection of life from conception to natural death. Freedom should also be based on dignity. Leo van Doesburg spoke on how to promote Christian Democratic values in post-modern politics.



Ljubljana, Slovenia | 9-12 February 2015 | main speakers:

- Leo van Doesburg, Director for European Affairs, ECPM
- Zoran Janković, Mayor of Ljubljana
- Chairman of the Slovenian Parliament

Rotterdam, the Netherlands | 11-14 February 2015
main speakers amongst others:

- Jeff Fountain, Robert Schuman Centre for European Studies
- Arie de Rover, trainer
- Jan-Willem Bosman, Internet Evangelist at Agape Netherlands
- Gert Hutten, Director at "Tot Heils des volks"
- Peter J. Briscoe, European Director at Compass
- Evert Jan Ouweneel, Advisor Public Engagement on Faith & Development
- Christel Ngnambi and Julia Doxat-Purser, European Evangelical Alliance

Europartners Leadership Retreat

Leo van Doesburg and Guido van Beusekom participated in this Europartners meeting with the theme: Identity & Calling - Personal, professional and within our current era. The mission of Europartners is to help businesspeople and professionals connect to Christ.



USA Prayer Breakfast

Peter Östman, President of the ECPM, ECPM MEP and board member Branislav Škripek and Leo van Doesburg (Director for European Affairs) participated on behalf of the ECPM during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC.

Washington DC, USA | 5 February 2015
main speakers:

- Barack Obama, President of the USA
- Darrell Waltrip, Fox Sports broadcaster and inductee of the NASCAR Hall of Fame

Finnish Prayer Breakfast

The Finnish Prayer Breakfast events started with an evening cocktail hosted by Päivi Räsänen, Minister of Internal Affairs. During the cocktail Leo van Doesburg (Director for European Affairs) shared a message. This event was attended by almost 150 guests from Finland and abroad, including Peter Östman, the ECPM president. With

all of the international input, the Prayer Breakfast was a good balance between being a Finnish National event and being part of the global movement. After the Prayer Breakfast on 11 March, all guests gathered for a seminar on two topics: Europe's Growing Insecurity and The Economy and the Future.



Helsinki, Finland | 11 March 2015 | main speakers:

- Tapani Ruokanen, Editor-in-Chief (emeritus), a prominent Finnish critical thinker and speaker
- Chris Jensen, Coordinator of the USA National Prayer Breakfast
- Rudolf Decker, former MP and main organizer of the German PB
- Päivi Räsänen, Finnish Minister of Internal Affairs



Moscow, Russia | 17 March 2015 | main speakers:

- Yaroslav Nilov, State Duma Committee Chairman on Public Associations and Religious Organizations
- Prince Charles-Louis de Merode and Princess Clotilde de Merode of Belgium
- Johannes Selle, MEP, Germany

Russian Prayer Breakfast

ECPM MEP's Arne Gericke and Branislav Škripek participated in the Russian Prayer Breakfast in Moscow.



SECOND QUARTER



ECPM General Assembly 2015

Many members of ECPM gathered in Seeon to attend the ECPM General Assembly. During the General Assembly, several resolutions were presented and accepted. In the annex of this yearbook you can read the adopted resolutions and other statements. During the General Assembly Marek Jurek (on behalf of the Polish party Right of the Republic) and Matthieu Colombani (on behalf of the French Christian Democrats) officially applied for ECPM membership. Both parties were accepted by the board in 2015. Andras Patkai greeted the attendants on behalf of the Allies for Israel Foundation which was an introduction to a vivid debate on Israel and the Middle East.

Seeon, Germany | 29 May 2015 | main speakers:

- Peter Östman, ECPM President
- Marek Jurek, MEP, Poland
- Andras Patkai, European Director Allies for Israel Foundation
- Matthieu Colombani, Board member PCD France



Seeon, Germany | 28-31 May 2015 | main speakers:

- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany
- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Michael Schluter, economist, UK
- Arleen Westerhof, Coordinator at the European Economic Summit
- Wouter Drovers, President of Europartners
- Mattéo Piano, CEO of Narroway
- Frank Suchy, Manager of Messtechnik
- Erwin Helmer, Head of Betriebsseelsorge Bamberg und der Kath

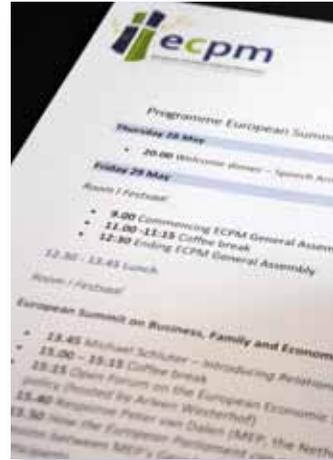
ECPM European Summit on Family, Business and Economics

Around seventy businessmen and politicians came together to listen and to discuss the political and economic situation in Europe and how business has to continue in order for the family to flourish.

In his speech, Michael Schluter emphasised the fact that Christianity is a relational religion and that the EU economy is not relational and therefore unstable, unsustainable and unethical. In order for the EU economy to become relational, stable, sustainable and ethical, Schluter presented several strategies. One of these was empowering families, while Schluter also clearly advocated against derivatives.

Arleen Westerhof reiterated the need for a holistic, relational and communal approach to the economy. This approach can be taken by becoming more holistic and relational ourselves and by practising mutuality. Peter van Dalen used the example of biblical figures to show what we could learn from the Bible concerning this subject.

Wouter Droppers gave an impressive testimony of his own life and held a very open and interactive workshop about balancing family life and business life. Mattèo Piano held a workshop on the restoration of relationships as an economic driving force within the retail market. Piano emphasised the importance of retail for the economy, identifying the cause of the retail crisis as the impoverishment of relationships between producers, retailers and consumers.



Politicians and Civil Society against Human Trafficking

Held at the Romanian Parliament, this conference brought together many politicians and NGOs to discuss how they can help each other in the fight against human trafficking. Many speakers from the political side and from civil society had the opportunity to share their messages and interact. They revealed their hopes and

plans for the future, as well as the difficulties they encounter in their work and how these could be resolved. Over 100 representatives of different NGOs connected with the European Freedom Network from more than 30 countries and about 100 Romanian NGO representatives, politicians and law enforcement officers attended the session. Several international speakers from Belgium,



the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom and representatives from six embassies were also present. Emil Constantinescu pointed to the political consequences of human trafficking: “The growth in human trafficking has been caused by corruption within the police and customs. Women are terrorised, and for many women we do not know where they are or what situation they are in: tortured, murdered, at the mercy of magistrates. The economic recession, lack of education, illegal work: there are many problems.”

ECPM EP Branislav Škripek highlighted the situation on Human Trafficking in Slovakia. Leo van Doesburg (ECPM) discussed the negative consequences of the liberal prostitution policy in the Netherlands and the policy of the Nordic Countries that criminalize the client. Representatives of NGOs were very bold in naming some of the problems they face in their work: “The main problems are official documents. Victims return to Romania, but who is helping them to arrange their legal documents?” More info and pictures at ecpm.info/event/politicians-and-civil-society-against-human-trafficking

Bucharest, Romania | 22 April 2015 | main Speakers:

- Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania
- Angel Tîlvăr, MP, Chairman of the Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies, President of the Ecumenical Prayer Group of the Romanian Parliament, Coordinator of the Group Against Trafficking in Persons, Romania
- Emil Constantinescu, former President of Romania (1996-2000)
- Daniel Ioniță, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Romania
- Codrin Scutaru and Ioana Cazacu, State Secretaries for Labour, Family and Social Protection, Romania
- Paul Nicolae Petrovan, Prefect of Bucharest, Romania
- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Spiru Bărbuceanu, Directorate for Combating Organized Crime, Romania
- Mariana Petersel, President of the “Young Generation” Association
- Irene Hirzel, ACT212
- Tamme de Leur, TV Executive Producer, the Netherlands
- Julia Doxat-Purser, European Evangelical Alliance, UK



Visit to Syria

In a visit to the Middle East, Branislav Škripek together with Peter Broz (one of his assistants), Jozef Majchrak (a Slovak journalist), Johannes de Jong and Rima Túzún met with high representatives of the Democratic Self Administration (DSA) – Rojava, and visited Jazira (Gozarto/

Cizîrê) canton in northeast Syria (including a Yazidi refugee camp) and the Nineveh plains in Iraq. The delegation met with the officials of all the bodies of the DSA. The regional government has a president, vicepresidents and a board of ministers, including both male and female ministers. Each ministry has a specific agenda and during the meeting the officials' strategic points of growth were explained. To read a full report of the visit please visit ecpm.info/event/visit-syria

Syria | 20 May 2015

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Johannes de Jong, Managing Director CPFE
- Rima Tüzün (European Syriac Union)

Exhibition and Seminar “Living with Dignity”

The European Shoah Legacy Institute (ESLI), in cooperation with ECPM MEP Bas Belder, hosted a seminar to highlight and publicise the achievements of the International Conference on Welfare for Holocaust Survivors and Other Victims of Nazi Persecution, held in Prague, Czech Republic on 26 and 27 May 2015. The seminar was attended by Members of the European Parliament, officials from the European Commission, the Israeli Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, diplomats and ministerial delegates, civil society representatives and members of the Jewish communities of Belgium and the Netherlands.



European Parliament, Brussels | 23 June 2015

main speakers:

- Bas Belder, MEP, the Netherlands
- Tibor Shalev-Schlosser, Israeli Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues
- Halyna Senyk, Executive Director of the European Shoah Legacy Institute

The purpose of the seminar was twofold: firstly, to inform EU institutions of the ESLI's recent achievements, including the International Conference on Welfare for Holocaust Survivors

and Other Victims of Nazi Persecution and the progress made towards improving welfare availability and accessibility for victims of Nazism, and secondly, to help garner support for the creation of a Special European Envoy for post-Holocaust issues within the European Commission. This Special European Envoy would coordinate with the EU institutions currently monitoring, advocating for, and providing technical guidance on the implementation of the Terezin Declaration.

State of Europe Forum 2015

The Forum drew prominent European intellectuals and individuals from many church traditions to Riga to further reflect on the state of Europe today in the light of the vision of the French foreign minister, Robert Schuman, in 1950 for a “community of peoples deeply rooted in Christian values”. Speakers addressed current European challenges under the theme “Fear not!” This theme echoes the words of Jesus repeated by Pope John Paul II in Warsaw in 1979, which stirred up a revolution of the human spirit, culminating in the fall of communism a decade later. These reassuring words were the speakers’ start and finish lines when addressing current tensions within and around Europe. The crisis in Ukraine and Russian expansionism, IS extremism, violence in the Gaza Strip, the Ebola outbreak, ongoing financial uncertainty, waves of illegal immigrants: all of these issues were included in this discussion on the state of Europe.



Riga, Latvia | 8-10 May 2015 | main speakers:

- Tunne Kelam, MEP Estonia
- Julia Doxat-Purser, Socio-Political Representative for the EEA
- Jeff Fountain, Director of the Schuman Centre for European Studies
- Johannes de Jong, Managing Director of CPFE
- Leo van Doesburg, ECPM Director for European Affairs

General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy

The IAO consists of Christian Orthodox parliamentary groups from all over the world. At the meeting ECPM MEP Peter van Dalen, co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup for Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance, spoke about the need to combat persecution of Christians in the Middle East and Africa.

Vienna, Austria | 26-29 June 2015

main speakers:

- Peter Andea, MP, Romania
- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Sergey Popov, IAO President
- Ioannis Amanatidis, IAO Secretary General
- Roger Nkodo Dang, president of the Pan-African Parliament

International Berlin Gathering 2015

The International Berlin Gathering brought together almost four hundred politicians. As is traditional, the opening session took place in the Bundestag (the Federal Parliament), followed by a festive dinner in the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Potsdamer Platz, Berlin. The second day of the Gathering started with the International Prayer Breakfast, followed by plenary sessions, seminars and workshops. The gathering ended with a lunch meeting on June 12. ECPM honorary president, Peeter Võsu, participated at the gathering on behalf of the ECPM.



Berlin, Germany | 10-12 June 2015
main speakers:

- Johannes Singhammer,
Vice President of the Bundestag
- Rudolf Decker, main organizer
- Volkmar Klein, MP, Germany
- Frank Heinrich, MP, Germany
- Andrey Makarov, MP of Russia

THIRD QUARTER

The logo for the European Central Bank (ECB) consists of a stylized vertical bar on the left, followed by the lowercase letters 'ecpm' in a sans-serif font. Below the letters, the text 'European Central Bank' is written in a smaller font.

ecpm

European Central Bank

International Mobilisation to Rebuild Kobanê Conference

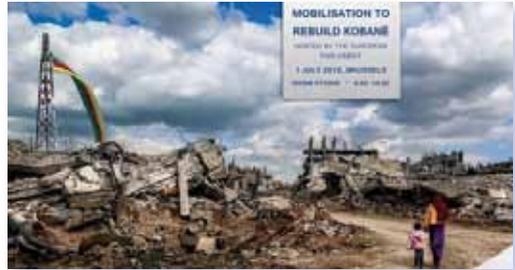
This conference was attended by representatives of the city of Kobanê, activists, senior representatives of EU institutions, UN agencies and international NGOs already involved in the reconstruction of Kobanê, and the wider donor community. The conference welcomed the EU's commitments, including but not limited to supporting the return to normalcy in areas of reduced violence in Syria and in areas liberated from terrorism. Facilitating access to basic services for all people is an important part of international efforts to promote an incremental reduction in violence and sustainable stability in Syria and the region.

The conference also encouraged expanding the EU's humanitarian and political support given to all areas liberated from IS.

The conference acknowledged that during the fight for Kobanê, IS has placed thousands of mines and other unexploded devices to prevent the population from returning.

The conference also called on all international anti-mine organisations to be part of the clean-up operations in Kobanê. Kobanê was, at the moment of this conference, almost completely closed off and entirely

dependent on the Turkish border. The people of Kobanê urgently needed this corridor, through which they would be able to receive the help that has been offered by the international community to supply, protect and rebuild their city. The conference called on the UN and the international community to take immediate initiative to form an investigative committee and to shed light on the massacre that took place in Kobanê. The perpetrators of this crime, together with their financial and political backers, must be held accountable and brought to justice before an international court. The conference concluded with the NGOs and the representatives of EU political parties reiterating their commitment to pledge further, continuing support for Kobanê.



European Parliament, Brussels | 1 July 2015

main speakers:

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Donald Tusk,
President of the European Council
- Martin Schulz,
President of the European Parliament





Renewing Our Minds Forum

Renewing Our Minds (ROM) is a program for young leaders and professionals, focused on reconciliation, integrity and peace-building, creating caring and serving communities based on the values of Jesus. The program exists of courses, seminars and workshops as well as social exercises.

Fužine, Croatia | 1-16 August 2015 | main speakers amongst others:

- Tihomir Kukulja, organizer ROM
- Leo van Doesburg, ECPM Director for European Affairs
- Rima Tüzün (European Syriac Union)
- Heather Staff, Christians on the Left, UK

Impact Camp

Impact Camp gave thirty-five Slovaks the opportunity to build a network of activists and local government politicians. The aim of the camp is to engage Christian young professionals with backgrounds in art and politics to cooperate on bringing new visions and values into Slovak politics.

Crikvenica, Croatia | 15-22 August 2015
main speakers:

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- George Rukhadze, ECPM Vice President
- Guido van Beusekom, ECPM General Director
- Martin Stuk, Political Assistant to Branislav Škripek



Economic Diplomacy and Integrity Forum 2015

During EDI, attendants were encouraged and taught by well-selected professionals from the worlds of business, economics and politics. Robert Maricak encouraged everyone to avoid corruption, to pay our taxes,

to be people of integrity, to be entrepreneurs and to take risks. Eimert van Middelkoop taught about the values and traditions of Jesus that can be brought into politics. Samuil Petrovski spoke on leadership and diplomacy. Gerti Bogdani (Member of Parliament from Albania) reiterated that we can have miracles of peace in the midst of storms, with God fighting on our behalf. Jack Fallow spoke about maintaining flow in our work life and, through literature by authors such as Plato and Tolstoy, taught what it means to be people of integrity.

Fužine, Croatia | 11-22 July 2015 | main speakers:

- Robert Maricak, former CEO of General Grafik, Croatia
- Eimert van Middelkoop, former Minister of Defence for the Netherlands
- Samuil Petrovski, National Director at IFES for Serbia and Montenegro
- Gerti Bogdani, Albanian politician
- Jack Fallow, former CEO of UK Gasforce



Public presentation of Bündnis C

ECPM Board member Stieneke van der Graaf presented ECPM during the public presentation of Bündnis C in Berlin, Germany on the 19th of September.

Bündnis C is the name of the merger of two former ECPM parties: AUF and PBC, the party is very active in promoting Christian values in German politics.

Berlin, Germany | 19 September 2015
main speakers:

- Karin Heepen, Chairwoman Bündnis C
- Christa Meves, writer, psychotherapist
- Michael Ragg, journalist
- Stieneke van der Graaf, ECPM Board member

European Economic Summit

The theme of this summit was “Relational Thinking and the Economics of Mutuality”. The 2015 EES focused on two promising key concepts: Relational Thinking and the Economics of Mutuality. Relational Thinking involves learning to see life from the perspective of relational well-being, as opposed to the viewpoints of individualism and materialism. The Economics of Mutuality recognises that value creation is more effective and sustainable when all of the stakeholders in a business are considered, not just the shareholders. The EES concluded that these key concepts complement each other as



mutually strengthening concepts. Evidence presented from global research demonstrated the potential of these concepts where they are implemented.

Amsterdam, the Netherlands | 26-28 August 2015

main speakers:

- Bruno Roche, Chief Economist at Mars Inc.
- Paul Mills (TBC), Senior Economist at IMF
- Michael Schluter, Founder of the Jubilee Centre
- Arleen Westerhof, co-organizer EES

European Advocacy Academy “Communications Training Conference”

The training focused exclusively on communication training, organized by European Dignity Watch, focused on the topics of marriage, anti-discrimination, and sexual

orientation & gender identity (SOGI). The Training was designed for persons actively involved in the public debate (TV, newspapers, radio, frequent public speaking) and who have substantial experience with the

Brussels, Belgium | 22-25 June 2015 | main speakers:

- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany
- Dr. Željka Markić, President of civil society organization In the Name of the Family
- Breda O’Brien, a columnist at The Iris Times
- Dr. Gudrun Kugler, a lawyer, theologian and founder Europe for Christ and The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe
- Dr. Austen Ivereigh, Co-founder of the Catholic Voices, UK
- Sophia Kuby, ADF International

media or are being trained explicitly to be the “public face” for their NGO/organization, who serve as official spokespersons on behalf of their organization or who have their primary focus on marriage, anti-discrimination and SOGI.



Ukrainian Prayer Breakfast

On 2 July 2015, the IV Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast of Ukraine was held, uniting the MPs of Ukraine, Ukrainian government ministers, representatives of Kyiv City State Administration, members of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches

and Religious Organisations, Congress and Senate representatives, Members of the European Parliament and foreign diplomats in a common prayer for our country.

Among those present were the coordinators of prayer breakfasts for the United States and Europe and the President of the European Baptist Federation. Leo van Doesburg participated to the event on behalf of the ECPM.

Kiev, Ukraine | 2 July 2015 | main speakers:

- Pavel Unguryan, MP, Ukraine
- Alojz Peterle, MEP, Slovenia
- Prince Charles-Louis de Merode of Belgium

FOURTH QUARTER



ECPM Roundtable on Immigration

The main topic of the roundtable discussion, moderated by Peter Östman, was the immigration of refugees and other migrants. David Fieldsend opened the discussion and asked everyone present to remember that Jesus Christ himself was a refugee during his early childhood. Fieldsend continued with a presentation with many facts and figures on the current situation.

Marek Jurek said that we should search for civil peace and have an honest conversation with Islam, the religion of many refugees. It is a religion of peace, but at the same time we see terrorists using Islam for their own purposes: a complex situation.

His colleague, Arne Gericke, added that he has met Christians in refugee camps in Jordan and found that it is hard for them as Christians in a predominantly Muslim environment. It is important to protect persecuted minorities. However, Gericke also emphasised that we should integrate Muslims into our societies in order to understand them. At the same time, we should not allow hate preachers to fuel polarisation and terror.

Branislav Škripek stressed the importance of Christians and churches stepping into the debate and helping the needy. All present agreed with this. We need to neutralise the negative narrative. Škripek acknowledged that many churches in his home area in Slovakia are already helping refugees and that he has seen how effective and beneficial this is.



European Parliament, Brussels

1 December 2015 | main speakers:

- Peter Östman, ECPM President
- David Fieldsend, President of CPFE
- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany
- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Marek Jurek, MEP, Poland

The Banking Sector and the Need for Morality above Legality International conference

The ECPM conference on morality in the banking world, held at the European Parliament, was well attended. The main speaker for the event was Dutch best-selling and award-winning author Joris Luyendijk. Together with ECPM MEP Peter van Dalen and Belgian MEP Sander Loones, he discussed the banking sector and the need for morality above legality. Luyendijk emphasised the need for a system that can withstand the inevitable failure of banks. “Our banks are too interconnected

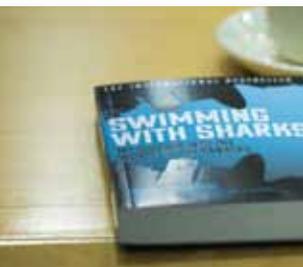
to fail, which is a root cause of economic crises.” Addressing the two Members of the European Parliament seated next to him, he stated that current banking policy is a threat to democracy, for if the system collapses people will ultimately look to politicians. Peter van Dalen answered that politicians have created some legislation for the banking world over the last few years, but that we need more than just legislation to avoid another crisis: we need morality. The same point was

European Parliament, Brussels | 2 December 2015
main speakers:

- Joris Luyendijk, Dutch journalist and anthropologist
- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Sander Loones, MEP, Belgium



made by Sander Loones, who emphasised that it is wrong to think that what is not forbidden is always allowed. Dutch MEP Anja Hazekamp, who attended the conference, correctly stated that the underlying problem is that we want to spend more in order to be successful. Peter van Dalen agreed: our European society is addicted to growth. However, the urge for economic growth should not be our main driving force or the main purpose of our lives.



Christian Social Congress

This conference officially inaugurated the collaboration between ECPM and Polish member Right of the Republic.

Location: Warsaw, Poland | 3 October 2015
main speakers:

- Marek Jurek, MEP
- George Rukhadze, ECPM Vice President
- Jakub Baltroszewicz, representative of One of Us

Exhibition The Global Impact of the Bible

On December 7, a special exhibition on the Bible was launched at the European Parliament. The exhibition, called “The Global Impact of the Bible”, was organised by the French Biblical Alliance in cooperation with the Belgian Biblical Society.

MEP Branislav Škripek (who hosted the event) and MEP Alojz Peterle spoke at the opening. Leo van Doesburg spoke on behalf of the ECPM. After this, other participants shared how the Bible had influenced them.



European Parliament, Brussels
7-11 December 2015 | main speakers:

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Alojz Peterle, MEP, Slovenia
- Leo van Doesburg,
Director for European Affairs, ECPM
- Paul Moynan: Director CARE
for Europe

Relaunch of the Human Dignity Working Group

On October 28, twelve Members of the European Parliament from different political groups and affiliations relaunched the Parliamentary Working Group on Human Dignity. This group, first established in 2009 by Prof. Dr Hans-Gert Pöttering, MEP, then President of the European Parliament, aims to return human dignity to the forefront of EU policy-making.

The group is chaired by ECPM MEP Bas Belder (ECR). The group's board includes members of different political groups and consists of MEPs Alojz Peterle (EPP), Luigi Morgano (S&D), Marian Harkin (ALDE), Daniela Aiuto (EFDD) and Diane Dodds (NI).



European Parliament
Working Group on
Human Dignity

European Parliament, Brussels
1 December 2015 | main speakers:

- Peter Ōstman, ECPM President
- David Fieldsend, President of CPFE
- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany
- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Marek Jurek, MEP, Poland

ECPM strongly supports the relaunch of the Working Group on Human Dignity. The Working Group includes three ECPM members. Besides Bas Belder, Arne Gericke (ECR) and Branislav Škripek (ECR) are also part of the Working Group. Membership of the Working Group is open to all Members of the European

Parliament who sign the Universal Declaration on Human Dignity. ECPM board member Benjamin Harnwell, author of the Universal Declaration on Human Dignity and founder of the Dignitatis Humanae Institute, was also present at the relaunch of the Working Group. ECPM Director for European Affairs Leo van Doesburg is involved as the general secretary of the group.



ECPM MEP's Visit to Pakistan to discuss blasphemy laws

Religious freedom is one of the spearheads of ECPM. In Pakistan the so-called “blasphemy laws” are a clear limitation of religious freedom. During their visit to Pakistan, several ECPM MEPs spoke with Pakistani ministers on these blasphemy laws. They also met the husband and daughters of Asia Bibi. MEP Peter van Dalen about the purpose and his impression of the visit: “Impressive and touching. Hopefully, the Pakistani government will adjust the laws on blasphemy, because Asia must be freed. We have heard and seen that the government is dealing with this very carefully and that they are taking this into consideration. Through trade agreements and other methods, we are trying to put pressure on Pakistan to offer more freedom to religious minorities.”



Pakistan | 7 November 2015 | main speakers:

- Marek Jurek, MEP, Poland
- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany

Cornerstone Annual Young Professional's Dinner

Around sixty young professionals gathered at the Annual Young Professional's dinner. Speakers explained how their faith in Jesus led them in their daily and professional life. Amongst the speakers were: young entrepreneur Hermund Haaland, ECPM MEP Arne Gericke and business manager and Europartners president Wouter Droppers, who explained how they follow Jesus and how this influences their professional and personal lives. "Always take care that you are not just living for yourself. There is a God you have to be accountable to. Follow Jesus, focus on your career, but don't let this form your identity and be guided by Jesus." This was one of the important messages shared at this evening. They also discussed the importance of fellowship and friendship, praying with and for each other and being accountable to each other.

Brussels, Belgium | 2 December 2015

main speakers amongst others:

- Arne Gericke, MEP, Germany
- Hermund Haaland, entrepreneur, Sweden
- Leo van Doesburg, ECPM Director for European Affairs
- Arttu Makipaa, Finland
- Wouter Droppers, President of Europartners

Slovakian Leadership Summit

Fifty-six leaders from various churches and societies gathered to pray for the country of Slovakia. Part of the programme was a presentation of ECPM values, to show the participants that real change in politics comes through dedicated and well-organised people.



Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia | 5 December 2015 | main speakers:

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Martin Stuk, Political Assistant to Branislav Škripek
- Ad de Bruin, Evangelist

Tbilisi, Georgia | 27-28 November

main speakers:

- George Rukhadze, ECPM Vice-President, CDPP Acting Chairman
- Giorgi Targamadze, CDI Director. GFSIS Senior Fellow for International and Media Affairs
- Andrea Keerbs, IRI Georgia Director
- Yuri Vardanian, Ambassador of Armenia to Georgia

CDPP conference on Georgia's Foreign Policy and Energy Independence

Together with the Christian Democratic People's Party, ECPM hosted a conference on Georgia's foreign policy and energy independence.

Relations with Russia and the Associate Agreement between the EU and Georgia were also discussed. One of the aims of the conference was to agree on a clear and coherent foreign policy for the Georgian elections in 2016.

European Youth Prayer Breakfast

Young professionals and people interested in politics gathered together for the first European Youth Prayer Breakfast to discuss “Religious Freedom, Diversity and Social Cohesion”. The aim of the prayer breakfast was to pray for European politics, while giving participants the opportunity to network with other Christians who share the same beliefs, interests and calling. The event was hosted by Slovakian ECPM MEP Branislav Škripek and was organised by the European Christian Political Youth (ECPYouth), Forum Brussels International, the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA) and the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). Several ECPM staff members participated in the event.



- European Parliament, Brussels
1 October 2015 | main speakers:
- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
 - Iain Benson, philosopher and professor of law
 - Denys Dhiver, president of ECPYouth



Romanian Prayer Breakfast

More than 150 participants took part in this jubilee edition of the RPB, celebrating 10 years of the prayer breakfast. The theme of this edition was Unity in Diversity. ECPM MEP Branislav Škripek and Leo van Doesburg ECPM's Director for European Affairs, both spoke at the Prayer Breakfast and on the debate that followed in the parliament.

- Romanian Parliament, Bucharest, Romania | 21-23 October 2015 | main speakers:
- Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania, Member of the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies
 - Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
 - Petru Andea, MP, Executive President of the Ecumenical Prayer Group of the Romanian Parliament
 - Leo van Doesburg, ECPM Director for European Affairs
 - Mircea Lubanovici, vice-president of the Ecumenical Prayer Group of the Romanian Parliament
 - Florica Chereches, MP, Romania

European Prayer Breakfast

ECPM members participated in the 2015 European Prayer Breakfast. The theme this year was Matthew 18 verse 20, where Jesus tells us “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them”. ECPM MEP Peter van Dalen opened the meeting. One of the other main speakers was ECPM member Ben-Oni Ardelean, who inspired the participants in his speech by telling those present not to be afraid to say what they believe in. “Everywhere we go, albeit in the political arena or somewhere else, Jesus is with us” Ardelean said. The prayer breakfast was concluded by singing Amazing Grace together. The EPB is a yearly event not linked to any political party or organization.

Brussels, Belgium | 2 December 2015
main speakers:

- Alojz Peterle, MEP, Slovenia
- Ben-Oni Ardelean, Senator, Romania
- Peter van Dalen, MEP, Netherlands
- Tove Videbaek, former MP, Denmark



Parliamentarian Prayer Breakfast in Slovakia

More than thirty politicians and candidates from different political parties as well as pastors were present at this breakfast that was hosted by Branislav Škripek.

Bratislava, Slovakia | 8 December 2015
main speakers:

- Branislav Škripek, MEP, Slovakia
- Richard Vašečka, Slovak MP
- Leo van Doesburg,
ECPM Director for European Affairs



ECPY **YOUTH**

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN POLITICAL YOUTH

ECPYOUTH 2015

In 2015, ECPYouth went through a number of changes. Besides the addition of new board members and a general secretary, we welcomed new member organisations such as SGPJ (The Netherlands) and new youth organisations were set up in Croatia and France. During the Winter School in Soest, the Netherlands, the Summer School in Cambridge, UK and the Regional Conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we reflected on how our societies are constructed in economic terms and how we can inspire and work towards sustainable economies centred on relationships and justice.

Winter School

From 30 January 2015 to 3 February 2015, about 30 young people from across Europe gathered to discuss and learn about economic injustice. This event was co-organised by ECPYouth member organisation PerspectieF from the Netherlands.

A diverse group of speakers discussed relational foundations for just economies in theory and in practice, sustainable supply chains,

the legal aspects of justice and the price of activism. The Winter School also provided us with thoughts on justice in our daily life with Jesus Christ and how to apply our faith within the political scene. On our excursion to Amsterdam we visited the Clean Clothes Campaign, and through workshops we applied our knowledge to injustice in the clothing industry.



Summer School

In collaboration with the Jubilee Centre, the Summer School of 2015 focused on 'Relationships at the heart of economies'. More than 40 participants joined together in Cambridge, United Kingdom, to learn, discuss and think about moving towards a relational society in Europe. The programme was filled with diverse speakers who talked about the different relational aspects of

our societies, such as families, governments and economics. Besides these engaging seminars, the summer school included exploring the vibrant history of Cambridge, a day in London including a visit to Parliament and the annual General Assembly.



Regional Conference

In November 2015, the two Dutch member organisations PerspectieF and SGPJ joined together in organising a regional conference on the economic debt crisis, one of the most important and complicated issues that Europe dealt with in 2015.

Dr Paul Mills engaged with more than 40 young people in Amsterdam to discuss in detail the debt crisis and the consequences for us as young people. We ended the conference with a highly interactive simulation game, which let us experience the challenges of trading, making profits and negotiating.



Organisational changes

Besides the successful events, some changes were made to our organisational structure. A phase of re-branding was completed, with a new name, a new website and a new style. The board hired a General Secretary to assist it in all administrative matters. We are very thankful to Hepke Deelstra for joining our team with such great enthusiasm, and we highly appreciate his example of servant leadership over the past year.

Daniel Wisniewski, Eunice Genoveva Vatron and Iina Mattila finished their terms as board members in the summer of 2015. We would like to thank them again for their investment of time and energy in ECPYouth. At the General Assembly, the member organisations decided to appoint

Andreea Gabriela Gavrila (Romania), Ardjan Boersma (SGPJ, the Netherlands) and Dimitri Bluashvili (YCD, Georgia) as new board members. Current board members Inna Panchuk (CDU, Ukraine) and Gerianne Pennings (Perspectief, the Netherlands) were also reappointed for the next two years. Lastly, we are grateful to have welcomed a large number of new participants at our events and that new political youth organisations have joined our network in 2015.





RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTED DURING THE ECPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 29 MAY 2015 IN SEEON, GERMANY

Declaration on tackling illegal immigration to Europe | *accepted by the ECPM members on 29 May 2015 during the ECPM General Assembly*

The European Parliament and the Member States need to act now to counter the growing illegal immigration to Europe.

From January to April this year there were about 17 times as many refugee deaths than during the same period last year. The European agency Frontex has reported that the migrants travel in increasingly crowded boats and worse conditions than before. The Mediterranean boat disaster of April 19 was a painful wake up call for the European Union.

After this crisis the European Union is planning to triple the budget of its Triton border protection operation. However, these new forces to control the border are not enough.

This Triton operation patrols will only operate within 30 miles from the Italian coast, far away from many of the deaths at the sea.

Experts and NGOs highlight that the root causes and the reasons of the problem have not been addressed.

The members of the European Christian Political Movement calls on the European Parliament and the EU Member States to address an approach that deals with the imminent problems as well of root causes of the problem. Therefore, we call on the EU and the Member States to adopt an approach with a main focus on early intervention and prevention in order to reduce the number of illegal immigrants.

The ECPM calls on the European Parliament to:

- **Support Member States to forcefully track, prosecute and detain human traffickers and dismantle the structures that are used by them.**
- **Establish cooperation between the EU and African countries and African NGO's to collect, analyse and disseminate information on migration flows coming from Africa.**
- **Provide information to discourage the potential immigrants for coming to Europe. The right information about life in Europe and difficulties of the trip should be passed directly into the local villages and communities.**

The ECPM calls on the EU Member States to:

Address the lack of a common immigration policy across Europe which has imposed a burden on the Southern European countries that are on the front line of illegal immigration from Africa.

ECPM believes strongly in the principle of subsidiarity, however the growing problem of illegal immigration is causing an increasing loss of lives, an increasing cost in humanitarian aid and increasing problems for many EU member States. Therefore, we call for solidarity between the EU Member States to face this problem together.

ECPM Declaration against Maternity Traffic | *accepted by the ECPM members on 29 May 2015 during the ECPM General Assembly*

The practice of surrogacy, whereby a woman accepts to undergo a pregnancy and give birth to a baby for someone else, is an infringement on fundamental rights and poses serious questions in terms of biomedical ethics, human rights, and the dignity of human persons. The human dignity of the woman carrier is undermined as her body and its reproductive function are used as a commodity. The human rights of the baby conceived as a result of the arrangement are disregarded as he becomes a product to be bought and sold.

Surrogacy, although strictly forbidden in a number of countries, is a highly encountered practice. The unregulated nature of this practice creates numerous legal issues. The ECPM calls for the legislation and

the practice of surrogacy in different countries to be assessed on the basis of existing international human rights treaties¹.

The practice of surrogacy is incompatible with the provisions of numerous international conventions. It is also a direct contradiction of the principle of human dignity that makes up the cornerstone of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which prohibits ‘making the human body and its parts as such a source of financial gain’. ***The ECPM, therefore, considers that legitimizing surrogacy contradicts EU and international law and effectively consists in commercializing maternity.***

Moreover, the assisted reproduction techniques used within surrogacy pose serious health risks to the women carriers and those donating eggs to be used in these arrangements. The ECPM calls for the health concerns surrounding surrogate motherhood to be seriously considered and openly discussed.

Surrogacy arrangements, in particular commercial surrogacy also commodifies the child born from the arrangement. By relinquishing a child, to third party commissioning couple or individual, surrogacy becomes a sort of programmed abandonment causing psychological repercussions for children. A serious and significant problem in many International Surrogacy Arrangement cases is also the legal status of the born children. ***The ECPM highlights the need to evaluate the feasibility of refusing a transcription of birth certificates or recognition of the legal decisions of the birth country.***

The ECPM is concerned with the fertility tourism associated with international surrogacy arrangements which often leads to the exploitation of women in disadvantaged positions and a black market of ‘baby selling’.

ECPM Members recall that surrogacy is not a fertility treatment to restore a person’s deficient ability to procreate and cannot be accepted, therefore, as a remedy for couples who cannot have children.

ECPM Members condemn surrogacy, in particular commercial surrogacy, and strongly encourage the admissibility for countries to adopt laws against this practice. ECPM considers it is therefore urgent to develop an international convention forbidding and criminalizing the practice of surrogacy.

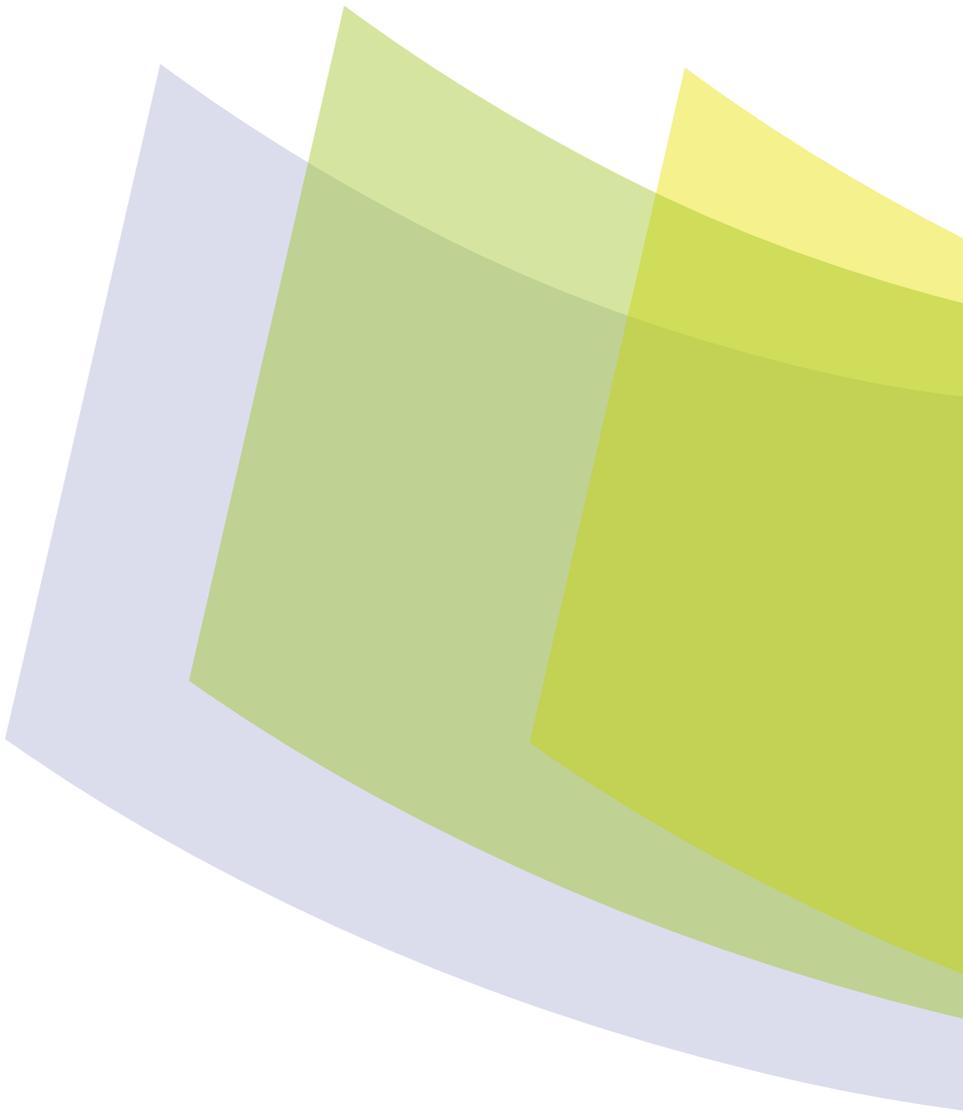
Resolution on the situation in Ukraine | *accepted by the ECPM members on the 29th of May 2015 during the ECPM General Assembly*

General Assembly of the European Christian Political Movement:

1. Is deeply concerned over the current situation in Ukraine, where the estimated number of people killed since April 2014 has exceeded 6,000, while over 1 million people have been internally displaced and are in urgent need of housing, jobs and social rehabilitation.
2. Expresses strong support to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, its people and government, which today are striving to overcome the dual challenge of regaining control of their territory against Russian backed armed groups and engaging long awaited internal structural reforms.
3. Strongly condemns Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its financial, military and technical assistance to pro-Russian forces in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, which threaten Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, destabilize regional stability and security in Europe and undermine the world order based on respect for international law.
4. Calls on the Russian Federation to fully implement the Minsk agreement, start the withdrawal of all foreign troops and weapons from the territory of Ukraine and return to full compliance with its international and bilateral treaty obligations under the UN Charter, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.
5. Deplores the violations of human rights which have increased in Ukraine, especially in Crimea and in conflict affected territories. Supports President's Petro Poroshenko appeal for the international peacekeeping mission in Ukraine. Insists on immediate full access of the OSCE SMM to the entire territory of eastern Ukraine and to Ukrainian-Russian state border.

6. Stresses the importance of the fulfillment of all the provisions of the Minsk agreements, which currently remain the only internationally recognized framework for a peaceful settlement, and urges all parties to pursue the peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine through international mediation efforts aimed at the restoration of the territorial integrity of the country and the re-establishment of the government authority throughout the national territory without any exception in accordance with Ukrainian legislation.

7. Urges the EU and G7 leaders as well as international community to condemn Russia's illegal actions and increase political, diplomatic and economic pressure on Moscow to compel it to fulfill its obligations.



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