



GENSEC-2015-026

Conference of European Churches
General Secretariat

Ref. Ares(2019)3387279 - 23/05/2019

Commissioner
Marianne Thyssen
Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B – 1049 Bruxelles

19 February 2015

Dear Commissioner,
Dear Ms Thyssen,

On behalf of the Conference of European Churches we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of the new European Commission.

The challenges of the European Union are manifold and complex. For many people in Europe the topics of your portfolio are the most important, challenging and decisive ones. The Conference of European Churches is convinced that the European Union and the European unification process is a gift and a desirable task for Europe, its people and societies. Therefore, we wish God's blessing on your responsibilities and work.

The Conference of European Churches was founded after the World War II as a bridge-building initiative of the churches in Europe to overcome the tensions and the Iron Curtain in Europe.

Today it brings together 114 member churches from all over Europe – Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and also Methodist, Baptist and Old-Catholic churches. In this spirit as a bridge-builder the Conference of European Churches has been in dialogue with the European Institutions from the beginning.

The question of how to shape the social dimension of the European unification process was and is a core issue for the Conference of European Churches. Coming from the different traditions of its member churches CEC addresses the balance and interdependence between economic, social and

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environmental policy to place human and social interests the centre of European policy. Therefore CEC engaged in the last years in the Europe 2020 strategy for example, and is also reflecting on the significance of the Working Time Directive.

Therefore, we hold your work in high esteem. We would appreciate meeting you in Brussels to present the engagement of the Conference of European Churches in the field of employment, social affairs and education. We would appreciate learning in dialogue with you about the direction the new Commission will take on your policy area.

We kindly ask you to communicate your response to the office of the Conference of European Churches (+32 2 234 6834, eng@cec-kek.be).

We would like to express our respect for the tasks and commitments you are undertaking. We are looking forward to a fruitful, constructive dialogue and relationship with the European Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Liagre', is written over a horizontal line.

Rev Dr Guy Liagre
General Secretary
Conference of European Churches