



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

Diakonie 
Deutschland

15th European Conference on Asylum

15th – 20th
October 2018
Chios and Athens/
Greece

Solidarity first – Reclaiming the values and principles of Europe

The European Conference on Asylum which is held for over 15 years now in different places among church-based organisations in Europe will take place this year in Greece (Chios and Athens). Addressees of the conference are multipliers in the field of assisting refugees and asylum seekers, from counselling and social work to advocacy work on different levels in – but not only – church-based organisations from European countries organised under the umbrella of CCME.

The conference language will only be English.

In the light of the current developments in the EU, the EU-Turkey declaration and the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), we chose Greece as conference venue in 2018, also as a sign of solidarity because of the still difficult reception conditions and the challenges in the Greek asylum system.

Dr. Torsten Moritz
General Secretary
The Churches' Commission for Migrants
in Europe (CCME)

Efthalia Pappa
Vice Moderator of Executive Committee
of CCME, Church of Greece, Synodi-
cal Committee of Inter-Orthodox and
Inter-Church Relations

Katharina Stamm
European Migration Policy
Diakonie Deutschland

The conference has the following objective:

- Discussion and positioning of churches in the European refugee and asylum policies
- Networking of practitioners and representatives of church and non-church actors in refugee and asylum policies in Greece and other European countries
- Information on current challenges of the Greek asylum system, at the external borders and on the main land, reception conditions, detention, with visits to local facilities in Chios and in Athens, meeting with NGOs and state actors
- Exchange on the future of the Common European Asylum System



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PROGRAMME

Monday, 15th October 2018

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12:30 pm **Arrival at Chandris Hotel Chios**

1:00 pm **Welcome Lunch**

3:00 pm **Welcoming Statements**

[Markos Vasilakis](#), His Eminence Metropolitan of Chios, Psara and Oinousses

[Dr. Torsten Moritz](#), General Secretary, The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

[Ramin Mohabat](#), Journalist

Moderation: [Katharina Stamm](#), European Migration Policy, Diakonie Deutschland

3:30 pm **The Remains of the Refugee Crisis: Recent Developments in the Law, Policy and Practice of Asylum in Greece**

[Efthalia Pappa](#), Vice Moderator of Executive Committee of CCME, Church of Greece, Synodical Committee of Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Church Relations

4:30 pm **Coffee Break**

5:00 pm **The Situation in the Aegean Islands since 2015: Impact of EU Policies on the Greek Sea Borders**

[Natasha Strahini](#), Lawyer Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), Chios

Interventions

[Aiki Potamianou](#), GCR Lawyer, Lesvos legal aid project

[Katerina Vlasi](#), Lawyer, Legal Aid METAdrasi Samos

[Dr. Danai Angeli](#), Lawyer, Expert on European Asylum and Human Rights

Moderation: [Dr. Torsten Moritz](#), General Secretary, The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

8:00 pm **Dinner at Hotzas Tavern**



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Tuesday, 16th October 2018

15th – 20th
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- 9:00 am** **Commemoration Ceremony for People who Lost their Lives on their Way to Seek Safety and of Dr. Carsten Hoerich at the Sea Shore**
- 10:00 am** **Excursions**
4 vans each for 15 persons, all groups will stop at Vial camp and have a short introduction outside the camp
1. Vial Camp Athena Woman Center (Markela Farkona) – women's group only
2. Vial Camp Imagine Center for men (Tamara Dresser)
3. Vial Camp Visitors Group inside
4. Eastern Shore Response Team – Warehouse – Vial Camp
- 1:00 pm** **Lunch**
- 2:00 pm** **The Role of Frontex as European Agency in the Aegean**
[Magdalena Silska](#), Adviser to the Fundamental Rights Office (Frontex Headquarter Warsaw)
- Interventions from participants**
Moderation: [Dr. Torsten Moritz](#), General Secretary, The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)
- 3:30 am** **Coffee Break**
- 4:00 am** **The EU Refugee System from a Local Perspective, Experiences, Crisis management, First Reception and Hot Spot Approach out of the Experiences of the Local Authorities at the Gate of Europe**
[Manolis Vournos](#), Mayor of Chios
- Interventions**
[N.N.](#), Médecins Sans Frontières
[Evi Paida](#), Ministry of Education, Teacher local primary school for refugee children
[George Georgalas](#), Lawyer, Legal Aid METAdrasi Chios
- Moderation: [Efthalia Pappa](#), Vice Moderator of Executive Committee of CCME, Church of Greece, Synodical Committee of Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Church Relations
- 6:30 pm** **End**
- 7:00 pm** **Dinner at Chandris**



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Wednesday, 17th October 2018

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9:00 am **Hotel Chandris Check-Out**

9:00-10:00 am **Conclusions of Day 1 and 2**

Moderation:

11.30-12:20 pm **Flights to Athens**

1.30-2.00 pm **Fresh Hotel Check-In**

2:30 pm **Lunch Impact Hub**

4:00 pm **Keynote**

From »Dublin« to the Aegean, Turkey, Libya and Niger – Who is Next? Perspectives of Externalization of European Refugee Management Seen from the Greek Perspective

[Professor Dimitris Christopoulos](#), Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University (Athens) & President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

4:40 pm **Discussion**

Moderation: [Dr. Torsten Moritz](#), General Secretary, The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

5:00 pm **Coffee Break**

5:30 pm **The EU-Turkey Statement and the Greek Hot Spots – A Failed European Pilot Project in Refugee Policy**

[Yiota Massouridou](#) and [Evi Kyprioti](#), Asylum and Migration Lawyers in Greece

Intervention

[Dr. Eleni Koutsouraki](#), Lawyer, Greek Council for Refugees

Discussion

Moderation: [Dimitrios Angelidis](#), Journalist at EFSYN

7:30 pm **End**

8:00 pm **Dinner at Impact Hub**



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Thursday, 18th October 2018

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- 9:00 am Meeting at Impact Hub**
- 9:30 am Guided Excursions with Groups of 10-15 Persons (only for participants from outside Greece)**
1. Visit Elaionas Refugee Camp
 2. Visit Schisto Refugee Camp
 3. Greek Asylum Service (Karavias, Director of GAS and Iza Papailiou, Head of the Greek Dublin Unit)
 4. Representative of UNHCR Greece (tbc)
 5. Evangelical Church Unaccompanied Minors
 6. KSPM-ERP of the Church of Greece
- 1:00 pm Lunch Break**
- 3:00 pm »The Greek Ombudsman's Competence for the External Monitoring of the Return of Third-Country Nationals to their Country of Origin: Administrative Challenges and Human Rights Issues«**
[George P. Nikolopoulos](#), Professor of Criminology, Panteion University, Athens and Deputy Ombudsman for Human Rights at the Greek Ombudsman's Office
- Intervention**
[George Dafnis](#), UNHCR Protection Associate
- Moderation: [Eleni Spathana](#), Asylum and Migration Law Expert, Athens
- 5:00 pm Coffee Break**
- 5:30 pm Dublin System – Family Reunification from Greece to other EU Countries**
[Thanie Stathopoulou](#), Lawyer, Safe Passage, Greece
[Vinzent Vogt](#), Refugee Law Clinics Abroad, Chios project
[Peny Mylona](#), Lawyer, Danish Refugee Council, Greece
[Iliana Bombou](#), Lawyer, Refugee Legal Support - Athens/Solidarity Now
- Moderation: [Valia Gkeka](#), UNHCR Greece
- 7:00 pm Dinner at Impact Hub**
- 8:00 pm Dinner Meeting with Church Delegations**



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Friday, 19th October 2018

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- 9:30 am** **The Reform of CEAS – Overview and State of Play in the EU and Solutions for Overcoming the Dead lock (New Important Roles of Civil Society and Cities and Regions)**
[Catherine Woollard](#), Secretary General of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- Moderation: [Erika Kalantzi](#), National Coordinator (Greece) for the Elena Network
- 11:00 am** **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 am** **Reports from Other Countries – What are Two of the Latest Developments in my Country?**
Italy, Hungary, Spain, Austria
- Discussion**
- Moderation: [Katharina Stamm](#), European Migration Policy, Diakonie Deutschland
- 1:00 pm** **Lunch Break**
- 3:00 pm** **Reports from Other Countries – What are Two of the Latest Developments in my Country?**
Sweden, Romania, France, UK, Germany
- Discussion**
- Moderation: [Katharina Stamm](#), European Migration Policy, Diakonie Deutschland
- 5:00 pm** **Coffee Break**
- 5:30 pm** **Panel Discussion: Bilateral Agreements, Externalization – Where is Europe Going to? What is the Role of Civil Society and Churches?**
[Catherine Woollard](#), Secretary General of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
[Dr. Torsten Moritz](#), General Secretary, The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)
[Rev. Kumlin Lena](#), Legal Adviser on EU Affairs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
[Karl Kopp](#), Director for European Affairs, PRO ASYL
[Vassilis Papadopoulos](#), Head of Legal Service at the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
- Moderation: [Apostolos Fotiadis](#), Journalist and Researcher
- 8:00 pm** **Dinner Farewell Evening**
Restaurant



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Saturday, 20th October 2018

15th – 20th
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- 10:00 am** **Conclusions of the Whole Week at Fresh Hotel**
- Common Press Release**
- Outlook**
- Moderation:
- 11:00 am** **Coffee Break / End of the Conference**