

Meeting of the Executive and Steering Committee of the ECPCC in Athens.

Present:

Executive Committee:

Father Dr. Adamantios Avgoustidis, Greece, President

Rev. Asa Jonsson, Sweden, Vice President

Dra. Anne Vandenhoeck, Belgium, Secretary General

Steering Committee:

Rev. Kirsti Aalto, Finland

Father Stavros Kofinas, Ecumenical Patriarchate Istanbul

For the Constitution:

Helmut Weiss, Germany

Was not able to attend:

Dr. Karl Heinz Ladenhauf, Austria

Date:

September 1st – 3rd, 2006

Meeting Place:

Theological Boarding School, Athens

http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr/en_main/agiavarvara/oikotrofeio.asp

Host:

His Grace Agathangelos, Bishop of Fanarion, General Director of the Apostoliki Diakonia of the Orthodox Church of Greece.

<http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr>

The executive and steering committees of the ECPCC had their annual meeting in Athens from Friday September 1st till Sunday September 3rd 2006. Father Adamantios Avgoustidis perfectly arranged the ideal circumstances to work. Everyone was picked up from the airport and driven to the theological boarding school of Athens where we were the guests of His Grace Agathangelos, bishop of Fanarion. We were received with warmth and generosity in this beautifully restored school with an amazing view on the whole of Athens.

After arrivals we started our first meeting. Thanks to Rev. Asa Jonsson and Rev. Kirsti Aalto we were able to evaluate the ECPCC's last conference in Sigtuna (Sweden 2005). We went through the written evaluations of the participants and the financial report from Sigtuna. Looking back gave us already some clues for the future and Saturdays meeting.

On Saturday we spent time discussing the constitution of the ECPCC. Helmut Weiss made some suggestions to bring the constitutions of the ECPCC and the ICPCC closer together and to have more effective representations of the members of the ECPCC. The executive and steering committee discussed the results of Helmut's hard work and will continue to think about the constitution. The ultimate goal is to present the council members with suggestions to change the constitution and bring them to vote.

Most of Saturday was then spent to discuss the next meeting in Leuven, Belgium in 2009. Anne Vandenhoeck gave a presentation about Leuven, the possibilities for the conference venue and the local preparation group. The committee then took time to be very creative and to debate the title and content of the conference in Leuven. We concluded Saturday's meeting with a first attempt to fill in the schedule for the conference in Leuven and with a plan for the coming years.

Late in the evening we had the unique chance of seeing the bishop bless a wedding in the Greek Orthodox church of St. Barbara. He then generously invited us to an excellent restaurant next to the sea. We were served the most amazing fresh fish and enjoyed the company of this gentle, spiritual man.

On Sunday we were the guests of honour in the orthodox liturgy presided by the Bishop and father Adamantios. After the closing prayer and blessing, the bishop invited the committee to the altar and introduced them to the community, explaining the work of the ECPCC. Each of us was handed a beautiful present. Father Adamantios then took us on a small tour through Athens. We simply had to climb the Areopagus where Paul spoke to the Athenians. We then met father Stavros for lunch in the old Plaka. Through the day, before departures started again, we informally spoke about past, present and future of the ECPCC.

We wish to thank father Adamantios for his excellent preparation of our stay and for leading the meeting as a true diplomat.

We will keep you updated on the further preparations for Leuven!