



Yearbook 2009

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Word of the editors

*“They replied, “Let us start rebuilding”. So they began this good work”
(Nehemiah 2:18b)*

The Biblical story of Nehemiah is a famous story that goes as follows. After a long period of exile and captivity in Babylon the Jewish people got permission to return to Jerusalem. There was great happiness, because after seventy years of repression, they were free again! The first thing they did was to rebuild the temple, and to restore the covenant with God! There was a new beginning! Now, decades later, there seemed to be nothing left of that optimism or solidarity. The walls of the city were still in ruins and it was a terrible situation: people did not have a vision for the future, there were victims of power battles with others, there was a spirit of hanging around, trying to find a way to survive within the broken walls that remembered the repression of the past, but also symbolized the hope for the future. Founded on prayer, Nehemiah got the vision to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He said to them: “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace. He “also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me”. They replied “Let us start rebuilding”. So they began this good work and everybody was building their part of the wall which was the closest to their houses and together they built the wall so quickly that it is written: “When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God” (6:16)

You are reading now the first page of the activities of the ECPM in 2009. While last year we had a yearbook containing only the activities of the ECPM in East Europe, this year we have the honor and the pleasure to present to you a yearbook that will contain the activities of our Movement throughout the whole of Europe. If we look to the above written story of Nehemiah, we see a lot of similarities with the current situation in Europe. Also in the different countries in both East and West Europe, we know periods of repression, but also of victory and revival. The fall of Communism in the late eighties is a beautiful example of this. However, if we look to Europe now, we see also many times the same: a lack of vision, dullness in the worship of God (even with neglect of Christian values and roots in the Treaties of the European Union) and broken walls of loneliness and hope. Nevertheless on the other hand, as you will read in this Yearbook, many people took the initiative in their countries to start or to continue to build or rebuild their parts of the walls that will restore Christian Democratic values in Europe.

Rebuilding and reinforcing Christian Democratic values in Europe is also the theme of this yearbook. We are happy and proud that this is not a yearbook made exclusively by the board of the ECPM or by their executive staff. This yearbook is constructed by everyone who has been involved in the activities in 2009. We would like to give many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and speakers who participated in all the events to promote Christian Democratic values in Europe. It would be too long to list all of their names here, but you certainly find them in this yearbook. A special thanks to everyone who wrote articles for this yearbook: Eunice Dugulescu, Gevorg Babayan & Kosrov Harutyunyan & Amine Shaboyan, Vladimir Lame, Auke Minnema, Viktor Mitevski, Sinisa Nadazdin, Milan Pavlovic & Justin Kagin, Daniela Paunova, Dusica Petkovic, George Rukhadze, Grozdan Stoevski, Jonathan van Tongeren, George Volkovinsky, and of course the ECPM board members: Peeter Võsu (chairman), Kris Vleugels, Dick van Dijk and Vladimir Plămădeală. Further thanks to Phyllis Harries for the necessary corrections and adaptation in English and Lucian Enasoni & Valentin Trifa for the design.

But above all we thank God for all the blessings and openings He gave us. We could only do this work because of His Grace! The Good News of the resurrection of Jesus gives us through His Spirit the Hope and Vision to rebuild our part of the wall which is the closest to our houses (to our talents).

We wish you a lot of joy in reading the Yearbook of 2009 and we wish you God’s Protection, Wisdom and Blessings for the activities in 2010! See you next year!

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Preface

The vision to create a platform for Christians and Christian political parties in Europe has been realized. The European Christian Political Movement has become an organization that unites individuals and parties based on Christian values all over Europe.

ECPM started as a small organization, established by five political parties in 2005. By the end of 2009 it already unites 22 organizations from 15 countries and several individual members. It has grown mainly because of its uniqueness and the need for such an organization. Christians in politics who stand for Biblical principles and clear Christian values had an urgent need for an organization such as this. There was a need for common principles, shared knowledge and worked out positions, encouragement and fellowship. ECPM became the fulfilment of these needs.

The Congress of ECPM 2009 took place in Bern, Switzerland; most of the Board Meetings have taken place in Brussels and ECPM has organized or partnered many events all over Europe. The Board members or member organizations have taken part in many other gatherings, activities or conferences. In 2009, the ECPM was represented in the largest meetings for European Christian politicians like the European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels, International Berlin Gathering, Westminster Prayer Breakfast and the South East European Gathering in Bosnia Herzegovina. ECPM has been partnering with Eastern European Christian political parties in Armenia during the second congress of the Association of Eastern European Christian Democrats, and also in many other countries. ECPYN, the youth movement of ECPM, organized a summer school in Montenegro and a regional conference took place in Germany.

ECPM has been keeping its eye on European political development and has published its positions or opinions about several issues. The organization has spoken up against injustice and expressed its support for righteous cause.

ECPM was working toward the status of EU recognized political organization in 2009. The status was granted in February 2010. This is another step ahead for greater opportunities to make the Christian voice heard in the European political arena.

We are thankful to all our member organizations and individual members for their active participation in the common task of promoting Christian principles in Europe. We want to provide a workable platform to enable all the Christians in European politics to become more effective in standing for Christian values. Naturally, we hope to welcome many new members in 2010.

I hope you will enjoy reading this yearbook and I am looking forward to meeting you at one of our events in 2010!



Peeter Võsu
Chairman ECPM



REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ECPM

1.1 Report of the Activities of the Board

by Kris Vleugels and Dick van Dijk

Board Report 2009

The year 2009 was an interesting and hectic year for ECPM: during the year we faced a lot of challenges and opportunities. We organised conferences and meetings, and worked on the spreading of Christian politics in Europe.

Changes

During the meeting of the General Assembly of 2009 in Bern in June, the assembly decided our board member Krasimir Momchev (Bulgaria) should be replaced by Vladimir Plămădeală (Moldova) as the representative for Eastern Europe. The other board members were confirmed: Peeter Võsu (chairman, Estonia), Kris Vleugels (vice-chairman, Belgium) and Dick van Dijk (treasurer, The Netherlands).

The board wants to thank Mr. Momchev for his help during his time on the Board. We wish him all blessings and success with his political projects in Bulgaria. Mr. Plămădeală is already well adapted and working with “cruising speed”, bringing new ideas and plans to the board.

Meetings

The Board members, although living quite some distance from each other, managed to have 5 meetings in 2009: 20 February, 17 April, 11 June, 3 September and 17 December. To save on expenses, some of those meetings were held via Skype. Internal issues were discussed as well as the future of Christian politics in Europe.

Decisions/realizations

In 2009, new board statutes were accepted by the General Assembly. What used to be “the Executive Board” will from now on be called “the Board”. What used to be the Board is now “the General Assembly”, representing all member parties and partners. The Congress will consist of all attending members of ECPM and its member parties, as well as the associated organisations.

A rather big part of the board’s attention was focused at the aim to file in a request for an EU grant application. After waiting for several months, we finally got an answer in February 2010: ECPM was accepted as one of the ten official political parties in the European Union! In order to succeed, the board was involved in getting new European parties and individual members aboard.



From left to right: Peeter Võsu, Kris Vleugels, Vladimir Plămădeală, Dick van Dijk

Plans

In 2010 the board will focus on setting up the internal organization, employing people and engaging co-workers. This year should also become the start of “the conquest of the West”. Eastern Europe is well covered by ECPM membership. Our priority for the next 5 years will be to convince Christian Democratic politicians and parties in Western Europe to join ECPM. Of course, we will remain very active in Eastern Europe as well.

We are delighted that our youth network, The European Christian Political Youth Network (ECPYN) has also been growing the past few years. The youth network renewed its board and is planning to become the official youth movement of ECPM. We hope this will be realized in 2010.

ECPM will grow in quantity, quality and visibility, as far as the board is concerned. However, this has to be achieved while we stay close to our mission, our roots and inspiration. That’s why board meetings never start without a prayer and a moment of Bible meditation.

The wagon is moving. Now we should keep it moving. With God’s help, we will succeed to make the change in Europe. As Saint Paul said: Phil.3:14 “run toward the goal, to win the prize”.

1.2 Report of the Activities of the ECPM in 2009

by Leo van Doesburg

Last year we informed you that 2008 was a busy year with many openings. Today we can tell you that 2009 was a very energetic year as well! A lot of important, and sometimes unexpected, things took place in 2009. For example, there was the turbulent situation in Moldova that required our attention and also the continuing openings to organize congresses in Belarus. Although the Belarusian Christian Democracy faced many persecutions, they were determined to organize two founding congresses to try to get their party recognized. In a very hostile political environment, this was a very brave step and this is a battle that will continue. The Republic of Georgia not only faced political turbulence and mass demonstrations, but also experienced the insecurity of the departure of the peacekeeping forces from their country. There were national elections in, amongst others, Albania, Bulgaria, Norway, Portugal and Romania, and many of these elections caused a lot of political tensions between the parties represented in the parliament. After a long period of coalition talks, with tensions between the Flemish and French speaking parties, a new Belgian government was finally formed. Naturally, probably the most important elections of 2009 were the European elections in all EU countries.

1.2.1 Activities:

The year 2009 was the busiest year if you count the number of activities: in total the ECPM organized 16 conferences and 5 strategic (initiative group) meetings. Representatives of the ECPM also took part in 6 meetings in different countries and in 7 regional network meetings.

I. Events organized in collaboration with the ECPM:

1. International Leadership/youth leadership forum: "Our common Values – Leadership in Challenging times" (Macedonia) February 2009
2. Founding congress (Belarus) February 2009
3. Preparation of the Initiation Committee for the election campaigns (Moldova) March 2009
4. Workshop on Faith, Society and Politics (Bulgaria) April 2009
5. Seminar "(New) Identity of nations in the process of European Integration from the perception of Christian Democracy (Montenegro) May 2009
6. ECPM Members congress (Switzerland) June 2009
7. Training of politicians from East Europe about basic Christian Democratic Values (the Netherlands) June 2009
8. Economic Diplomacy Seminar (Croatia) July 2009
9. Summer School ECPYN: "(South) East Europe: between identity and integration"(Montenegro) August 2009
10. Conference of the Bureau for Christian Democracy in East Europe (Armenia) September 2009
11. Conference on the basic Christian Democratic Principles (Georgia) September 2009
12. Second founding congress (Belarus) October 2009
13. Conference about "Integration and European values: the impact of EU Membership on Family issues" (Albania) October 2009
14. Conference about "Preserving family values in the European integration" (Macedonia) October 2009
15. Conference: "Social responsibility and ethics of the global financial crisis" (Serbia) October 2009
16. Romanian Parliamentarian Prayer Breakfast and conference about "Family crisis in the contemporary age" (Romania) December 2009

II. Developing strategies/collaboration with our partners:

1. Initiation committee meeting Moldova and participation in the PDLM Congress October 2009
2. Leadership retreat for the Political initiation committee Bulgaria
3. Fact finding visit in Albania May 2009 (during the trip Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania)
4. Signing collaboration proposal between ECPM and Christian Democratic Movement of Georgia, April 2009
5. Visiting our partners in Armenia to prepare the conference for the autumn, April 2009
6. Participating in the meeting of the Bureau for Christian Democracy in East Europe (Poland) April 2009

III. ECPM representatives invited as participant/speaker:

1. France: Official visit to the PCD - Paris
2. Finland: Bi-Annual Congress of Finnish Christian Democrats
3. Romania: conference about security, organized by the SGP (Arad)
4. Romania: family conference in Brasov organized by Provita
5. Serbia: Wave event
6. Spain: Politicians for Life and Family conference

1.2.2 Regional fellowship meetings

Representatives also joined regional fellowship meetings where politicians met each other bound by the values of Jesus. These are great events where you meet believing politicians from all over the world. Important fellowship meetings where representatives of the ECPM participated: The Berlin Gathering organized by the Prayer group from the German Bundestag (June 2009), the UK Westminster Prayer Gathering, United Kingdom (June 2009), The Renewing Our Minds (ROM) in Croatia (August 2009), the South East European Gathering in Bosnia-Herzegovina (May 2009), the European Prayer Breakfast in the European Parliament, Belgium (December 2009) and the Statesman meeting, Belgium (December 2009).

1.2.3 Other involvement of the ECPM

It was very interesting and encouraging that in addition to the activities, the ECPM was asked more and more for advice on policy matters regarding accession reports to the European Union and legislation on the field of family values and during the crises in Moldova played an important role in passing on accurate and objective information to the European Parliament from our local partners. The ECPM also became a partner of the Institute of Human Dignity which is established in Brussels. This institute has as its main target to promote the truth that we are created in God's image from conception to natural death. They launched an official working group for Human Dignity in the European Parliament by the (then) President Hans-Gert Poettering. Also a special meeting took place during the Berlin Gathering in June, when Leo van Doesburg, Representative East Europe of the ECPM, organized a meeting with Petar Stoyanov (President of Bulgaria 1997-2002); Emil Constantinescu (President of Romania 1996-2000); Vilma Trajkovska (widow of Boris Trajkovski, President of Macedonia, 1999-2004); Muhamet Kapllani, former Foreign Minister of Albania, (representing President Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania, 2002-2007) to discuss the possibility of forming a Balkan Dialogue Group. Andreas Jahn, Organizer of the Berlin Gathering, also participated.

1.3 Report ECPM Congress

by Jonathan van Tongeren & Guido van Beusekom

ECPM Member Congress 2009

Representatives of ECPM member parties and organisations, politicians and professionals gathered in Berne, Switzerland from June 10 till 12 for the 5th annual ECPM Member Congress. This year's theme was: A Christian Answer to the Credit Crunch. The current economic crisis was discussed by lecturers and participants from a Christian-democratic and Christian-social viewpoint .

The Congress started with words of welcome by ECPM president Peeter Võsu and representatives of the hosting Swiss parties, EVP-PEV and EDU-UDF, Joel Blunier and José Lorente both arguing for certain cheeses from certain valleys, which caused some laughter.

The first lecture was then given by the Dutch economist and former Member of Parliament for the now defunct Anti-Revolutionary Party, Dr. Bob Goudzwaard. He spoke about "A Christian-social perspective on the global economy". After which there was some time for questions and answers. His slideshow and the text of his lecture can be found in the Virtual Library on the ECPM website.

After the coffee break, the Swiss futurist and strategic consultant Dr. Andreas Walker delivered a lecture entitled "Megatrends and Future Changes as Opportunities or as Threats for Christian Politics?" (slide show in the Virtual Library), which was followed by discussion.

After lunch the Belgian professor of Public Administration Emile Vanbeckevoort gave a lecture which resulted in a debate, which continued after the coffee break in one of three workshops sessions. The other workshop sessions were given by leading Moldovan economist Veaceslav Ionita and the economist professor Eduard Dommen from Switzerland, who is a specialist in economic ethics. The first was about Energy Policy in Eastern Europe and the latter about Global Trade in a New Political Reality. Professor Dommen approached this subject from the ideas of Calvin. His article on this subject was also published on the ECPM website.

At the end of the afternoon the participants in the congress visited the Parliament, which was within walking distance of the Congress Hotel, in two groups. The two groups had a guided tour of the parliament after which they were met by Members of Parliament Christian Waber (EDU) and Walter Donze (EVP) respectively. The MPs spoke about their work and about the typical characteristics of Swiss democracy.

In the evening the Board convened. The next morning the member congress took place. After the opening and some announcements the new statutes were adopted, President Peeter Võsu from Estonia and Vice President Kris Vleugels from Belgium were re-elected and Vladimir Plămădeală from Moldova was elected as board member in the place of Krasimir Momchev from Bulgaria. Dick van Dijk from the Netherlands did not have to be re-elected because his current term is not yet completed.



After this the new ECPM member parties - the Christian Democratic Forum of Bulgaria, the Christian Democratic Union of Ukraine, the Christian Democratic Union of Armenia and the Christian Democratic Movement of Georgia - were presented by their representatives Volodymir Stretovich from Ukraine, who is also the chairman of the Bureau of Christian Democratic Parties of Eastern Europe, vice chairman Gevorg Babayan from Armenia and George Rukhadze and party leader and MP Targamadze from Georgia. New associate member organisations were also welcomed: Amical Service France, Crown Bulgaria, Romanian Foundation for Democracy and Provita.

After the coffee break the congress adopted the policy document Priority for the Family, the political programme 'A Christian Democrat voice in the European Union' and a Joint Statement on Georgia. Some projects and strategies for the coming years were presented by Johannes de Jong after which Leo van Doesburg gave a report on ECPM activities in Eastern Europe in the past year accompanied by photos.

The congress was addressed by Petar Stoyanov, president of Bulgaria from 1997 until 2002 and on video by Emil Constantinescu, president of Romania from 1996 until 2000.

The participants of the congress then prepared for the excursion to the Swiss countryside, the Emmental valley to be more specific, where they enjoyed a traditional Swiss lunch with a lot of different cheeses, sausage, meat products, bread and wine topped off by a meringue dessert, at a cheese factory. After the lunch the group had a guided tour of the dairy factory, during which both the current and the traditional production process of the famous Emmental cheese were explained and demonstrated. After a bus trip back to Berne via Olten the congress participants departed.



This well attended congress not only had a very well chosen theme but was also a catalyst for new projects and initiatives by the participants and their respective organisations in cooperation with the ECPM and each other.

1.4 Collaboration between the ECPYN and ECPM

by Auke Minnema

The year 2009 brought a more fruitful and well-established co-operation between ECPM and the European Christian Political Youth Network. With the support of ECPM trainers and the organization's technical assistance, ECPYN carried out a very successful summer-school in Montenegro (see the article about the summer-school in the following pages.) Further, Vladimir Plămădeală, who is an ECPM Board Member, also got involved on the ECPYN Board to ensure more efficient liaison between two like-minded organizations.

At the end of 2009, after a number of discussions and feedback from ECPYN and ECPM, it was decided that ECPYN should be granted official status as the ECPM associated autonomous youth organization. This decision falls within the ECPM strategy of becoming a multi-level political organization in which the interests of different members would be reflected and promoted within autonomous structures.

The ECPM-ECPYN strategic partnership promises to produce a year full of developments and fruitful events for Christian young people across Europe who are interested in politics. Please follow ECPM and ECPYN web-sites for upcoming activities.



In the picture: Vladimir Plămădeală, Răzvan Burleanu, Jonathan van Tongeren, Nutsa Shavladze

1.5 Report ECPYN Summer School

by Auke Minnema and Jonathan van Tongeren

The 6th ECPYN International Summer school was held in Montenegro from 10th to 14th August 2009. Around 45 participants from 15 different countries travelled to Montenegro to take part in this event. This year we discussed the theme '(South-east) Europe between identity and integration'. During the event, several lecturers were present to share their ideas about this topic with the participants.

Lecturers

The first speaker, Emil Krijestorac (People's Party, Montenegro) spoke about how certain historical developments in (political) philosophy cause many current day politicians and others to believe that morals and politics have nothing to do with one another. He started out from Socrates and Plato and went on to speak about Niccolo Machiavelli's *Il Principe* (The Prince). He also spoke about those who did believe morals and politics go together and what's more should go together, among others the protestant theologian Max Weber.

Father Gojko Perovic (dean of the orthodox seminary of Montenegro) addressed the summer school about the preservation of the Christian identity of communities in the process of (European) integration. He expressed a model for us Christians: to preserve the identity of our community, while being actively involved in politics, but not identifying with any political system. He also spoke about the relation between church and state in Montenegro. The inheritance of communism is that people are afraid to integrate their beliefs into politics. The relation between church and state is not defined, but the religious communities want to take the lead in changing this and the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) has been instrumental in this.



The Dutch-Czech Prof. dr. Hans Renner (University of Groningen), addressed the conference on the topic of 'Europe between identity and integration'. He started out by discussing two examples of supra-national identity, the USA and the Soviet Union. He went on to ask the question of whether there has ever been a common European identity, concluding that there has been a common Christian identity in Europe in the early Middle Ages. At present there is, according to Renner, no identifiable European identity that is shared by a majority, let alone all of Europeans. There are two components that can contribute to the evolution of a European identity: European enlargement and EU integration. His conclusion was that there has been a lot of enlargement, little integration and a non-existent or hardly existent European identity and that this identity can only come about when enlargement is accompanied by integration.

Vladimir Plămădeală (ECPM board member) addressed the conference on the topic of 'How to have a European identity outside the EU'. To this end he first discussed what Europe is from several different perspectives, historically, geographically, religiously etc. He went on to discuss what could be defined as European identity, using the results of several opinion polls and internet discussions and of course this led to a lot of discussion with the participants of the conference.

Stieneke van der Graaf (Dutch member of regional Parliament) talked about how she became involved in politics as a young person and soon became the youngest member of the legislature at 22 years of age. She also talked about what it means to be involved in politics as a young person and what she sees as her mission, to serve society.

ECPM representative Leo van Doesburg gave a lecture about European identity and the European project, what it should be about and who should be included. His presentation was accompanied by provocative movie clips and made of bold statements and hard questions, which resulted in some fierce debate.

Former minister of finance and now member of parliament of Albania, Arben Malaj, spoke to the congress about the costs of the

Balkan conflict. He also discussed how long it would take for Balkan countries to catch up with Western Europe in an economic sense, concerning which he presented some staggering figures.

Henk Jan van Schothorst, (political advisor of the SGP at the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)) spoke about the reasons for starting European integration after the Second World War, the most important of which was obviously to have stability and peace. He then drew lines regarding stability and peace to our present time and the future.



Workshops

Besides lectures, there were also a couple of workshops. Jacques Bazen spoke about pipeline diplomacy and European energy policy, starting out by explaining the historical development of geo politics. Razvan Burleanu discussed the role of young Christian politicians and societal leaders and what can be opportunities for them especially in South East Europe. Leo van Doesburg spoke about vertical and horizontal integration in the European Union, how they should always go together, but also how far they should go. Jonathan van Tongeren put forward the hypothesis that the battle between church and state has become an important part of European identity, since the balance in the marriage of those two was lost. This resulted in an ongoing violent divorce of church and state, in which the state keeps intimidating, abusing and violating the church.

Excursion

Every summer school, there is also an excursion. This year, we went to Cetinje, the old capital of Montenegro to visit a museum about the history of the country. After visiting this beautiful city we went on to the old town of Budva down at the lagoon and to Kotor with a lot of palazzos and the castle of St. John on top of the mountain.

Parliament Game

The summer school ended with a simulation game in which the European Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs tackled two cases: the secession of Scotland and its application for EU membership and a conflict between Estonia and Russia regarding the Russian minority in Estonia. After a lot of fierce negotiation it was decided that the Scottish secession was illegal and EU accession was not acceptable as long as the 'United Kingdom of England and Northern Ireland' did not agree on Scottish secession and that the Estonian conflict should be resolved by repealing some laws discriminating against the Russian minority and at the same time fully supporting Estonia in its negotiations with Russia and the fight against hackers.

After the parliament game there was a panel discussion bringing together all the contributions of different speakers during the summer school and trying to find out what the common denominator was.



COUNTRY REPORTS

2.1 Report Albania

Conference “Integration and European Values - the Impact of EU Membership on Family Issues”

by Vladimir Lame

The Albanian Initiative of European Values (AIEV) organized the first International Conference “Integration and European Values - The Impact of EU Membership on Family issues” in Tirana International Hotel, facilitated by the Political Parties Programme of the Matra Programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and FICDD. AIEV have organised the conference in conformity with the approved project proposal, including the budget.

Conference organizers welcomed representatives of the main political parties, embassies and universities and from the Christian church in Albania. The political situation in Albania is complicated after the general parliamentary elections of 28th June 2009. The Socialist Party, the main party of the opposition, did not recognize the results of these elections and their representatives are absent from the new parliament. They are refusing to take their seats at the Parliament. Interestingly, however, politicians of both sides did attend our conference.

Therefore, the political dialogue is in collapse and in a way this affected our conference but we did our best and we had politicians from all of the main parties in Albania.

Vladimir Lame, the executive Director of the AIEV, convened the opening session. In his speech, Mr. Lame focused on the important mission that this independent organization has taken as its principal responsibility. Albania's EU integration process and its relationship with the European Union represent perhaps one of the most debated issues. Mr. Lame said that the EU and Albania concluded a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), seen as the first step towards membership, in June 2006. The negotiations took three-and-a-half years - three times longer than they took in Croatia's and Macedonia's case. It seems that Albania is moving too slowly in the fight against corruption and organised crime. He noted that Albanian Institutions, political representatives and the media should understand the most important values that the family of 27 member states of European Union represents such as freedom, real family values, christianity, and personal responsibility.



Representing the international guests Mr. **Leo van Doesburg** presented a short introduction about the ECPM network and about how an impact could be made both by developing a European network of Christian political parties in order to develop the Christian democracy in Europe and also by the development of a local Christian political movement in order to train local Albanian politicians in implementing Christian principles in their unique sphere of influence. During his speech Mr. van Doesburg invited participants to discuss how to implement Christian values within the field of politics. He discussed also the Christian philosophy of human being.

Mr. **Dorian Dučka**, the International Vice Secretary to the Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI), the 3rd largest political party in Albania, then spoke. He is special assistant to the Party Leader and Vice Prime Minister, Ilir Meta, and actually appointed as the director for European Integration in the Albanian Ministry of Economy. Mr. Dučka's presentation was mostly about economic diplomacy. Albania needs a realistic and pragmatic foreign policy that will support the development and integration needs of the country:

for this reason, economic diplomacy will be the main priority for the future. Albania has a great unused economic potential and a great need for foreign investments; it also has substantial investment absorption capacities. One of the primary tasks of Albanian diplomacy will be the promotion of this potential amongst foreign countries in order to attract foreign investments and boost mutual economic exchanges. He mentioned that special programs that would aim to inform and educate the public at large, and in particular the younger generation, on European issues and topics would also support the European integration process, thus promoting the understanding and sharing of European values within Albanian society.

Mr. **Taulant Balla**, First Secretary for International Affairs in the Socialist Party declared that his party is sticking to its demands to establish a parliamentary commission that will shed light into the June 28th elections, which he insists were "manipulated". He reiterated that his party would continue to boycott parliament until that investigation is conducted. Nevertheless Mr. Balla expressed his party's will to contribute to the European integration of Albania.

On the other side Mr. **Arben Malaj**, former Socialist Minister of Finance, focused on the challenges that our country faces in the way of full membership of the EU. Mr. Malaj was a constant supporter: since the beginning he expressed his will to support this initiative. Mr. Malaj said that the best way for this country to go forward is the consensual reform from both parties inside the parliament.

Mr. **Astrit Memia**, the chief of public relations from the Democratic Party in government talked with Mr. Leo Van Doesburg about the international petition approved by World Congress of Families that was organized in August 2009 against the legalization of gay marriage in Albania. Mr. Memia expressed his commitment to understanding this petition as a desire of the ECPM and its partners to help Albanian people and their institutions to understand real European values. His presentation was very interesting regarding Albanian public diplomacy. Over the years, public diplomacy has also developed a different meaning from public affairs, which refers to a government's activities and programs designed to communicate policy messages to its own domestic audiences.

Enlargement of the European Union from a Western European Perspective was the topic addressed by **Jacques Bazen**, International Relations Officer for the Dutch Reformed Party. What are European values was the main question and then What can the EU offer Albania? and What can Albania offer the EU?

Many participants in the conference, such as Mrs. **Mirela Bognani** from the Albanian Republican Party and the Albanian vice Ambassador in USA, Mr. **Kreshnik Collaku**, showed clear interest in learning more about the ECPM and the further steps that should be taken. Mr. Collaku explained the attempts of the Albanian diplomatic corps to facilitate the Euro-Atlantic integration of Albania. There were many practical questions about the membership of political organizations in the ECPM network. There was also a need to form a local network formed out of different Albanian political parties with as its main target to develop Christian values within Albanian society.

W.M.J. (Willem de Wildt), Policy Officer for the Dutch Reformed Party, presented his topic: Family and Ethical Values in the Netherlands. We also had the pleasure of having two more presentations focused on family values by **Mark Mullins and Alex Spak** from Christian Concern for our Nation, which is a high profile national Christian lobby group seeking to stand for biblical values in society. Mark Mullins spoke about Maintaining Identity within Integration and Alex Spak presented his research on Liberalization of Sexual Ethics ...the British perspective. The conference offered a great opportunity to present the biblical view on marriage, divorce and other relationships outside marriage. It also allowed for the presentation of the Gospel which is a key aim in all that the CCFON does, for godly law is only our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ and will not in itself save anybody or any society on its own.

All these presentations and topics were well accepted by all participants, even though this was the first time they were ever discussed in such a public meeting in Albania. This may sound surprising coming from a country like Albania but despite centuries of Ottoman occupation it has maintained a strong Christian identity.

As an outcome of the conference, we agreed to form a local informal network with the participation of the different Albanian political parties, mostly from young politicians, to develop European values within Albanian society. Everyone was positive. This is the first time that these themes were discussed in Albania. We were encouraged by the openings God gave us and we consider **this conference as a great success which put Albania as a special country within the network of the ECPM.**



2.2 Report Armenia

European Christian Democratic Movement today: From Values to Practice

by Khosrov Harutyunyan, Gevorg Babayan, Armine Shaboyan

The second conference of Christian Democrats of Eastern Europe organized by the Christian Democratic Union of Armenia, Christian Union of the Netherlands, European Christian Political Movement, Eastern European Bureau of Christian Democratic Parties, Christian Democratic Union of Nagorno Karabakh and Christian Peoples' Unity of Armenia was held on September 25-26 in Sevan, Hotel Complex "Harsnakar Armenia.

The representatives of Christian Democratic Parties and organizations from eight countries such as Moldova, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Armenia and the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh gathered around the topic "European Democratic Movement today: From Values to Practice".

Among the guests were the representatives of the National Assembly and Political Parties of RA: Dr. **Tatul Manaseryan** /Adviser to the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia/, Mr. **Hayk Babukhanyan** /Chairman, Constitutional Right Union of Armenia/, Mr. **Paruyr Hayrikyan** /Chairman, "Union of National Self-Determination" Party/, Mr. **Vazgen Manukyan** /Chairman, "National Democratic Union" Party/, Mr. **Yuri Manukyan** /Chairman, United Communist Party of Armenia/, the ambassadors and the representatives of different NGOs and Religious Organisations /Doctor **Rene Levonyan** , the Armenian Evangelical Church/, Archbishop **Neshan Karakehyan** /Ordinary of Armenian Catholic Church in Armenia.



By way of an official greeting, the chairman of the ECPM, Mr Peeter Võsu wished all participants in the conference God's blessing and stated the following about the importance of Christian democrats in politics: We need Christians in European politics. Only politicians with strong Christian identity can preserve and advance Christian values in our societies. To be a politician is a calling from the Lord, like to be a pastor or a priest. You are called by the Lord to serve your societies.

The General Secretary of the ECPM, Guido van Beusekom and the representative for Eastern Europe, Leo van Doesburg, also spoke at the conference and there were many other participants. The participants and the organizers of the conference also received greetings from the General Secretary of the European People's Party Antonio Lopez Isturiz, who spoke about his party's support of the consolidation of Christian democrats of Eastern Europe and the establishment of a stable cooperation between them. In his written address to the Conference he expressed interest in the development of closer ties with all European Christian democratic political forces which share the same values and principles, and welcomed the initiative of Khosrov Harutyunyan to host the second conference of the Eastern European Bureau of Christian Democratic Parties in Armenia. All the speakers referred to the political and economical problems occurring in post soviet countries and the role of CDP in that sphere.

After two days of passionate and interesting discussions the participants of the conference brought to a close the results of their work. The Conference resulted in the establishment of the Association of Christian Democrats of Eastern Europe and adopted its

legislation, which was founded on Christian values. The decision on the establishment of the Association was taken by the chairmen and representatives of five parties (CDM of Georgia; CDPP of Moldova; BCD, Belarus; CDU of Armenia and the CDU of Ukraine). The idea of establishing the Association was supported by the Chairs of the CDU of Latvia and the Estonian Christian Democrats. All these parties are also a member of the European Christian Political Movement. Also, the CDU of Nagorno-Karabakh joined the Association as an associate member. The chairman of the CDU of Armenia, former Prime Minister and former speaker of Armenia, Mr. Khosrov Harutyunyan, was elected as Chairman of the Association.

The deputy chairman of the CDU of Ukraine Yuri Reshetnikov was elected as the Executive Secretary of the Association. The CPUA and all the political parties and organizations involved in the Association, are also members of ECPM.

This conference was the logical and smooth outcome of the beginning which was made by the efforts of the ECPM. During the conference suggestions about practical steps for further activities were also adopted. By our joint efforts we created the possibility that the European Christian Democratic Movement today, with its new ideas and power, can have a specific role in the political arena of Eastern and Western Europe. It is important to mention that this conference also gave a new impulse to the Christian Democratic Movement in Armenia.

Speaking on behalf of all the members of CPUA and CDU, we appreciate and are thankful to the ECPM and ChristianUnion of the Netherlands for their assistance, exchange of experience and financial support, which made possible the practical realization of everything mentioned above.

We are sure that in the coming years all the present political parties and organizations will act with greater co-operation in the political fields not only of their own countries, but also in the European political field.



Chairman of CDU of Armenia	Khosrov Harutyunyan
Chairman of CPUA	Gevorg Babayan
Assistant of the chairman of CPUA	Armine Shaboyan

2.3 Report Belarus

Belarus: the struggle for recognition, the fight for freedom

by George Volkovynski

In 2009 the Belarusian Christian Democracy party was struggling to obtain legal status and made two attempts to register the party. Two founding congresses were held with the participation of a large number of people all over Belarus as well as some international guests. The year 2009 was chosen because the European Union suspended sanctions against the top Belarusian officials and there was hope for improvement in the field of human rights and political freedom. So the BCD decided to seize the chance and use this window of opportunity.

The first founding congress of the Belarusian Christian Democracy (BCD) party was held in Minsk on February 28. The gathering elected four co-chairmen, adopted the party's charter and political platform as well as electing the National Council of the party.

The preparation for the congress took about two months when the party leadership managed to handle all preliminary administrative procedures. It is worth mentioning that the European Christian Political Movement (the ECPM) together with the ChristianUnion party from the Netherlands played a significant role in preparations for the congress. Their expertise and support made it possible for the BCD to organise the congress.

The congress had gathered more than 200 delegates and over 300 guests. Prominent opposition figures, such as former presidential candidates Alyaksandr Kazulin and Alyaksandr Milinkevich, small businesses activists Alyaksandr Makayew and Ihar Lednik and the chair of the Belarusian Popular Front, Lyavon Barshchewski, attended the congress. Several international guests including delegations from sister parties from Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, the UK, Russia and Ukraine took part in the congress.

In his opening speech, the co-chairman of BCD Mr. Sevyarynets said that the list of founders featured 1,060 people. After Mr. Sevyarynets' speech other honourable guests welcomed the congress. Delegates and guests received warmest greetings and strong support from Ms. Päivi Räsänen, President of the Christian Democratic Party of Finland, Mr. Leo van Doesburg, South East European representative of the ECPM, and Mr. Guido van Beusekom from the General Secretary ECPM. Also present was Mr. Auke Minnema, International Secretary Perspectief & vice-secretary ECPYN



Heorhi Dzmitruk, Vital Rymasheuski, Pavel Sevyarynets and Alyaksey Shein were elected in an open ballot as co-chair of the party.

The party's governing body, the National Council, will consist of 70 people, of which 10 are "landmark VIPs", 10 people represent provinces, and 50 more people are those who made the most significant contribution to the party activities during all preliminary events. The 10 "VIPs" include, among the four co-chairmen, Malady Front leader Zmitser Dashkevich, prominent young opposition activists Andrey Kim and Artur Finkevich, Protestant priest Ernest Sabila, singer Andrey Melnikaw and BCD activist Dzyanis Sadowski.

The next day, the 1st of March, Belarus Christian Democracy held its first international conference as a newly formed political party. This conference was a meeting place for all the guest participants to share our views and experience. On behalf of our guests from Norway Mr. Olav Eggebø Aanonsen welcomed the creation of the party and expressed his approval of this meaningful event. Training was given by our international guests from the Netherlands.

“We do not start Belarusian Christian Democracy from scratch”, Mr. Sevyarynets said. The Belarus Christian Democratic party has ongoing history since May 1917 until it was banned by the Communist regime of the Soviet Union in 1939 and all of its founders were killed. The idea of the Christian Democratic Party was renewed in 1991 when Belarus became an independent state.

“The aim of the BCD is to look for a firm basis for the nation and the country. For this purpose we must invite tens of thousands of people who believe in God and love Belarus to take part in public activity and politics. It is very important for us to provide a moral basis for change. The BCD should be a party of moral values. The BCD is not an opposition, it is an alternative. The main task for us is to show to Belarus and the Belarusians how it is possible to live better if people do not live in fear, do not tell lies, do not steal, if they believe and love. The BCD is a party of victory. We believe that Belarus will be free and will live according to principles of truth and justice,” co-chair of the party Pavel Sevyarynets said.

According to the law, the party had to apply for registration within a month after holding a founding congress. The Ministry of Justice had to give an answer on registration within a month after the documents were filed.



After the documents had been filed, the Belarusian officials put a lot of pressure on those who put their signatures under the appeal for registration. The BCD members were summoned to the police stations or the KGB offices and threatened with dismissal from their jobs unless they withdrew their signatures. As a result, several people lost their jobs and a couple of students were expelled from universities. Unfortunately, several people succumbed to pressure and withdrew their signatures. These facts the Ministry of Justice used as a pretext for denial of registration for the party.

The second founding congress of the BCD took place on October 31 in Minsk.

In spite of the fact that the accommodation facilities for the congress were provided only a day and a half prior to the event, the organizers managed to gather 311 delegates and 334 guests. Among the guests there were Leo van Doesburg from the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM), Stanislau Shushkevich, Viachaslau Siuchyuk, Aliaksei Janukevich, Viktor Karnienka, Juras Hubarevich, Ales Lahviniets, Liudmila Hraznova, Ambassador of Hungary in Belarus, representatives of the diplomatic missions of the USA, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Latvia, delegates from Christian democratic parties of Norway, Romania and Ukraine, representatives of the European Parliament, and priests of different churches.

The participants of the Congress were also greeted by the leader of Christian Democratic Union of Germany Ronald Pofalla; the leader of the European Parliament delegation on Belarus affairs Jacek Protasiewicz, the Prime-Minister of Lithuania, Chairman of Christian Democratic party of Lithuania “Homeland Union” Andrius Kubilius, and also Christian democratic parties of Moldova, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Finland.

The most important political decision discussed was regarding participation of BCD in local elections in the year 2010 and presidential elections in the year 2011.

The delegates of the congress decided to nominate their party candidate for Presidential elections - Vital Rymasheuski, and to form his initiative group. Vital Rymasheuski will be suggested as a sole candidate from the Belarusian Pro-Independence Block, and he can withdraw his candidature to the advantage of another candidate in case the latter forms a bigger initiative group.

The day after the second founding congress, November 1, was a memorial day which is used by opposition activists to commemorate the victims of totalitarian regimes.

The rally started from the Minsk Timepiece Plant at 11.20 a.m. and ended without incident. The demonstrators were escorted by the police all the way to Kurapaty, a place of mass executions conducted by Stalin's secret police in 1930-40s. The participants of the action did not leave the sidewalks, crossed the roads in correct places on the green light, and followed all the requirements of the traffic police, who, in their turn, organized the safe movement of people.

Nearly 500 people took part in the action and marched across Minsk under white-red-white flags. They also carried wooden crosses, which had been prepared before the action.

The leaders of the Belarusian Christian Democracy Pavel Sevyarynets, Vital Rymasheuski and Aleksey Shein, leader of the movement "For Freedom!" Alyksandr Milinkevich, head of the organizational committee of the movement "Razam" Viachaslau Siuchyuk, Liavon Barshcheuski, Valery Mazynski, leader of the "Young Democrats" Mihas Pashkevich, count Prushynski, Chairman of the party "Belarusian Popular Front" Aliaksej Janukevich, and the former leader of the Belarusian Popular Front Vincuk Viachorka participated in the action. Also Leo van Doesburg and our Norwegian guests participated in the event on behalf of the international delegation.

The representatives of BCD and the movement "For Freedom!" - nearly 100 people - carried the streamer "Memorial Day 1937-2009". At the end of the event there was a meeting near the memorial cross in Kurapaty. The demonstrators sang an anthem "Mahutny Bozha" ("The Mighty Lord"). The Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Christian Party of the Belarusian Popular Front Siarhei Papkou gave a speech and Valer Bujval read the greetings from Zianon Pazniak. People lit candles. About 60% of the participants in this event were young people. The demonstration was allowed by the authorities.

After the march, there was a meeting between the international delegation and the party activists of the BCD where the implementation of Christian Democratic values was discussed.

During the years of Stalin's repression, according to different estimations, 30-200 thousand people were shot in Kurapaty. Street actions on Memorial Day are traditional; the first one took place in 1987.

In the same way as after the first founding congress the government harassed those who signed the second appeal for the party registration. The Ministry of Justice also denied registration for the BCD under the same pretext that the information about BCD members was inaccurate.



Now the BCD is running for local elections and has registered 204 initiative groups of the candidates. The local council elections are due on 25 April 2010. The number of BCD candidates is several times more than other democratic opposition parties managed to register. There is ongoing persecution of the people who dare to participate in the election campaign on behalf of the BCD and other opposition parties.

2.4 Report Bulgaria

Overview of the activities of the Initiative Committee “Unity makes power”

by Grozdan Stoevski

Executive Director of Crown Bulgaria, Associate Member of ECPM

The year 2009 started with regular meetings of the newly formed Initiative Committee (InCom), consisting of Christian political leaders, pastors, lawyers, and business people.

The vision of the InCom is to see an active civil society and political movement among the Christian community in Bulgaria to promote Christian values in all levels of society, but especially targeting the political circles.

The InCom is chaired by Mr. **Peter Gjuzelev**, who is a public figure and also member of the Sofia City Council. The other members include Rev **Nick Nedelchev**, President of the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance, lawyers **Lachezar Popov** (Advocates Europe) and **Valeri Jdrakov** (Bulgarian Christian Coalition), pastor **Ivan Hazarbasanov** (Christian Democratic Forum), **Mihaela Jorgova** (PR expert), **Filip Rashev** (Global Day of Prayer Bulgaria movement), **Grozdan Stoevski** (Crown Bulgaria) and **Andrew Nedelchev** (Crown Europe).

During the first three months of the year the InCom worked to clarify its vision, format and objectives. A direct result of the work of the InCom was the organization of a two day workshop on “Faith, Society and Politics”, which took place on April 10 and 11. ECPM played an active role in advising the InCom, as well as providing some of the speakers and scholarships for the participants.

The main speakers and topics were as follows:

- » Mr. Leo Van Doesburg – ECPM coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe - „How to be pro-active citizens in our society”
- » Christine Dupuis, CDF party in Belgium – “Faith, society and politics”
- » Auke Minnema, International Secretary Perspectief & vice-secretary ECPYN - “The impact of Christian Youth in politics”
- » Jacques Bazen, member of the Dutch SGP and executive worker Stichting Vormingsactiviteiten Oost-Europa
- » Peter Stoyanov – President of Bulgaria (1997 – 2002) - „Ethics in politics – how to bring transformation on a national and international level”
- » Rev Nikolay Nedelchev, President of the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance - „Strategic Leadership – how to raise the next generation”
- » Peter Gjuzelev, BCC Chairman for Sofia and member of the Sofia City Council - „Political involvement and real changes in society”
- » Pastor Ivan Hazarbasanov – CDF representative - „Biblical perspectives in Christians in politics”
- » Lachezar Popov and Valery Jdrakov – attorneys, Rule of Law Institute - “ Politics and Rule of Law”
- » Grozdan Stoevski – Crown Bulgaria Executive Director - „Born or Raised Leaders – challenges of today”
- » Mihaela Jorgova – Family and Values Association, PR expert – “The Role of Christians in changing society and the importance of PR”
- » Andrew Nedelchev – Program Director, Crown Financial Ministries in Europe – “Christians, money and politics – where is the compromise here?”



The event was co-chaired by Peter Gjuzelev and Grozdan Stoevski. There were about 35 people in attendance from around the country of Bulgaria.

President Peter Stoyanov opened the workshop with a very encouraging and motivating speech which set a very positive tone for the whole event. He opened the event by saying: I have been to many political events on Society and Politics but have never been to one which addresses Faith as well.



All speakers were able to facilitate very interesting and interactive discussions. Leo Van Doesburg provoked the audience with the question “Was Jesus a politician?” which helped the participants to self-test their biblical understanding about politics and also define the word “politician”.

At the end of the first day of the event most of the participants traveled by bus to the Sofia Municipality Building and were given a short tour by Peter Gjuzelev, who is a member of the Sofia Municipality Council.

The workshop ended with a very optimistic spirit and open discussions to be finished at a future meeting of this kind.

In general, the forum provided a good platform for the Christians in Bulgaria to express their fears and concerns and share their dreams about politics in Bulgaria. All speakers encouraged the participants to be active citizens and provide personal example to other believers in their cities and churches. Many of the participants admitted that the workshop just touched on most of the topics and they need to be further explored and addressed by more events of this kind.

Leo van Doesburg, the ECPM regional coordinator did a wonderful job encouraging all of the participants to be more active in civic society. He also helped by inviting the other three international guests who on their behalf provided the Western Europe perspective and latest challenges in the area of faith, society and politics.

The two day workshop raised some important questions and provided answers to issues related to Christian prejudice and apathy about politics. The international speakers shared experience and best practice from the work of ECPM in particular.

All participants expressed a strong will to help generate more political activity among the evangelical community. They also identified the need for practical training and motivational seminars for the younger generation of Christian leaders in order to get more involved in the building of a healthy and pro-active civil society.

After the April Workshop the InCom continued to meet in order to discuss the upcoming Parliamentary elections in June of 2009. The members of the InCom discussed the various challenges and opportunities for the involvement of Christian political leaders in the elections.



- 1) It is premature for the two Christian political parties (Bulgarian Christian Coalition and Christian Democratic Forum) to participate independently in the coalition.
- 2) Both parties would participate in the elections in co-operation with some of the right-wing parties, such as Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) or GERB.
- 3) The InCom would encourage the Christian community nationwide to actively participate in the elections and not to be passive as before.



The June–July elections of 2009 opened a new page in the democratic development of Bulgaria, as the Triple Coalition was dethroned and GERB formed a new government, with the coalition of UDF and the Blue Coalition. Some of the members of the InCom have played a key role in supporting and providing advice to the current leader of UDF, Martin Dimitrov.

The new government, appointed by General Boiko Borisov and approved by the new Parliament, has started investigating some of the corrupt practices of the Triple Coalition and also has brought back trust to the people of Bulgaria in the democratic principles and values. The elections took place in mid-summer and still beat the records of voting activity throughout the whole country.

The InCom resumed its regular meeting in early fall of 2009, planning and discussing plans for unified actions and new ideas for 2010. In late November of 2009 the InCom meeting was attended by Leo Van Doesburg who helped evaluate the new political situation and also participated in the discussions about the most important action steps in 2010.

The existence and work of the InCom has proved to be a very positive change factor and also source of encouragement for many Christian leaders in Bulgaria. It has proved true the slogan of the Bulgarian Parliament, namely: “Unity Makes Power”.

2.5 Report Croatia (EDS)

Economic Diplomacy Seminar

by Milan Pavlović and Justin Kagin

The Economic Diplomacy Seminar 2009 gathered 30 people from 11 countries and lasted from July 19 through August 2. The participants arrived on July 19, starting the adventurous and challenging two weeks of learning, discussing and exchanging knowledge, skills and experience in the fields of economics, diplomacy, business, politics and life in general. The smaller number of participants this year brought additional benefit because it enabled closer relationship between people to develop over the two weeks, which brought greater readiness to open up and speak frankly about the issues which arose out of the lectures, small group discussions, round-tables, and thematic movies with a message.

We noticed that participants were willing to share and to express their sincere opinions toward themes that were set up officially during sessions, which brought to the fore new themes and put participants into situations to think, connect and make conclusions together as well as evaluating and revising their conclusions in a group, comparing their thoughts with those of the other people and learning from others' experiences as well.



As the Economic Diplomacy Seminar is based on the principles of Jesus, we were satisfied that EDS 2009 had an influence on participants' lives, involving principles of Jesus in their set of values and motivating them to think about what they learnt through the other set of lenses that Jesus offers for looking at economics, business and diplomacy and at life and world reality in general.

The Seminar challenged participants to go out from their usual mode of thinking, challenging their mindsets and perception, offering new approaches and aspects of analysis of themes and subjects offered, taken from the reality and complexity of life situations that everyone can find themselves in. That allowed the participants to get a sense of how conclusions on discussed topics, cases and situations would work in real life and how they can apply what they learned in their environments and communities, in their countries or anywhere in the world. All the material offered was put into an intercultural framework and impacted participants to accept an atmosphere of intercultural diversity and open mind as one of the basic pre-conditions and tools for successful communication and learning.

The following themes were delivered by speakers:

Introduction to Economic Diplomacy (Leo van Doesburg), *About the EU and its institutions* – (Leo van Doesburg), *Global Terrorism and Economic Diplomacy* (Dražen Glavaš), *Is there an Answer? Surprised by Hope* (Dražen Glavaš), *Entrepreneur for Life* (Jack Fallow, Trinity Forum), *Doing Well and Doing Good* (Jack Fallow), *Building Institutions* (Jack Fallow), *Capital Markets and Investments* (Melita Marčeta), *Challenges in Management* (Melita Marčeta), *Team Building and My Role in it* (Željko Puja), *Business Ethics* (Andrew Nedelchev), *Law and Business* (Boriana Staikova), *Negotiations* (Katrin Nedelchev and Leo van Doesburg), *From ROM to EDS and Jesus* (Tihomir Kukulja), *Roma – The Effects of Discrimination* (Mihaela Kovacs), *Jesus and Banking* (Justin Kagin), *Another Way* (Justin Kagin), *Intercultural Communication* (Milan Pavlović), *DISC* (Nolan Sharp).

Participants, leadership team members and speakers were from the following countries: Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Cyprus, UK, USA, and the Netherlands.

Participants were organized into small groups where international and intercultural diversity was ensured as a fruitful framework for discussions that followed the topics of the lectures. Each speaker defined a few questions from his or her lecture for participants to answer. Also, various workshops were offered, presenting and discussing practical applications of concrete methods and techniques

in work. Each participant had the opportunity to choose four out of seven workshops offered. Two sets of workshops were delivered, with the following topics:

Career Planning, Profession and Life (Dražen Glavaš), *Communication, Conflict Management and Negotiations* (Leo Van Doesburg), *Developing a vision about the Lisbon Treaty* (Leo van Doesburg), *Practical Leadership* (Jack Fallow), *Using Psychology in Business* (Željko Puja), *Restful Work* (Katrín Nedelchev), *Bribery and Corruption - a Biblical Perspective* (Željko Puja.)

Participants were also given the opportunity to spend more time with individuals from the leadership team during “Friendship and Meet the Team” time.



There were also different activities for team building and the creation of friendships that enabled participants and leadership team to enjoy games, sport and nature together, including rowing on the beautiful lake in Fužine, followed by team games in groups. One day was spent on a tour of the islands of Krk and Košljun, visiting the museum on the island of Košljun and enjoying the natural beauties of the Croatian sea coast and spending the afternoon swimming at the beach in Punat.

An excursion to the beautiful seaside town of Crikvenica gave another opportunity to enjoy fun at the beach and swimming in the Adriatic sea.

Zagreb, capital of Croatia, was the venue for a meeting and roundtable discussion in the City Hall which was hosted by the official of the City of Zagreb responsible for city development. After the meeting in the Town Hall, participants took part in the Business and Diplomatic Forum organized in the hotel Arcotel. Speakers at this forum were **the Economic Advisor for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, an executive director of Privredna Banka Zagreb and the Professor of Business Ethics** from one of the universities in Zagreb. Participants had an excellent opportunity to ask questions and they utilized it very well.

Beside speaking sessions, small group discussions, workshops and different team activities, participants and leadership team had two Dialogue Cafes, moderated by Tihomir Kukolja, where certain questions were analysed and discussed within groups. Conclusions were drawn from the summaries of the expressed thoughts and ideas and the groups were composed so as to include different people in the group around the table for each question.



Each of the evenings at the Seminar brought interesting events like thematic movies (Bordertown, Amazing Grace); an evening of sharing and presentation of projects and organizations that are making positive changes in the region; Talent Night with skits, music and entertainment; Food Experiment followed by discussion and reflection; Fun Night (Karaoke Party), and an evening with spiritual emphasis.

Two summaries were given by Milan Pavlović and Justin Kagin, Seminar Co-Directors, and the Seminar ended with a Banquet followed by acknowledgments and Evening of Sharing and Inspiration. At the end of that evening participants enjoyed a time of music around the bonfire.

Before departure each of the participants and leadership team members were given a CD with the audio and video materials and photos from the speaking sessions, workshops and other activities during the Seminar.



The Economic Diplomacy Seminar was conducted and managed by Milan Pavlović and Justin Kagin, EDS co-directors, and an international leadership team from nine countries (Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Romania, Bulgaria, UK, USA, and the Netherlands).

2.6 Report Finland

Bi-Annual Congress of Finnish Christian Democrats

*by Peeter Võsu
Chairman of the Board*

The Finnish Christian Democrats held their bi-annual Congress on August 28-29, 2009, in Järvenpää, Finland. Ms Päivi Räsänen was re-elected as the President and three new Vice Presidents were elected. The former Vice President Peter Östman was elected as the General Secretary to replace the former General Secretary Sari Essayah who had been elected to the European Parliament in June.

The Congress congratulated Ms Essayah on her election as an MEP: her excellent results in the election gave Finnish Christian Democrats their own representative in the European Parliament. Ms Essayah is also known in the EP for her clear Christian identity and I also met her later that year during the European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels.

Päivi Räsänen is successfully promoting the party and herself as an „Eco-Conservative” because of her unique way of combining the ecological thinking with her strong Christian Conservative world view. This is an inspiring example of how to connect two very important political issues in one coherent political point of view.



General Secretary Peter Östman gave a review of the development of the party: the history of the Finnish CD goes back over 50 years. During the past year's elections the party was successful, increasing its support at a local level. They also have 7 MPs in the 200 member Finnish Parliament. The next national election will be in March 2011.

The most intense international relations of the Finnish Christian Democrats have always been with the other Nordic countries, who had sent their pre-recorded video greetings to the Congress. General Secretary Östman also mentioned the good cooperation between the Finnish CD and the ECPM during the past two years.

I had the privilege to give greetings to the Finnish Christian Democrats on behalf of ECPM and Estonian Christian Democrats (ECD). Speaking for both organizations, I expressed my gratitude for the warm relations between the Finnish Christian Democrats and the ECPM and ECD. We organized a conference together in Helsinki in 2008 and we continued to meet each other in 2009, not only in Finland or Estonia, but also in Belarus (February) and Brussels (European Prayer Breakfast, December). Of course, we hope that these good relations will continue in 2010 in a way that benefits both organizations.



2.7 Report France

OFFICIAL VISIT TO PCD IN PARIS, FRANCE

by Kris Vleugels and Dick van Dijk

The board of ECPM is active in investing in good relations with other Christian-democratic parties for our successful movement and from time to time visits are made to potential partners. The Parti Chrétien-Démocrate, PCD (Christian Democratic Party) from France was visited by a delegation of the board (Dick van Dijk & Kris Vleugels) and the general secretary (Guido van Beusekom) in October 2009. From PCD the party leader and founder Mrs. Christine Boutin was present together with Patrick Rougevin-Baville, the secretary general of the PCD and Lucy de Noblet, the assistant of Mrs. Boutin.

Contacts between the PCD and ECPM already date from 2007 when Lucy de Noblet visited the member congress in Brussels. In 2008 ECPM was invited by the PCD to their international conference in Paris about the future of Christians in politics. Kris Vleugels spoke on this subject, explaining the goals and mission of the ECPM.

The last meeting in October 2009 took place in a very positive atmosphere. Kris Vleugels, vice-chairman of ECPM, gave a presentation about the history and objectives of the ECPM and the basic programme of the ECPM was discussed in great detail. Christine Boutin was very excited about the idea behind the ECPM and she expressed her willingness to continue collaboration in the future.

Establishing warm relations in France is very important for the ECPM, especially because our movement is open to all Christian denominations. Parties with a Roman Catholic heritage can really add an extra value to our organisation. For this reason the ECPM hopes to establish these good relations with parties not only in France but also Italy, Spain and Portugal in the future.



From left to right: Kris Vleugels , Peeter Vösu and Christine Boutin

2.8 Report Georgia

The ECPM and the CDM Georgia in 2009

by George Rukhadze

Relationship between the ECPM and the Christian Democratic Movement of Georgia (CDM) began in 2008 and at the beginning of 2009 the CDM Georgia were already discussing possible membership of the ECPM. In April 2009 the ECPM representative in Eastern Europe, Leo Van Doesburg, visited Georgia and an official memorandum on cooperation between the ECPM and the CDM was signed.

Along with staff of the Tbilisi head office, Leo Van Doesburg then visited the Kakheti region. He met with local members of the CDM Sagarejo branch office and discussed basics of Christian Democratic ideology with them.

In June 2009 Chairman of the CDM Giorgi Targamadze and International Secretary George Rukhadze participated in the 5th annual congress of the ECPM, where the CDM Georgia was officially inaugurated as a full member. The ECPM members rallied behind the Christian Democratic Movement of Georgia, in expressing their concerns over the situation in the region after the 2008 August war and adopted a resolution on Georgia calling on Russia to fulfill their obligations imposed by the resolutions of the Council of Europe and withdraw recognition of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.



In September 2009 Leo Van Doesburg visited Georgia for the second time and organized a seminar on Christian Democracy in the head office of the CDM. Christian Democratic values, a brief history of Christian Democracy and the successful campaign of the ChristianUnion of Netherlands were among the key topics. During the meeting with CDM leaders future plans for cooperation between the ECPM and the CDM were agreed. Leo Van Doesburg also visited the towns of Mtsketa and Gori. He met with local representatives of the CDM and discussed problematic issues with them.



The year of 2009 proved to be very fruitful in terms of cooperation between the ECPM and the CDM. The ECPM played an important part in CDM Georgia's ideological development and the leaders of the ECPM and the CDM agreed to unify their efforts to extend and popularize Christian Democratic values and principles in Georgia as well as in the region by implementing joint projects.

2.9 Reports Macedonia

2.9.1 Report on the Youth Leadership Forum and International Leadership Forum “Our Common Values - Leadership in challenging times” (Macedonia, 27-28 February 2009)

by Viktor Mitevski



In 2009, on February 27th - 28th, the Boris Trajkovski International Foundation, in collaboration with the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and the ECPM, organized the 4th International Youth Leadership Forum and the International Leadership Forum. These forums were organized to continue the principles of the former President of Macedonia, Boris Trajkovski, to act out of his personal faith in Jesus and to use His principles in the political domain. The theme of these forums was “Our common values - Leadership in challenging times” and a prayer dinner was also held.

More than 60 young people took part in the 4th annual International Youth Leadership Forum organized by the Boris Trajkovski International Foundation from 27-28 February 2009. The participants had the honor of being hosted by the Vice President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Jani Makraduli, in the newly renovated parliamentarian library named after the late President Trajkovski.

Mr. Jani Makraduli opened the Forum by addressing our common values and the role of a leader in society, citing President Trajkovski as a great example of a leader who succeeded in bringing the people of Macedonia together without war, but through dialogue.

In keeping with the theme of Leadership, Mr. Ilija Dimovski, Macedonian M.P. focused on the characteristics a leader should possess, again comparing them with the visions and policies of the late President Boris Trajkovski.

The President of the Boris Trajkovski International Foundation, prof. dr. Goran Rafajlovski, closed the Opening session. Mr. Rafajlovski remembered the humility of Boris, sharing with the audience some of his personal experiences.

In the evening, the participants and the speakers had a chance to get to know each other better in the “Ogniste” Restaurant. The dinner was followed by various “ice-breaking” games and it was concluded by a karaoke show in which all the participants had a chance to show their singing talents.

The next day during the morning session, which took place in the Faculty of Economics, University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Prof. dr. Mihail Petkovski, Faculty Member in the Dept. of Finance Management at the University; Prof. dr. Abdulmenat Bexeti, Member of the SEE University and Mr. Gligor Bisev, GM of “Stopanska Banka” AD Skopje, addressed the topic “Leadership in Challenging Times – Financial Crises”. From the conclusions presented, it became clear that the Financial Crisis is not just based on economic factors, but also based on human greed. Afterwards the participants had an opportunity to debate this topic further in the small groups session that followed. The participants were encouraged to think about possible solutions of the crisis and to express and compare their views and opinions.

The forum continued with an afternoon session at NOVA schools. H.E. Mr. Philip Reeker, US Ambassador, H.E. Mrs. Simone Filippini, Dutch Ambassador, and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Ivica Bocevski, presented on the topic “Leadership in Challenging Times – Establishing Long-lasting Peace”. In his address H.E. Mr. Reeker emphasized the work and life of the late president Boris Trajkovski and also spoke about various types of leaders who influenced society and left a mark in human history. H.E. Mrs. Filippini gave a dynamic speech about the characteristics which a leader should and should not have. The last speaker was Mr. Bocevski, who shared his thoughts about the many opportunities created by the visa liberalisation offered to Macedonia by the EU. According to him, the economy and the living standard of Macedonia will grow with the breakdown of the visa regime and the possibility for the youth to travel to other countries will give an identity to Macedonia’s future leaders and that is belonging to Europe. Afterwards the floor was given to the participants who asked various questions including human rights in the EU; the opportunities for young Macedonians to study abroad; and the integration of Macedonia into the EU.

The forum closed with the last small groups session where participants had a chance to spend some time with the speakers.

Later in the evening, the participants went to a humanitarian concert organised by The Government of Republic of Macedonia in order to contribute to the fund-raising campaign for the building of homes for poor families. This was a great opportunity for the participants both national and international to visit the newly built sports-and-concert hall named after the late president Boris Trajkovski.



In honor of the 5th anniversary of the tragic death of President Trajkovski, on the 26th of February, a day before IYLF was held, the 4th International Leadership Forum was organized. The main topic of this year's event was "Our Common Values". The Forum began with the official opening of the newly renovated library in the Parliament named after the President Boris Trajkovski. The President of the Parliament, H.E. Trajko Veljanovski, had the honor of presiding over the inaugural ceremony. The Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Abdulakim Ademi, opened the 5th International Leadership Forum, stressing that Macedonia needs leaders more than ever. The honorary guests of the Forum: the former President of Albania H.E. Mr. Alfred Moisiu, the former President of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov and the former Prime Minister of Norway H.E. Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik shared their thoughts and opinions about the main topic. Later the Forum was addressed by many national and international politicians, businessmen and representatives of the NGO sector such as: the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Gordana Jankulovska; the former Member of the Norwegian Parliament, Mr. Lars Rise; Mr. Maunzer Fatfat, former American Ambassador to Iraq; Mr. Engelbert Ruoss, UNESCO; the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia Mrs. Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska; Mr. Ireneusz Bil, The Kwasniewski Foundation; H.E. Mr. Philip Reeker, US Ambassador to Macedonia. Mr. Vladimir Gjorcev and Mr. Aleksandar Spasenovski, Members of the Macedonian Parliament, together with Mr. Leo Van Doesburg as a representative of ECPM, served as moderators of the Forum.



An evening unique to the BTIF is the annual Fellowship Prayer Dinner held in the evening of February 26th. The dinner welcomed international and national guests with the common goal of mutual encouragement and inspiration. The opening prayer was given by Mr. Maunzer Fatfat, and the former First Lady Mrs. Vilma Trajkovska was introduced by the first host of the night, Mrs. Teuta Arifi. Mrs. Trajkovska shared her thoughts, remembering her late husband's vision and politics for Macedonia. She also stressed the importance of God as a guide for one's life. Mr. Zoran Zaev had the honor of introducing the former Prime Minister of Norway H.E. Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik. Mr. Bondevik reflected on a true story of his father and the role of Jesus in his life. Member of the Macedonian Parliament, Mrs. Liljana Popovska, introduced the Prime Minister of Macedonia. H. E. Mr. Nikola Gruevski, who encouraged those present to follow in the footsteps of Boris Trajkovski; to focus on the country's future and practise endurance and perseverance as Macedonia forges its own path to its destiny. In keeping with tradition, the Fellowship Prayer Dinner was concluded with the song "Amazing Grace" - a testimony to the life and dreams of Boris Trajkovski - sung by Laura Krliu, one of NOVA International Schools' students.

2.9.2 Report on the ECPM Conference in Skopje - Family Conference

by Daniela Paunova

The Conference on "Preserving Family Values in EU Integration", organized by the Pavel Shatev Institute and the European Christian Political Movement, took place on 23rd October 2009 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. The one-day conference, held in the Holiday Inn Hotel, was attended by over 150 delegates, among which were MPs, Deputy Ministers and State Secretaries, and was given full press coverage.

The conference was chaired by Ms. Hristina Runceva, MP and in her introductory address she emphasized the efforts that the Republic of Macedonia is putting into the fulfillment of the criteria for the country's acceptance into the EU. These efforts have resulted in a very affirmative report issued by the European Commission on the progress of the country on its way towards EU accession, **which indicates that EU membership of the country is of the highest priority**. Ms Runceva pointed out that negotiation for EU accession is a long and complicated process **that is expected to be open for the country** that will result in a series of changes in and modifications of domestic legislation. Among many areas that will be challenged, one of the greatest challenges is the preservation of traditional family values in domestic legislation, following the traditional family concept that has been present in legislation and practised in life in the Republic of Macedonia. The main issue to be addressed was how to maintain Macedonia's traditional family life in the light of proposed anti-discrimination legislation from the EU which Macedonia has to comply with as criteria for qualifying for EU membership.

The first speaker, member of the Dutch SGP and executive worker Stichting Vormingsactiviteiten Oost-Europa, Mr. Jacques Bazen, gave an overview of what EU membership would mean for Macedonia in an institutional aspect, pointing out the advantages and many disadvantages of EU membership that do not really correspond with the high rate of support for EU integration of Macedonia, as polls indicate.

The next speaker, a UK Professor, Mr. Mark Mullins, gave a presentation on how to maintain Macedonia's identity within EU integration. He presented the biblical view on marriage, divorce and other relationships outside marriage and acknowledged that the Representatives of the Pavel Shatev Institute stood strongly on the line to maintain the traditions based upon biblical values and strong Christian identity. Prof. Mullins showed concern not just for the United Kingdom, but also for the Republic of Macedonia as a small Eastern European nation whose citizens have the same need as all the rest to come to personal salvation through Christ and to live according to his standards.

Leo van Doesburg gave a presentation about the importance of family as the basis of a healthy society and marriage between man and woman as a basis for family. He also spoke about the societal consequences of changes in family laws and why family values should be protected. This was followed by a lively discussion about the role of the media in promoting these values.

The educational process of the Republic of Macedonia has until now included religious education for primary school students and when the constitutional court ruled that religious education within government schools was not allowed it presented a new challenge for the Government on how to give such education in another format and to preserve the ability to teach Christian morality within schools.



2.10 Report Moldova

ECPM organizes training and study-trips to Moldova before and after turbulent Parliamentary elections

by Vladimir Plămădeală

In the period of 5-8 March 2009, the European Christian Political Movement, with the support of ChristianUnion from the Netherlands, organized a training for partners from Moldova. This event took place in the context of upcoming Parliamentary elections and was meant to provide skills for ECPM Moldovan partners' involvement in the political process and in the upcoming elections. Two members of our initiation commission became Members of Parliament after the elections in July: Mr. Valeriu Ghiletschi and Mr. Veacaslav Ionita.

The ECPM and local trainers (ECPM Secretary-General Guido van Beusekom, ECPM envoy to Eastern Europe Leo van Doesburg, President of the European Foundation of Moldova Vladimir Plămădeală, economist Veaceslav Ionita and journalist Radu Blendarencu) offered a series of lectures and training in different formats for about 25 participants at the event. In addition the ECPM delegation had a number of meetings with politicians and representatives of civil society – NGOs, religious organizations, OSCE and local press – to get more information about the situation in Moldova and the role of civil society in order to know how the initiation committee could develop further in order to increase the impact of Christian values in Moldovan society.



After two-days' stay in the Moldovan capital Chisinau, the ECPM delegation took a study-trip to Transnistria, a break-away region of Moldova.



In April the elections ended in a lot of unrest and demonstrations. These caused new elections in July and the ECPM followed these developments closely. The Organization drafted a statement regarding street violence that followed the April scrutiny. This statement was read in the European Parliament by one of the Europarliamentarians who received this statement via the ECPM.

The ECPM will continue to follow the political developments in Moldova, especially the situation concerning human rights. The Organization is also eager to proceed with further training and other measures in order to assist the local partners in their endeavours to influence the political sphere.

To establish reference points and meet the needs of Moldovan partners for 2010, the ECPM envoy to Eastern Europe Leo van Doesburg undertook another study-visit to Moldova at the end of 2009. He met with Christian Democratic People's Party Chairman Mr. Iurie Rosca, and members of the Initiation Committee for the Promotion of Christian Values in Moldova and attended the Congress of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party of Moldova, where he had discussions with Prime-Minister of Moldova Mr. Vlad Filat and Minister of Foreign affairs Mr. Iurie Leanca about visa liberalization and the fight against human trafficking. He also talked with Dr Igor Munteanu, Executive Director of the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) 'Viitorul' about his view on the political situation and the Dutch projects that were developed in the past in Moldova in order to develop multi-democracy and a decentralized decision-making.

2.11 Report Montenegro

Seminar “(New) Identity of nations in the process of European Integration from the perspective of Christian Democracy”

by Sinisa Nadazdin

From 29th to 31st May 2009, Pilia Ministries and ECPM organized a seminar about “(New) Identity of Nations in the Process of European Integration from the perspective of Christian Democracy” in Kotor, Montenegro. The main lecturer was Mr. Leo van Doesburg (ECPM). He started his presentation by introducing participants to the foundations of the EU, presenting a historical review of the founding and development of an idea and vision of united Europe, starting from Mr. Robert Schuman and the European Coal and Steel Community through to the ‘Maastricht’ and ‘Schengen’ agreements and the EU with 25 member states.



Mr. van Doesburg also explained the functioning of EU institutions to the participants, outlining the differences between European Council, Council of the EU and Council of Europe, and presented each of these institutions, including the changes that are to take place in them according to the Lisbon Treaty. In addition he spoke about the Presidencies of the EU, EU institutions, EU budget, and the European Parliament. He explained the four powers and the working of the European Parliament. After presenting this information, he distributed materials about groups that exist in the European Parliament for the participants to get into during the break and to choose the group in the European Parliament they will represent in the workshop. This workshop started with these groups, with a discussion on the topic “Should Turkey join the EU?”. This actual discussion among the groups was well-argued and the presentations of a high standard. At the end, the speaker presented the real opinions of the political groups in European Parliament and more about the way European Parliament works.

The speaker at the first session of the second day was Mr. Emil Krijestorac, councillor in the local parliament of Municipality of Kotor and Member of Presidency of the People’s Party. He spoke about the need for Montenegro to identify its national interests before the actual negotiations with the EU start. He said that there is still time for doing so since Montenegro has not yet gained candidate status, although it has applied for it. He said that it is important to understand that the process of negotiations is an interactive process where Montenegro too has to be very vocal about its interests and not just to listen and accept everything coming from Brussels. Mr. Krijestorac also emphasized that national identity is what contributes to the richness and diversity of Europe. However, coming from a Christian Democrat and conservative background most of the participants stood behind preservation of national identity, particularly supporting the vision of Europe of peoples. Some of them were strongly in favour of their ethnic rather than their national identity. Mr. Krijestorac concluded that the EU is a political association and therefore it is normal that it will render and implement political decisions more than anything else.

The last session of the seminar, about the Lisbon Treaty from the perspective of Christian Democracy, was led by Mr. Leo van Doesburg. He said that from this view European institutions must be viewed also as a government because competences are exercised

in a way that is binding for member states and citizens. In this respect, European institutions stand in the service of God for the good of the citizens with the goal of serving “public justice”. He said that key Christian Democratic principles are public justice, solidarity, spreading of responsibility, stewardship and serving government. Also, this view on extension of EU should be positive, since the biblical viewpoint on state is that it is unique but must not be exalted. Therefore, it is necessary to reach out to other nations.



For some of the participants it was the first introduction to the Christian Democratic view of the EU and Lisbon treaty, as well as the first systematic presentation of EU institutions. Most of the participants found the seminar very useful and interesting, providing a lot of new information. Most praise was given to the systematic and structured review of the functioning and internal organization of the EU institutions. It was encouraging that several participants saw the presentation of Mr. Emil Krijestorac as a highlight of the seminar, because they thought his presentation embodied the essence of the identity issue.

2.12 Report Netherlands

East meets West in the Netherlands

by Vladimir Plămădeală



At the invitation of ECPM and ChristianUnion, a delegation formed of Members of Parliament and representatives of civil society from Eastern Europe undertook a study trip to the Netherlands in the aftermath of the ECPM Congress in Bern (June 2009). Amongst the delegates, there were three Members of Parliament: **Valeriu Ghiletschi** (MD), member of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and Interethnic relations; **Veacaslav Ionita** (MD) (became MP after the elections in July) and **Marius Cristinel Dugulescu** (RO) (Vice-president of the Romanian Parliamentary committee on Human Rights, Religious Affairs and Minorities and Member of the Parliamentary friendship commission Netherlands-Romania).

The program actually started on Sunday, when the delegation attended an inter-denominational Church service in Amsterdam and had a cultural program in the city.

The official part of the program started with a visit to the ChristianUnion' headquarters in Amersfoort and presentations by **Menno van Hulst**, Director, Party office of the ChristianUnion, and **Rob Nijhoff**, from the ChristianUnion associated Scientific Institute. An interactive discussion and change of best practices by the partner-Parties followed, and plans for future cooperation were set. In the afternoon of the same day, *Perspectief* – youth branch of ChristianUnion

and ECPYN – ECPM's youth autonomous organizations – had jointly organized a workshop led by ECPYN Secretary General **Jonathan van Tongeren**.



Amongst numerous events that followed was a day-long visit facilitated by a group of Christian businessmen under the leadership of Cornelis van den Berg to the cities of Ermelo and Harderwijk. The East-European delegation also visited a special school for children and people with disabilities, Christian school "Augustinus", the local hospital and medical laboratory. There was a lunch in a special restaurant "De ontmoetig" run by people with mental disabilities

The participants were pleasantly surprised by the level of organization and care in the institutions they visited and compared the situation with the state of things in Eastern Europe, where insufficient funding from the state makes the life of vulnerable categories much more difficult.

The main conclusion was that Christians should be active and better organized in their local communities and provide assistance and care for those in need regardless of the weak support from the state. The delegates also realized and highlighted the importance of encouraging the development of Christian businesses at the local level.

Many useful ideas and plans for local communities were also generated at the round-table discussions in the city hall of Harderwijk



The final part of the visit was dedicated to meetings in the Dutch Parliament in The Hague. The guests from Eastern Europe were met by Dutch MPs and associates from two Christian Parties, ChristianUnion and SGP: **Esme Wiegman** (MP for the ChristianUnion, spokesperson for European Affairs, for Health, Welfare and Sport, Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment) **Willem de Wildt**: Member, and **Wijbren Jongsmā**, Secretary of the Foundation for Political Training in Eastern Europe. After a business lunch and round-table discussion, a fruitful informal discussion in the Parliament's cafe followed and first ideas of future cooperation were generated.



Overall, this was a very intense and fruitful event during which both organizers and participants enriched their professional networks, exchanged best practices and got a fresh comparative vision on the role of Christian politicians and businessmen at local and central levels in the Netherlands.

2.13 Report Romania

Fourth edition of Romanian Prayer Breakfast in Bucharest

by Eunice Dugulescu

The fourth edition of the annual Romanian Prayer Breakfast took place in Bucharest between 9-11 December 2009 at the Palace of Parliament. As in previous years, the event was organized by the Ecumenical Prayer Group in the Romanian Parliament in collaboration with the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) and this year's theme was "Family Crisis in the Contemporary Age".

This edition also had the benefit of being under the high patronage of the leadership of both parliamentary chambers: the Senate, represented by Vice-President **Teodor Melescanu** and the Chamber of Deputies, represented by Vice-President **Adrian Nastase**, the latter being the guest speaker of the event.

The program of the event, unfolded in three days, was structured around three main parts: the opening cocktail reception offered to participants on the first evening, the Prayer Breakfast, plenary debates and topical workshops on the second day, and the trip to the Romanian landmark Peles Castle in the idyllic scenery of the Carpathians.

The numerous contributions that were brought to the topic of the event dealt with family issues such as demographic statistics (marriage, divorce and birth rate) presented by former Prime Minister **Adrian Nastase**, as well as subordinated topics such as abortion, legislation, education that were dealt with in three workshops. Messages were also brought by diplomats such as US Ambassador H.E. **Mark H. Gitenstein** and the Papal Nuncio in Bucharest, H.E. **Francisco-Javier Lozano**. Representatives of different religious denominations also addressed the gathering, stressing the important role played by the Church in society: the Metropolitan H.E. **Nifon**; the representative of the Pentecostal Union, **Pavel Ravis Tipei**; **Aurel Vainer**, Member of Parliament and head of the Federation of Jewish communities in Romania; and the president of the Interparliamentary Union of Orthodoxy, **Miron Ignat**. A reading from the Scripture and a message about the Biblical expression "Our Father" was also shared by **Leo van Doesburg**, ECPM Regional Representative for East Europe.

Other important contributors were: Prof. Univ. Dr. **Cristian Dumitrescu**, president of the Committee on Education, Science, Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies, and chairman of the Ecumenical Parliamentarian Prayer Group; **Gheorghe Davids**, General Secretary of the Romanian Senate; and **Petru Andea**, former chairman of the Ecumenical Parliamentarian Prayer Group, and dean of the Polytechnical University in Timisoara



The Ecumenical Prayer Group in the Romanian Parliament was founded in 1992 by the late former members of Parliament **Ioan Alexandru** and **Petru Dugulescu**. Throughout the years, the annual event organized by the Prayer Group has taken different forms, such as the National Day for Reconciliation, the Romanian Prayer Dinner and eventually as the Romanian Prayer Breakfast for the last four years.



This year's edition has reunited over 250 participants from more than 20 European countries, including Members of Parliament, diplomats, church representatives, NGO delegates, businessmen and mass media.

2.14 Report Serbia

Serbia, Belgrade Business Initiative Social responsibility and ethics of the global financial crisis

by Dusica Petkovic

With the present global economic crisis, it has become easy to realize that this crisis has a lot to do with common ethical values and standards. The political will to fight greed and corruption is often weak, because it is not supported by an ethical will. Laws without morality cannot endure, and no legal provision can be implemented without moral consciousness based on some elementary ethical standards. This is an issue of individual morality that as Christians we want to address, but it is also an issue of corporate morality on which we all have to work together.

The Belgrade Business Initiative has during the last six years worked enthusiastically on promoting and sharing Christian principles and business ethics in the market place and among politicians. Because of the need for a call to morality and ethical revival and restitution, the conference “Social responsibility and ethics of the global financial crisis” expressed our efforts to address the marketplace, and professional and political fields from the Christian point of view.

The event was opened by Dusica Petkovic and Samuil Petrovski, representatives of the Belgrade Business Initiative, followed by Leo van Doesburg’s presentation of the vision and mission of ECPM that helped participants to get a better picture of ECPM’s program and activities.

The main conference speakers were Dwight Holloway, Executive Vice President of PIMCO (Pacific Investment Management Company), London, talking about The credit crunch of 2008 and biblical principles of investing and Misa Djurkovic PhD, researcher, Institute of European Studies, who challenged us on Wealth – just a goal or the source for good deeds and glorification of the Lord.

After the official opening, there was a time to share ideas and experiences with each other over a cocktail.



The next day started with lectures and panel discussion. The first session was given by Dwight Holloway on the topic - Principles of reconciliation as an essential element of being successful in business and politics. During his time in Belgrade, Mr Holloway had many meetings at the Parliament and the Royal palace, talking to representatives of the Government, the former regime and the Royal family. Meeting with representatives of the former regime in Serbia – socialists – particularly demonstrated how much the reconciliation process is needed and how the neutrality of Christian rapprochement can be crucial in reconciliation and building new system institutions.

The next session of Dr Misa Djurkovic - Can we get out of the crisis the way we got into it? - Back to the Christian roots was very interactive and dynamic as Dr Misa Djurkovic led us through a comprehensive presentation of not just a global market situation, but of Serbian society as well. This session was an outstanding presentation of how new capitalism is far away from the traditional capitalism, not just that capital moved from real economy to speculative economy stimulating loans, fast earnings, consumption, speculation, but that life standards have changed, losing their traditional values of family, morality and integrity. This session was the call for a return to Christian roots and an emphasis that revitalization is only possible inside a Christian framework, however unreal

that may look at this point.

This dynamic discussion lasted almost two hours and then the conference closed with a panel discussion on “The crisis of ethics and call for moral responsibility” and speakers Slobodan Milivojevic, director of National University “Bozidar Adzija”, Emil Krijestorac, People’s Party Montenegro and Leo van Doesburg, ECPM.



The positive energy and optimism shared by Leo van Doesburg that convinced participants how a small group can have a big influence in society was a great encouragement to the audience.

The conference received high praise from people who are active in promoting Christian values in the fields of politics, medicine and social care who want to give support to our work, finding BBI to be the only organization that is working seriously on the promotion and development of Christian ethics and standards in the politics and society of Serbia.

Dusica Petkovic
President of Belgrade Business Initiative

2.15 Report Spain

Politicians for Life and Family Conference in Madrid

(Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios y Gobernantes por la Vida y la Familia)

by Guido van Beusekom and Rita Klapwijk



On 26 and 27 March the conference of the Politicians for Life and Family took place in Madrid, Spain. This initiative was born in Latin America and is now rapidly spreading over the globe. Since most members are Roman Catholic, the initiative is especially well known in such European countries as Italy, Portugal and Spain (besides Latin America). On behalf of the ECPM Peeter Vösu (chairman) and Guido van Beusekom (general secretary) were present, together with Rita Klapwijk (assistant MP ChristianUnion).

We were invited by Lola Velarde of the European Network Institute for Family Policies, who addressed the ECPM during the members' congress in 2007.

The conference showed clearly that there is a very active movement that wants to promote these important values: the protection of life and family. Several speakers spoke about the legislation in their own countries and it became very clear that action is necessary to protect these values that are at the core of Christianity.

Particularly significant were the speeches of Fernando Ribeiro e Castro (MEP Portugal) and Laszlo Surjan (MEP Hungary). The latter stressed that life is God given and we should never forget this in everything we do, especially in politics.

ECPM chairman Peeter Vösu also addressed the participants and explained to them the values and goals of ECPM. Many organisations were interested in the ECPM and this visit really created a starting point for more contact between ECPM and politicians and organisation in Spain and Portugal. We did find out, however, that language is still a barrier in this process.

In spite of this, we are confident that the ECPM will be able to spread in these countries in the coming years. It is clear that Christian values are seen as very important by people and politicians from Portugal, Spain and other countries.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL PROGRAMME OF THE ECPM

A Christian Democrat voice in the European Union

This EU programme was accepted by the ECPM members on June 12, 2009, and therefore an official ECPM policy document.

Preface

This programme intends to voice the most basic notions of the ECPM concerning the European Union as we see it and how it should develop in the future. The ECPM has developed into a broad and pan-European organisation, active in and beyond the EU. This development calls us to present a general vision on the European Union and how its Christian roots can have meaning for the EU in the 21st century.

This programme does not intend to cover many details in a wide range of policy fields. From our basic view of the EU some of the most important issues will be generally touched. This will also reflect what, in our view, the priorities of the EU should be in the years to come. This program is also 'under construction' and open for review and further elaboration in the following years as the EU and the ECPM continue to develop.

We as ECPM hope that this vision of the EU will inspire parties and politicians around the EU to continue their efforts for Christian-inspired politics and policies.

The identity of the European Union

Christianity entered Europe nearly 2000 years ago and has since then had a profound influence in our continent. Even though Europe is rich in its cultural diversity, the Christian faith runs as a red thread through all European nations and cultures. In all these cultures Christianity has had a deep impact on ethics, religion, the view of humanity and freedom. The very notions of individuality that are present in today's Europe are directly linked to Christianity. Even later developments in thought like the enlightenment and secular philosophies stem from very basic Christian notions.

It is therefore not an accident that modern democracy developed in those parts of the world that have been under the influence of Christianity. Democracy as it developed in the Western world embodies these values of individuality and freedom held together in a community. The need to protect democracy and maintain freedom and individuality in a peaceful Europe were driving forces behind the creation of the European Union. The EU is at its core a Christian Democrat answer to the totalitarian systems that brought so much devastation and oppressed millions of people in 20th century Europe.

The leaders who founded the European Union envisioned a union of nations that would preserve, protect and spread the values that are the foundation of our freedom and democracy. These are the Judeo-Christian values that determined the very fabric of our European societies: respect for the individual, respect for diversity and solidarity.

The history and values of Europe cannot be separated from the person of Jesus Christ and the Christian movement. They determined the soul and dynamics of Europe and the development of the ideas that shaped our continent and the history of the European nations. We as ECPM are convinced that there can be no future for a free and democratic EU and a Europe of solidarity without the recognition of the source of these values. We are also convinced that more is needed than just a recognition of the past. The Christian faith and values are also a needed source for the European Union of the 21st century.

These values are a needed resource in a time of new challenges in our ecology, economy and the social cohesion of our societies. As ECPM we are determined to bring these values into the political discourse of the European Union in order to contribute to the wellbeing of our European society.

The European Union as a democratic union of nations

For us a free and democratic Europe implies a European Union that is a union of member states and subject to the peoples of these member states. We wish for a European Union that respects the independence of the member states. The EU is necessary as a vehicle of co-operation of European nations in facing the problems of today's global village. However, the nations are the institutional foundation of the union. They lend reality and authority to the Union and decide the direction of the Union. The EU institutions have to respect this democratic order.

This does not lead to a mere technocratic and economical co-operation since the EU is more than a mere sum of its parts.

The EU has its own role as the union of these nations, representing their peoples and the values of the EU. This acquires a democratic and transparent process that is accessible by all those who live in the EU. This ensures a free and democratic Europe that respects its peoples and their values.

The new Lisbon Treaty is meant to provide a growing EU with a framework that allows the institutions to work effectively after the enlargement. In some ways this treaty has been an improvement of the former so-called 'constitution'. We expect that in the future the treaty will undergo amendments. These amendments should again emphasize the role of the member states and reduce the number of policy fields the European Union is involved in, especially those fields that can also be directed by the member states. These changes would also give the EU more decisiveness on many major issues where the EU should take the lead, especially those issues that cannot be solved by individual member states. On these fields the member states should not pursue their national interests but find common solutions for common problems. Future amendments to the Lisbon treaty should also make the decision-making process of the European governing bodies more transparent.

The ultimate goal of the Union should not be to become a new economic or military 'global power block'. The ultimate goal of the union should be to apply the values that this unique co-operation of nations is founded upon. These are key values such as respect for life, freedom, solidarity, respect for diversity, democracy and peace. They should be applied in a way that will lift up the peoples of this continent and beyond.

Respect for life

No democracy can function without respect for life. Respect for life is the very cornerstone of respect for the individual and individuality is the cornerstone of democracy. It is a Christian value that shaped Europe's legal system and is one of the key values of the international human rights declarations. However at the same time this value needs to be emphasised again. There is a growing pressure to put absolute autonomous freedom before the value of life. But freedom of choice depends on the value of the individual. The EU institutions should uphold respect for life and not promote abortion or euthanasia in or outside Europe. The EU should also take a stand against the utilisation of human life. Utilisation of human life for economic or scientific reasons is opposite to respect for life and therefore also not acceptable in a free and democratic society.

Respect for life also includes respect for the creation. It is clear that we live in a growing ecological crisis. The EU has an important role to play to find answers to this most important challenge of our time. The EU should promote green technologies, green energies, conservation and care for the environment in the union and globally. Care for creation is not an isolated issue, it needs to be integrated as a principle in all policy fields. In those policy fields that are in the hands of the member states, the EU can assist in sharing and promoting 'green solutions'. European and national political parties can play their role in bringing scientists and national, regional and local politicians together. This ecological crisis also requires a fundamental turn in economic policies. Continuity and the role of all stakeholders has to become more important than the profits of the shareholders. These can be foundations for a sustainable economy in its ecological and economic meaning.

Freedom

Freedom of speech, conscience and religion are vital for today's Europe. The role of Christianity and Christian democracy in shaping the liberties that our continent enjoys can hardly be overestimated. Individuals, communities and organisations must have full freedom of religion and expression of thought. This must be a priority within Europe and also in European foreign policy. The EU should promote these values also among the neighbouring states on our continent. Christian democrat thinking also strongly rejects secularism as a public ideology. We reject any kind of 'obvious' dominance of secularism in government and policies. Neither can there be a role for domination by, or of, any single religious denomination or group in any EU member state. Freedom of religion implies respect for plurality that should be shared by all people of all religions and those who have no religion. Freedom of speech and conscience are fundamental for our democracies. These freedoms can only be real if there is also a freedom of the Press. The freedom of the Press has to be protected throughout Europe. People are free to express their criticism of other actions, views, faiths and beliefs without any argument. But democracy means that they need to respect the dignity of those criticized. Freedom and the right to privacy cannot be separated. Privacy should at least be as important as safety. New safety policies and the technologies used have to be examined thoroughly before they are introduced.

Solidarity

Solidarity is a core Christian principle and has always been a hallmark of the European Union. The EU itself would not exist if there had not been a notion of real solidarity between the free nations on our continent after WW II. Solidarity is an idea and ideal that is shared throughout Europe. Solidarity also means social justice. Social justice is a fundamental Biblical teaching and Christian democrat notion. Social justice demands an equal regard for all. That implies a special concern for the needs of the poor, refugees, those who suffer and the powerless. It requires us to oppose exploitation and deprivation. It requires also that appropriate resources and opportunities are available. In this way we meet the basic requirements of all, and each person is able to take part in the life of the community.

Respect for diversity

The value of the individual invokes the need for respect for diversity. The European Union is home to many nations, cultures, languages and religions. This diversity is the strength and future of the European Union. This does not, however, lead to cultural relativism. The reverse is true, namely that Christian values are the source for this openness for a diverse society. This also means that even in a diverse society people can hold beliefs as 'the truth' and communicate these with others. This leads to a concept of diversity in which differences in all fields should be open for debate. The law and good manners provide the space within which this debate can take place. In this way differences can be discussed in a fruitful way; we see this as the best protection against discrimination.

Peace

Peace was one of the most important goals of the EU and is one of its most remarkable results. Peace is not just the absence of war. It means an environment where there is no fear between peoples and nations. Mutual understanding is necessary to maintain the peace we enjoy in Europe. The EU should encourage reconciliation where this is necessary. Humility, repentance, patience and forgiveness are political as well as personal values. They are essential in the process of replacing conflict with common understanding. As stated we do not wish to see the EU become a new global 'power block'. This means that the EU should not develop a military apparatus independent of the military forces of the member states. NATO remains the military co-operation to keep Europe safe. Through NATO the EU member states will engage in peace-keeping missions. If necessary, EU member states can co-operate militarily. However, this does not require a new EU military command.

Vision and strategy towards EU neighbours in Europe

The ECPM sees the EU enlargement process as an on-going phenomenon that should not, however, be regarded as an indefinite move without clear strategy and limits. We believe in a larger Europe without customs and discrimination and look forward to see all European sovereign nations united in the same institutional framework, for the sake of Europe's peoples' well-being and re-establishment of the continent's unity, disrupted by decades of dominance of totalitarian regimes.

The ECPM makes a clear distinction between EU European and non-European neighbours and deems the EU strategy should clearly differentiate between these two groups as to their European vocation and perspective.

On the other hand, we believe the new prospective members should meet all accession criteria (Copenhagen criteria), but be allowed to join the EU preserving their values. The existing EU members will only gain from the influx of new members, as presently the EU undergoes a demographic and ideological crisis.

As the last wave of EU enlargement has proven, the accession of new East-European members did not confirm pessimistic scenarios drawn by adversaries of Eastern countries accession. Therefore, the ECPM believes EU should not halt its expansion once the enlargement process has reached the old "Western civilization frontier." Each European nation which bases its perspectives on democratic values and respects human rights and the rule of law should be given a real chance to join the EU without discrimination. Otherwise, the new iron curtain will part the continent and the aspiring European nations will be left in despair and disillusion. In the longer term, this would gravely damage the interests of the EU.

"Enlargement fatigue" should not therefore be a reason to stop the enlargement process, but the EU should invest its best practices and efforts to support the EU's European neighbours in their accession endeavours. As mentioned, the EU should promote and encourage diversity, without falling into extremes of cultural relativism but basing its strategy on a principal approach for the sake of a United Europe, originating from the same roots and developing under the same roof.

Closing statement

In a time of growing distrust in the European political institutions it is time to reconnect the EU with its peoples and the values they recognise as vital for their personal life and their societies. This requires that these values will be at the core of EU policies and it also requires an explicit connection with the source of these values in order to keep them fresh and strong in our Union. With this programme we intend to build these connections and by doing so, help to build the EU.

ECPM Member Parties per 31/12/2009

The following political parties and organizations are official members of ECPM

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Christian Democratic Union |  Armenia |
| 2. Federal Christian Democrats |  Belgium |
| 3. Belarusian Christian Democracy |  Belarus |
| 4. Bulgarian Christian Coalition |  Bulgaria |
| 5. Christian Democratic Forum |  Bulgaria |
| 6. Estonian Christian Democrats |  Estonia |
| 7. Christian Democratic Movement |  Georgia |
| 8. AUF-partei |  Germany |
| 9. Party of Bible-faithful Christians |  Germany |
| 10. German Centre Party |  Germany |
| 11. Christian Democratic Union |  Latvia |
| 12. Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party |  Lithuania |
| 13. Christian Democratic Peoples' Party |  Moldova |
| 14. Peoples' Party |  Montenegro |
| 15. Christian Union |  Netherlands |
| 16. Christian Democratic National Peasant Party |  Romania |
| 17. Uniunea Bulgară din Banat |  Romania |
| 18. Evangelical Peoples' Party |  Switzerland |
| 19. Federal Democratic Union |  Switzerland |
| 20. Christian Democratic Union |  Ukraine |
| 21. Christian Peoples Alliance |  United Kingdom |

[The name of the political parties and organizations are listed in alphabetical order of the countries]

ECPM Associate Organizations and Partners

The following organizations are associated to the ECPM:

- Amical Service (*France*)
- Areopagus Centre for Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture (*Timisoara, Romania*)
- Associazione "Cercasi un Fine" (*Italy*)
- C'axent (*Belgium*)
- Care for Europe (*Belgium*)
- Center for Public Justice (*United States of America*)
- Christian Democratic Association (*Romania*)
- Christian Peoples Unity of Armenia (*Armenia*)
- Crown Companies (*Bulgaria*)
- European Christian Political Youth Movement (*ECPYN*)
- European Evangelical Alliance
- Institute for ethics and values (*Germany*)
- Jubilee Centre (*United Kingdom*)
- Provita Association for born and unborn branch Bucharest (*Romania*)
- Research Institute ChristianUnion (*Netherlands*)
- Romanian Foundation for Democracy (*Romania*)
- Rule of Law institute (*Bulgaria*)
- Stichting Vormingsactiviteiten Oost-Europa (*Netherlands*)

[The Associate Organizations and Partners are listed in alphabetical order of the name]

Collaborators

- ◇ Albanian Initiative for European Values
- ◇ Areopagus: Cluj Napoca, Romania
- ◇ Belgrade Business Initiative: Serbia
- ◇ Boris Trajkovski Foundation: Macedonia
- ◇ Christian Concern for Our Nation (United Kingdom)
- ◇ Crown Ministries Europe
- ◇ Economic Diplomacy Seminar: Croatia
- ◇ Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast in the Romanian Parliament: Romania
- ◇ Europartners
- ◇ European Prayer Breakfast: Brussels
- ◇ Pavel Shatev Institute
- ◇ Philia Ministries: Montenegro
- ◇ Renewing our Mind (ROM): Croatia
- ◇ The Alliance for Romanian Families
- ◇ The Dignitatis Humanae Institute

[The collaborators are listed in alphabetical order of the name]

Join the ECPM!

Join the ECPM as a party or organisation!

The ECPM invites all like-minded organisations to join the network as member or associate partner. With associate partner organisations the ECPM keeps up with informal relations. The members of the ECPM take active part in the life of the association and pay a yearly membership fee as it is fixed in article 10 of the statutes of the association. The membership of the ECPM is preceded by an affiliation procedure.

Those interested are requested to complete the form on the website and send the original to the secretariat by post. Please note, that the application form must be signed by the president of the organisation! The secretariat will contact you after the receipt of the application and it will give you detailed information about the application process.

Join the ECPM from EU countries

The ECPM welcomes individual MPs and provincial councillors from EU countries as members. As individual politician you can be a full member and participate actively in the movement. Individual members can register by completing the application form. The secretariat is happy to send you this form and contact you for detailed information about the application process.

Join the ECPM as an individual “Friend of ECPM”

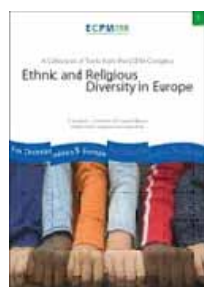
Individuals can also become member of the ECPM for a minimum donation of 10 EUR. Friends of the ECPM receive the e-newsletter and other mailings and are welcome to participate in ECPM activities.

ECPM Publications

Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Europe

A collection of texts from the ECPM Congress 2005

Edited by Silviu E. Rogobete and Andrew Otchie



Religion in Europe is not and can not be a mere matter of private life. When taken seriously, religion inevitably becomes a public matter. And this is true both at individual and at collective, socio-political levels. What are the role and the place of the Christian religion for contemporary Europe? Are there specific answers within the Christian faith for such pressing issues as coping with religious, national and/or cultural diversity? Can Christians offer relevant views on economic integration, minority groups, religious tolerance, and contemporary forms of extremism?

The collection of texts put together in this work attempts to answer such questions. In fact, this volume reproduces the main contributions presented at the first Congress of the ECPM held in Leuven (Belgium) from the 30th of November to the 2nd of December 2005.



Campaigning Manual

Joël Voordewind and Jan Paul Manni (2005)

The ECPM wants to appeal to more people and have more people involved; more hands which pray and build.

This Manual gives the means to translate Christian politics into concrete action round the corner' and in your own country. It also gives you practical tips and suggestions on how you can motivate others to put their shoulders to the wheel as well. Experience teaches us that focused action (national, regional and local) is the way to reinforce the sound of Christian politics.

Publications of associate organisations

Recommended publications of associate organisations can be found on the ECPM website www.ecpm.info





Yearbook 2009



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