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Président du Conseil national  
Eglise réformée de France

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Conference of European Churches  
The Venerable Colin Williams, General Secretary  
Geneva

### **Preparation for the Assembly – Policy directions for CEC**

Dear Mr. General Secretary,

As the CEC Assembly in Lyon approaches, the National Council of the French Reformed Church has held a conversation about what it expects from CEC. Allow me to give you a quick response, with my apologies for failing to send it by 10 March, as requested in your letter of 6 November 2008.

It seems to us that CEC's vocation is to serve, support, pass along and amplify the commitments of its member churches in two main directions:

1) The petitions of the churches for, and their commitment to, building a Europe characterized internally, on one hand, by planning for social justice, respect for human rights and taking cultural diversity into account in a positive way, and on the other by a firm commitment to a globalisation characterized by solidarity, an equitable economic equilibrium and sustainable development. From this viewpoint, the most important task is not so much to develop a long series of workshops and study documents – which is the task of politics – but rather to promote an overall vision.

2) A renewed commitment to moving forward ecumenically. Europe is both an important historical site of divisions among the churches and a place where the evolution of ecumenical community has been especially rich. The European churches therefore have a particular responsibility to promote a vision of dynamic ecumenical progress, characterized by encounters, sharing, dialogue and mutual challenge, with a view more to living in the communion given us by our Lord, recognizing one another, than to a formal search for unity or uniformity.

All this needs, of course, to be described more fully and precisely. But we very much hope that the Assembly will be in a position to make real choices, to give priority to commitments which clearly express CEC's vocation, and will not give in to the temptation of lists of activities insufficiently defined and based too much on consensus. It seems to us that this is the necessary condition for a true common commitment of the churches within CEC.

In the hope that these few statements will be helpful to the teams preparing for the Assembly,

Mr. General Secretary, I send you our fraternal greetings in Christ.

Paster Marcel Manoël