

**Preparatory Conference of the Protestant Churches in Europe for the General
Assembly of the CEC in Lyon, 20th-21st of April 2009 Vienna**
(Facilitated by the Community of European Churches in Europe, CPCE)

A renewed vision for CEC

We, European churches, are called, 50 years after the founding of CEC, to a renewed commitment based on our hope in Jesus Christ for our living in Europe today. God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Ps 119,105)

We want to engage and commit ourselves again in witnessing together in the love of the triune God in the European context. The secular and pluralistic context of today's Europe present challenges as well as opportunities for our churches. We recognize that it is God's call to our churches to jointly address these issues at the beginning of the 21st century. This urges us to implement appropriate forms of co-operation for our times.

As part of the global ecumenical movement and a fellowship of churches, we are called to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ to Europe's people and its political and social constituencies in a renewed way: Unity of the Church in reconciled diversity, reconciliation among the people in Europe. Migration, justice, peace and the integrity of creation in Europe and in the world should remain the main focus for our common witness.

We believe CEC to be a forum for mutual learning and ecumenical formation, for bridge building and for strengthening the relationships between the churches.

We believe CEC to be an Ecumenical instrument for cooperation with the European institutions.

We believe CEC to be a platform for dialogue with other Christian churches and religious communities

We commit ourselves and take responsibility to work together for this vision.

Vienna, 21st April 2009