



Sallux is an association that acts as a political foundation for the European Christian Political Movement (www.ecpm.info). Formerly known as the Christian Political Foundation for Europe (CPFE), it supports and underpins the ECPM, especially in terms of political content through pan-European cooperation and the introduction of analysis, ideas and policy options. Sallux means "Salt and Light".

Sallux wants to spark a salted debate where needed and shed light on the issues we face. We present solutions by organising events and distributing relevant publications, and will not stay on the safe side of the status quo. Relational thinking and biblical principles are applicable to every dimension or topic you can think of. Sallux will shine its light specifically on the following topics: family, society, the EU (institutions and the people), (human) life, the economy, global problems, the environment and freedom.



The CEMES' mission is to promote and theologially establish all the ecumenical, Inter-Christian and Inter-Faith Dialogues of the Orthodox Church, to pursue the authentic Orthodox missional ideal and support the missionary activities of the Church, and to cultivate the environmental consciousness or the integrity of God's creation.

The ultimate purpose of CEMES is to provide the Orthodox Church and the entire Christian community with its scientific research services with studies, conferences and publications both in the field of ecumenical dialogues, mission and the preservation of of the environment, which so successfully on a universal level is now served by his All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Documentary photoART

The ECONOMIC & REFUGEE CRISES

Under the aegis of His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



The Political, Religious and Spiritual Dimensions.

Conference Message

Thessaloniki, 20-22 February 2018

Organized by:
Centre for Ecumenical, Missiological and Environmental Studies
Sallux | ECPM Foundation

The ECONOMIC & REFUGEE CRISES

Conference Message

The conference on “The Economic and Refugee Crises: Political, Religious and Spiritual Dimensions”, organized by SALLUX and CEMES and held in Thessaloniki 20-23 February 2018, to celebrate the second anniversary of the ecumenical initiative of H.A.H. the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, H.H. Pope Francis and H.B. the Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and of All Greece, who visited the island of Lesbos to alert the world community of the refugee problem, respectfully URGE our European and national leaders to act according to the biblical and relational principles toward the economic crisis facing Europe today and the solution of the refugee problem.

- Following the example and the ecumenical spirit of the above ecclesiastical leaders, representatives of the majority Orthodox Church of Greece, the Catholic Church in Greece, and the All-Greek Evangelical Alliance, have jointly REFLECTED in an ecumenical spirit, together with politicians and members of the European and the Greek parliament, theologians, NGOs of Europe and Greece, on the current problems of Europe, and the European Union in particular.

- Having reflected together during the conference we ANALYZED both the theological and the political aspects of the current multifaceted crisis.

- Based on the inter-disciplinary dimension of this conference and taking into consideration the expressed will of all Christians in Europe to cooperate, we DECIDED to establish stronger relations among members of different Churches, of Christian organizations and European citizens.

In this spirit we jointly DECIDED to address the following points of consideration:

- Having a fundamental conviction that the only creator of the world is God, who was fully manifested in His son Jesus Christ according to the Bible and the ages old Christian Tradition, we FEEL responsible for His creation and the world and society entrusted to us. This faith in the God unites us as Christians, regardless of the variety of approaches and solutions to the society and its challenges.

- We, as Christians, UNDERSTAND as our duty and responsibility to foster and advance political solutions in Europe by actively being engaged in the public

discussion about the economic policies of the European Union, the refugee problem, and of course the future of European cooperation and integration.

- We POINT OUT that Christian NGOs and Christian politicians have tried to respond to the crises at hand. However, there has not been much opportunity to reflect on the broader political, religious, spiritual, and economic consequences and implications of the situation in a broad ecumenical setting. At this conference, with the assistance of politicians, theologians, sociologists, economists and activists of grass-root and ecclesiastical movements an overview and reliable picture was revealed of a phenomenon that requires clear and honest response by the European Union, including its Churches.

- We STATE that Christians in Europe have long ago reaffirmed that they are ready to work hand-by-hand with all people of good will and with secular institutions (political, social etc.), even of differing political persuasions, who share our common ethical values. Christian activists and politicians share responsibility for solving the crisis of this planet with other people, whether they are people of faith or not.

- We believe that we ARE CALLED to actively participate in any actions that support and endorse human dignity on all levels. We therefore consider as our obligation to contribute to overcome the divisions of the world, with the refugee problem being one the most evident example of the current crisis.

- We ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERLINE the difficult situation of minority groups like Christian, Yezidi and others, living within a predominantly Muslim population inside

refugee centres throughout Europe. The harassments, assaults, rapes, threats and sometimes unjust treatment, need to be taken into consideration by authorities.

- As Christians we DEMAND the acts perpetrated by immoral traffickers and refugee smugglers receive an adequate response from the authorities, on the basis of the international laws and treaties already in force, regardless of religious affiliation.

- We CALL FOR a serious consideration of the Christian perspective on the economic crisis, which in the current political debate is beyond the old bipolar political divide between capitalism and socialism. We believe that “the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it” (Psalm 24:1). A real and just economy is a relational economy. A relational economy includes all stakeholders (interests) in the economic process and deeply considers the relations between them and the impact of these relations on the economic process.

All above-mentioned concerns, thoroughly discussed in our conference, are the result of the Christians' determination to address the structural sin, expressed in the intertwined contemporary crises, the economic and the refugee, from the perspective of the marginalized. The Christians in Europe are called to acknowledge the sinful nature of all forms of discrimination and to transform all unjust structures, thus safeguarding the sacred nature of every human being and of the earth.