



**Call from Assembly 2023 celebrating 25th anniversary of ECEN
EVERY PART OF CREATION MATTERS
Roskilde, Denmark, 31st August – 3rd September**

Outcomes from the thematic groups and Assembly discussions

Every Part of Creation Matters:

Unless we change the economic model geared towards continuous economic growth the European Green Deal will not succeed in bringing about a “green economy”

We call upon churches in Europe to;

- Speak out for an economy of sufficiency, simplicity and solidarity in the spirit of St Francis, Lent and Jubilee.
- Include in liturgy and ministry expressions of sufficiency, simplicity and solidarity, including their ministry in the public square.

Eco Theology

Eco theology is of high importance for churches to understand why we as churches are acting on environmental issues. It gives faith communities their identity in the discussions.

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- Integrate and share the subject of eco-theology into the curricula of theological seminaries.
- Revisiting the theological vocabulary according to the contemporary discussion of ecological crisis.
- Reflecting theologically the scientific issues that contain theological problems, such as the Noah's Ark Problem in biodiversity, Stewardship Economy in Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Contextualizing the classical theological subjects according to the ecological crisis, e.g. in pastoral care (eco-anxiety), eco-diaconia, eco-homiletics (sustainable preaching).

Climate change

Climate change is here. We must act to adapt and to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. Churches and faith communities in Europe must act on climate change as a part of being church in Europe today.

We call upon churches to:

Include climate justice in every Sunday service as a part of the prayers. Including both our worries and our thankfulness for the ecosystems

- Encourage congregations to make lent a time for climate actions eg abstain from meat, promote a slower lifestyle and reflection on our interdependency
- Divest from fossil fuels and invest in sustainable solutions.
- Reach out to other faith traditions to act and advocate together on climate justice.

We call to decision makers to:

- End expansion of fossil fuel production. Initiate an equitable phase out of fossil fuels and make this transition a just transition.
- Make the Loss and Damage Fund operational and funded.
Ramp up ambitions on greenhouse gas emissions at COP 28 global stocktake. Especially in high-income countries and countries with big historical emissions.
- Include sharing renewable energy solutions as a part of climate actions to leapfrog fossil fuel use.

Eco-Management

There exist a variety of tools already developed by churches and business throughout Europe, from lighter schemes (eco-congregations, green churches) to more intensive ones like Green Rooster or EMAS. Links to these functioning eco-management-systems, as well as church-related carbon-calculators should be made accessible through for example the ECEN website

We call upon churches to:

- recommend all churches to consider introducing some sort of eco-management systems to their parishes.
- to improve their eco-management.
- to use the ECEN platform for getting into direct contact with churches which developed working systems.
- look at TWINNING-projects already completed in ECEN network to initiate new projects.

Biodiversity

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- Support exchange of good ideas and support existing biodiversity work.
- Make biodiversity integral to church life.
- Act as a common voice of advocacy.
- Recognise shortcomings on biodiversity.
- Move away from anthropocentrism.
- Recognise intrinsic value of creation.
- Cooperate with civil society by listening to scientist, hold governments accountable for decisions and promises on biodiversity issues.
- Cooperate with civil society - Look outside church walls – local NGO's and citizen scene.
- Listen to scientists.

Indigenous Peoples

The assembly notice that Indigenous Peoples are in the frontline of climate change but also often protectors of biodiversity. Europe's Indigenous Peoples, the Sami people, must be recognized in the green transformation Europe is going into.

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- Support Indigenous Peoples rights
- Be inspired by the spirituality that Indigenous Peoples contribute to our churches.

Gender and climate/environment

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- acknowledge that women are often more vulnerable to climate change.
- Include gender aspect on climate change when advocating for climate justice.

Youth

At the assembly a major contribution was made by youth. Young people are the ones who will have to deal with previous generation shortcomings on acting on the environmental deterioration.

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- Secure youth representation in actions on environment in their churches

Environment and peace

ECEN assembly gathered at times of war in Europe. We have heard the voices from Ukraine and Belarus and the work they are still doing on environmental education and pilgrim walks. Belarus is more and more isolated from its neighbours and in constant threat of being drawn into the war. The war in Ukraine is a huge human catastrophe and an environmental disaster with dimensions that must be characterized as Ecocide.

We call upon churches in Europe to:

- Support the churches in Ukraine and Belarus in their defiant work to protect the environment and educate new generations on our interdependence on a healthy Creation.