



All Africa
Conference of Churches



Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe
Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

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Press Release 24 November 2008

Dealing with migration means giving a human face to the church

"Diversity is not a problem but it has to be perceived as the kairós for the churches in their common efforts towards unity", affirmed Rev. Fidele Mushidi from Frankfurt/Main (Germany) during the African and European churches' consultation on migration and the changing ecclesial landscape in Palermo from the 20th to the 23rd November 2008. Representatives from African, European and migrant churches met for the first time and were able to discuss on an equal level experiences and responsibilities related to changes in the churches due to migration. "For us as Christians the destiny of immigrants is essential because it is at the heart of Christian experience." Bishop Aboagye-Mensah stated.

"A holistic approach to the issue of migration and integration is a necessity in order to have an entirely inclusive community," Paolo Naso from the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy explained. Church experiences from different countries were shared providing different approaches to uniting in diversity. While migration and diversity in the public and political debate are considered more as an obstacle for societal cohesion, the consultation stressed the churches view that diversity offers new opportunities for renewal and sustainable societies.

In the same line the consultation discussed how migration is affecting the self understanding of the church: "a Church of strangers and sojourners will understand itself as a church of people on the move in which the otherness is not a motive for exclusion but source of mutual growing in recognition and respect of the diverse versions of Christianity" said Amélé Ekué.

The consultation strongly recommended continuing reflection and enhancing cooperation between the churches to respond to the ecumenical calling of being the Church together.

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