

**2011 – Reports from
President
Secretary-General
Treasurer**

Report from the President of Caritas Europa

Networks

Our Regional Conference last year was incorporated into the General Assembly of *Caritas Internationalis*. The adoption of the new statutes took place within a framework which clarified what Caritas represents. We are the Church – in its entirety. The technical term for this is “company governed by public law” of the Holy See. The interaction of “association law” with the law of a “company governed by public law” was wrestled with for days. Experts in ecclesiastical law, theologians and believers tried to understand and convey the new form of co-operation. It became clear that the autonomy of the members, the local churches, would not be adversely affected by the new legal framework. It also became

clear that too much time had passed since the chirograph of 2004 to organise the new legal status without conflict.



Fr. Erny Gillen
President

Within the extended family of Caritas, Caritas Europa calmly decided on a new strategic plan and how to implement it. The network is to be restructured in order to obtain common substantive results. Together with a corresponding working group, the new Secretary General proposed new forms of work which the “old and new” board of directors approved.

The new format was presented during a so-called “network conference”. A mostly new team in the General Secretariat is to operate the network and enliven it.

Today, in Warsaw, we must ask ourselves whether our network, Caritas Europa and Caritas in Europe, has succeeded in making the transition to a new era! Have we been successful in achieving greater member participation? Have we been successful in developing common content that can be used by Caritas in Europe?

The network map image I used at the network conference to illustrate the change in the system is still going through my head. Do you recall how it feels to stand before a board with hundreds of coloured lines and dots? Above it is written “Underground Map”. If you now try to understand the map and learn it by heart, then you are well on the way to becoming a network engineer or a designer of complex routes. However, this is not what the new complex structure is about. The system is intended to help the user get from one point to another.

To be able to use an “Underground Map”, the passenger must know a) the station where he currently is and b) where he would like to go. Only then does the forest of structures and overwhelming information thin out. He can follow a direction, a line, a route and find out whether there is a direct connection or whether he will have to change. Complex structures require that predetermined routes and specified times be reliably correct (at least to some extent).

Trust in the system is the key to success. Someone who trusts the system also has the confidence to get into one of the trains without asking where the power comes from, if the rails have been properly laid or whether the points are correctly set.

Our focus over the last year has been this trust and the architect of the new system. The many changes at the hub show that the transition from one system to another was not easy. Poor participation in the working groups shows that members are not yet ready to get entirely on board the new train. The board of directors decided not to intervene in day-to-day affairs in order to remove itself as a potential source of conflicts.

It is now a question of analysing the results, which are calculated for two years, and taking calm decisions for the future network. Every station can contribute to better circulation within the network.

To stay with this image, I should now like to point out a few stations which have completely or partially stopped working. There are also some which although much used, were not well maintained or managed. In each of its meetings, the Executive Board occupied itself with those members who gave cause for concern. They visited said members and spent a lot of time, energy and money on supporting weak members. In the interest of fairness, we also started bearing in mind experiences of “good practices” so that the network may learn and grow from these.

The fact that this change is taking place in a predominantly challenging environment does not make the Executive Board work any easier. The crisis, which involves and affects everyone, has also reached Caritas. It, too, must ask itself whether the lack of money and resources is only an expression of disquiet, or perhaps a symptom of a deeper, on-going crisis.

What is Caritas in current times? An aid organisation for people in need which transfers money and resources from the haves to the have-nots? Or an organisation which, out of solidarity and creativity with the needy, tries out new ways for people in difficulty to live and survive together? Is it an organisation which intervenes politically so that fair structures can enable a good life for all? Or an organisation which is concerned with the development of all humanity? Perhaps the answer lies in the interaction of the various forms which Caritas can and must assume in order to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God in its own time.

A person preaches this gospel in relation to God, to humanity and to himself. As Caritas of the Church and as “Caritas People” we are called upon to begin the path of incarnation again and again. Forgiveness and reconciliation, not guilt and the assignment of guilt, is what saves us. This good news must also be lived and attempted in our Caritas Europa.

We have learned courage to develop a network of love from the experience of the cross. Rebellion and resurrection do not only belong together semantically. “He raises up the lowly,” it says in the Magnificat. Let us give “Him” space in us and amongst us to enable his Kingdom to grow with us as Caritas and as the Church.

Report from the Secretary General

“Nothing can be hit from his eyes” - Sirah 39:19

More people experiencing poverty, more young people, more women with children, more unemployed without social benefits, more people with disabilities... are knocking at Caritas doors. 2011 has been an intensive year for Caritas: in parishes, in local projects in our home countries and in the Global South, in national Caritas organisations, in Caritas Europa and in the global Confederation of Caritas Internationalis. Volunteers and highly skilled employees have served devotedly the most needed in a time in which the news have been continuously speaking about crises; crises that most of the Caritas organisations are strongly perceiving in one way or another.



Jorge Nuño-Mayer
Secretary General

Also Caritas Europa, the network of the European Caritas organisations has been very active last year. In order to achieve concrete results for Caritas in Europe the involvement of many professionals from most member organisations has been crucial.

What has Caritas Europa achieved in 2011? Let me name a few examples.

New Strategic Framework 2011 – 2020

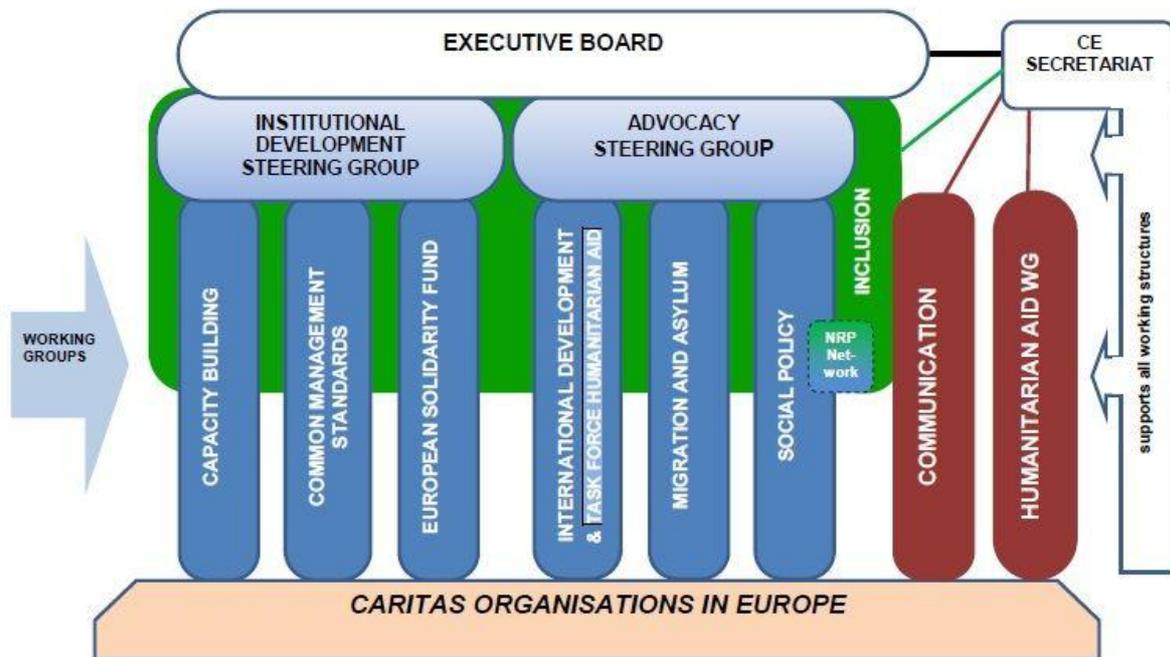
“Caritas ought to do everything in their power to provide the resources and all the personnel needed for this work.” Deus Caritas Est 31

Caritas Europa has achieved a new strategy for the coming 10 years: a defined identity, vision, mission, values and a guideline for the work that has to be done, focussing on concrete priorities functions.

- ⇒ Priority Function I: Advocacy
- ⇒ Priority Function II: Humanitarian Coordination and Learning
- ⇒ Priority Function III: Strengthening the Network

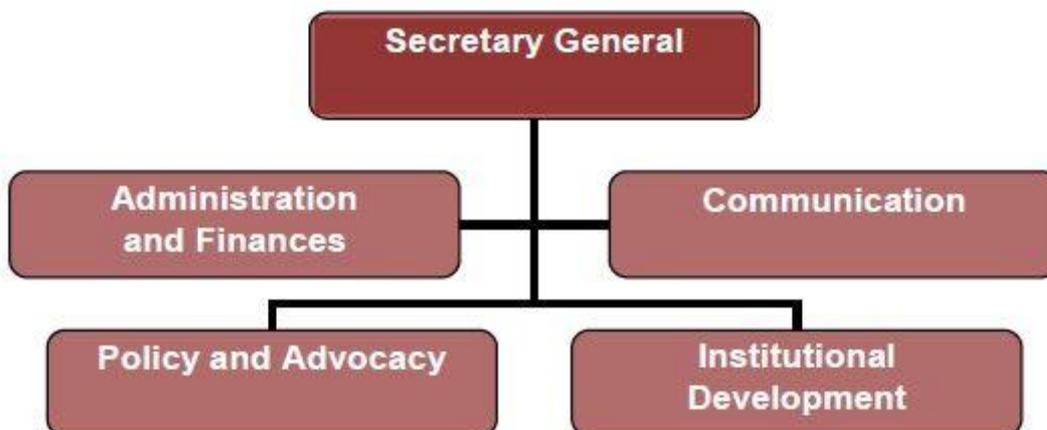
Over 400 people from 41 (out of 47) Caritas organisations participated in the strategic planning process: In the consultation phase, in the Crossroads Forum (February), Regional Conference (May) and Network Conference (October).

For its implementation during the coming two years we count now with two steering groups (Advocacy and Institutional Development) and eight working groups:



76 experts from 25 Caritas member organisations are part of working groups, the common effort to implement the new Strategic Framework 2011-2020.

The general secretariat in Brussels also counts with a new organisation structure that should facilitate the best service to the Caritas Europa network:



Achievements in Priority Function I: Advocacy

“To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity” - Caritas in Veritate 7

Caritas policy reports are being used by European Stakeholders

Caritas Europa has produced a **SHADOW REPORT ON SOCIAL POLICY** to follow up the implementation of the European target to bring 20 million people out of poverty by 2020. The main finding of this report is that EU member states are by far not doing enough to reduce poverty. After producing a methodological toolbox and offering training to Caritas experts, 16 national Caritas organisations have assessed their National Reform Programs. With these national reports a compiled report was produced and disseminated. Several Members of the European Parliament, Commissioners and high officials from the Commission have reported back that this is a useful report for them. National Caritas organisations have contacted their governments in order to achieve better social policies.

Caritas Europa (9 member organisations under the leadership of CAFOD, TRÓCAIRE and the CE secretariat) also produced a report on the **EU CONSENSUS ON HUMANITARIAN AID AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES**. This report has been broadly disseminated among the representatives of EU member States in the Council and the European Commission (DG ECHO) through bilateral meetings, roundtables, debates and conferences. The report, due to the practical implementation has allowed Caritas to gain an expertise on Humanitarian Aid among other stakeholders namely the EU Institutions. A fruitful partnership has been established with the Council of the EU Presidencies, which can allow Caritas to effectively influence the EU Humanitarian Aid policy. This initiative has also allowed Caritas Organisations to get involved and to even take the lead in certain activities related to the disseminations, thus the ownership of the report among them has grown exponentially. Moreover, the report identified a gap where other organisations were not yet focused and thus the visibility of Caritas Europa and its members has also been enhanced.

Under the request from Commissioner László Andor (Employment and Social Affairs), Caritas Europa also produced a compilation on **CARITAS BEST PRACTICES IN USING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**, highlighting significant projects on labour integration and inclusion in seven countries. This report has been used in the initial phases of shaping the new regulations for the Structural Funds 2014-2020.

Caritas is more visible and more credible in Europe

This higher visibility and credibility has been possible through the contribution to the following consultations from European institutions, gaining attention and requests from relevant stakeholders:

- ⇒ The consultation on Global Approach to Migration and the letter addressed to the Representatives of Member States to influence the upcoming (May 2012) Council Conclusions on the GAMM.
- ⇒ The consultation on free movement of workers, regarding the discrimination of intra-EU-migrants
- ⇒ The consultation on carer's leave
- ⇒ The consultation on the Humanitarian Aid Regulation

Caritas Europa is also visible producing position papers and making relevant contributions to on-going social and political processes:

- ⇒ Position from Caritas Europa regarding the European policy on the migration flow caused by the “Arab Spring” (produced at the Regional Conference 2011 in Rome)
- ⇒ Contribution (via Caritas Internationalis) to the ILO position about migration and letter to the Council of the EU
- ⇒ Position on undocumented migrants and return and reintegration
- ⇒ Contributions to the European Integration Funds, achieving changes in the selection criteria of the EIF call for proposals 2011
- ⇒ Policy Statement on Volunteering
- ⇒ Position on Food Security and in this frame of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)
- ⇒ Promotion of the Policy Coherence for Development.
- ⇒ Position and constructive shaping of the framework for future EU development policies, EU Aid and financial perspectives
- ⇒ Food for Deprived Programme of the EU, in which many national Caritas are involved at local (parish) level
- ⇒ The situation of migrant care workers
- ⇒ Awareness materials on trafficking (COATNET)

Caritas has been recognised by European institutions and Civil Society Organisations as a relevant stakeholder, organising seminars and events and participating actively in public discussions on:

- ⇒ Domestic workers
- ⇒ Care
- ⇒ Volunteering, with the highlights of a seminar in Freiburg and a major festival in Strasbourg, with the participation in both events of nearly 30 European Caritas organisations
- ⇒ Child poverty
- ⇒ Food for Deprived
- ⇒ European Development Days
- ⇒ Humanitarian Aid (ECHO conference and presentation of the a.m. report)
- ⇒ Human Rights for people in poverty (Council of Europe)
- ⇒ State Aid Rules

Caritas organisations are more aware of the need to advocate

The reports and position papers produced at European level, together with trainings and seminars on different topics have facilitated to Caritas organisations the access and dialogue with their national governments.

The trans regional conference held in Satu Mare (Romania), with the participation of people in poverty and Caritas organisations from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine, achieved not only the involvement of national authorities, but also of local politicians.

Achievements in Priority Function II: Humanitarian Coordination and Learning

“Charity is first of all the simple response to immediate need and specific situations.” - Deus Caritas Est 31

- **Caritas Europa gave a coordinated support to Caritas Turkey**

On 23 October 2011 an earthquake of 7.2 magnitude hit the Van region in Turkey. Caritas Turkey was immediately active on the scene. The Caritas Europa Secretariat has ensured is well coordinated within Europe and within the Caritas Internationalis Confederation. An emergency appeal was prepared by Caritas Turkey with the support of the Secretariat on behalf of Caritas Internationalis. Caritas Internationalis launched the appeal that attracted sufficient funding and has proven to be an appropriate response to the identified needs. Caritas from Italy, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Belgium, France, Spain plus Caritas Japan and Caritas Puerto Rico contributed to an initial appeal with € 320.000. The coordination work on this emergency is still on-going in 2012.

An agreement has been reached between Caritas Turkey and Caritas Europa to facilitate the process of a contingency plan for an eventual major emergency in the Istanbul area. Caritas from Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and Spain are contributing to this process. All participating Caritas are aware and willing to engage in a constructive dialogue and work in partnership to develop such a plan in detail.

- **Caritas is prepared for emergencies in South-East Europe**

The South Eastern Europe Caritas Emergency Group (Caritas from Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo...), with the support of the Caritas Europa secretariat, is increasing its capacities (through experience exchange and training) to respond to emergencies on a national and interregional level. Caritas organisations in the region collaborate more actively together in joint projects, such as the “common disaster risk reduction project” and the consolidated appeal for the winter emergency (2012).

- **Caritas improves the internal information sharing and coordination with ECHO (EU Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid)**

Achievements in Priority Function III: Strengthening the Network

“so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other” - 1 Co 12:25

A more cohesioned Network...

...through common projects

During the **European Year on Volunteering 2011** many initiatives took place. A thematic working group with the participation of 10 Caritas organisation, under the lead of Caritas Belgium and Secours Catholique and with the support of the Caritas Europa secretariat ensured a common understanding and positioning on “volunteering” in our network. A global symposium organised by Caritas Germany in Freiburg gave the possibility to nearly 30 European Caritas organisations of discussing the Caritas volunteering praxis in parishes and projects. Secours Catholique organised with the support of Caritas Europa in Strasbourg a public event with more than 500 participants, giving Caritas high visibility at European institutions. Based on these experiences, two publications on volunteering will be launched in 2012.

...through information

Caritas Europa has updated its web page. A regular newsletter has been launched: this newsletter, with information from Caritas organisations; from Caritas Europa and Caritas Internationalis, from the European policies, reaches nearly 1,000 key people and stakeholders.

MIGRAMED, under the leadership of Caritas Italiana, continues ensuring an information platform for Caritas organisations around the Mediterranean Sea.

...through capacity building

The Caritas Europa Summer University enhanced the skills of 36 experts from 18 member organisations on the European Social Model and Project Cycle Management. Other trainings on Common Management Standards and National Reform Programmes have fostered the capacities of professionals in the Caritas Europa network.

...and mutual support

The Caritas European Solidarity Fund (ESF) has, yet another year, shown expression of solidarity between Caritas organisations in Europe: € 436.500, pledged by 11 Caritas organisations supported the basic functioning of 20 Caritas organisations. The ESF started in 2011 an in-depth

evaluation with a seminar in Bucharest and external evaluators engaged with this task. It is expected that during 2012 Caritas Europa can achieve a new internal solidarity system.

The Common Management Standards peer-to-peer system has allowed 20 Caritas organisations to work together and learn from each other. Consultants from the Caritas network have been trained to support those Caritas who demand specific help. All Caritas organisations who have not ratified these standards yet are invited to join.

Caritas Georgia has suffered during 2011 a difficult situation and process. Caritas Europa set up a process to support Caritas Georgia, with the professional and financial support of Caritas Internationalis and Caritas from Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Germany and France.

INCLUSION

Last but not least: Caritas Europa was able to, yet another year, participate in the European Programme PROGRESS with its project INCLUSION. Many of the above presented achievements in advocacy and capacity building wouldn't have been possible without this major grant.

Challenges for Caritas Europa in the next years

PARTICIPATION: The European dimension of Caritas' service to the poor is more and more important. The contribution from all Caritas of our network is of paramount importance to achieve results. We need a higher participation in working groups, in fora, in projects and actions related to the three priorities: advocacy, humanitarian coordination and learning, strengthening the network.

IMPROVED COORDINATION: in the three priorities, at European, national and global level.

OUTCOME ORIENTED AND FOCUSED: Caritas Europa needs to be more realistic in planning and implementation, starting to define better what outcome has to be achieved. More focussed interventions will allow stronger results.

ACCOMPANYING MEMBER ORGANISATIONS: Several Caritas organisations are already suffering or will suffer difficult institutional and/or financial situations. Caritas needs to develop an accompanying attitude with these member organisations.

“In all humility we will do what we can, and in all humility we will entrust the rest to the Lord,” - Deus Caritas Est 34

Report of the Treasurer

Considering the balance sheet on 31 December 2011, the report of the internal auditors for the year 2011 and the report of the external auditor for the year 2011, it is possible to state that the general economic situation of Caritas Europa is stable.



Paolo Beccegato
Treasurer

Accounts 2011

The accounts of 2011 show a total of € 1.086.204 as compared with a total of € 1.015.411 on 31 December 2010.

Core budget gross expenses:	€ 1.229.729,-
<u>Strategic plan budget gross expenses:</u>	<u>€ 384.102,-</u>
Total expenses Caritas Europa in 2011	€ 1.613.831,-
Actual income obtained from membership fees	€ 1.163.135,-
Income from EU (core)*	€ 320.433,-
Income for strategic plan programmes*	€ 241.687,-
<u>Financial and miscellaneous incomes</u>	<u>€ 8.650,-</u>
Total Income Caritas Europa in 2011	€ 1.733.905,-

* The European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, PROGRESS, (2007-2013) contributed in the frame of the Caritas Europa project INCLUSION, to these incomes with € 492.690,70

Considering the application of results from previous years, the provisions for social liabilities and for future risks, the surplus for the year 2011 to be transferred to the general reserves of Caritas Europa amounts to € 35.193.



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Caritas Europa, the network of Caritas organisations in Europe, has a heartfelt commitment to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion; and to promote true integral human development, social justice and sustainable social systems in Europe and throughout the world.

Caritas Europa, le réseau des organisations Caritas en Europe, a, au fond du cœur, l'engagement d'analyser et de lutter contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale et de promouvoir un développement humain vrai et intégral, la justice sociale et des systèmes sociaux durables en Europe et à travers le monde.

Mit Zuwendung des Herzens, engagiert sich Caritas Europa, das Netzwerk der Caritas Organisationen in Europa, für die Analyse und Bekämpfung von Armut und sozialer Ausgrenzung und für die Förderung einer wahren und ganzheitlichen, menschlichen Entwicklung sowie sozialer Gerechtigkeit und nachhaltiger Sozialsysteme in Europa und auf der ganzen Welt.

