

# THE EUROPEAN CHARISMATIC CONSULTATION ECC

## European Historical Overview, 1972-2002

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### Context

Ecumenical European meetings on charismatic renewal began in 1972. In this document 0468uk you find an overview till 2002. In short: In Europe, the first ecumenical European Charismatic Leaders Conference was held at Schloss Craheim in Germany in 1972. The first pan-European Charismatic Congress, Strasbourg 1982 with over 20,000 participants, "Pentecost over Europe", was the vision of Thomas Roberts; in 1986 in Birmingham, England, the pan-European Congress ACTS'86 was organized by the Birmingham committee. From these events the leaders came together and developed into the European Charismatic Consultation (ECC) in 1988. In 1990, over 3,500 leaders gathered together in Bern for the European Charismatic Leaders Congress, Jesus, Hope for Europe", where East met West in a new way after the fall of communism with over 1700 participants from Eastern Europe organized by ECC. Since 2003, ECC was fully integrated into International Charismatic Consultation (ICC).

Parallel in 1983 started the European meetings on charismatic renewal in the Roman Catholic Church. In document [0449uk](#) you find a historical overview of the meetings of the Catholic Charismatic National Service Committees and National Contacts in Europe in 1983-2019. Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins served both in the Ecumenical as well as the Catholic network.

Studying the history of the charismatic renewal is helpful to keep the original objectives in mind. Pope Francis mentioned several times the 'ecumenical birth' and ecumenical calling of the Catholic charismatic renewal. Ecumenism is one of the three major goals in the statutes of CHARIS 2019 (statutes: [0440uk](#); What the Pope and the Church expect: [0458uk](#); prof. Etienne Vetö on CHARIS and ecumenism: [0459uk](#)).

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## Introducing ECC 1988-2002

### The European Charismatic Consultation

#### Planting seeds

In the springtime of the Renewal, David du Plessis and Rodman Williams visited various charismatic groups in Europe. They invited many leaders from different traditions (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Pentecostal) to meet each other. It was at Schloss Craheim, Germany in 1972 that this **first ecumenical European Charismatic Leaders' Conference** took place, and the initiative gave rise to regular conferences on the European level –

which were held in several countries including France, Belgium (at the invitation of Cardinal Suenens), Switzerland and Northern Ireland. There was no permanent leadership structure. The host country became responsible for organizing the conference and its program.

#### Europeans meet together

During the conferences in Belgium, Thomas Roberts submitted his vision for a **Pan-European Charismatic Congress, "Pentecost over Europe"**. So, in **1982**, at Pentecost,

20,000 Christians from various traditions and cultures gathered in Strasbourg from many countries of Europe. It was here that many felt a renewed awareness of the scandal of the divisions in the Church, and Jesus prayer “May they be one ... that the world may believe ...” This was followed in **1986** by another **Pan-European Charismatic Congress (ACTS '86)**, held in Birmingham, England. About 8,000 attended.

### **Taking shape**

In Berlin in **1988** the European Charismatic Leader’s Conference and the ACTS '86 committee were merged, under the name of the **European Charismatic Consultation (ECC)**. At the meeting in Berlin, 150 participants from 18 countries elected a steering committee of 12 members from 8 countries: it had Swiss Reformed Pastor Marcel Dietler and Catholic Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins from Germany as its co-chairmen.

### **An unexpected opening**

One of the first tasks of the ECC was to convene the third **Pan-European charismatic Congress in Bern, Switzerland in 1990** under the theme “**Jesus Hope for Europe**”. It was especially for leaders in the Charismatic Renewal and not a general congress as the previous two had been. Around 3,500 leaders attended.

The collapse of Eastern Europe’s borders had a major impact on who was able to eventually come to Bern. The numbers from Eastern Europe rose from the expected few hundred to over 1700. It became a graphic example of how the Holy Spirit was moving across the Continent: for many from the East it was a first encounter with such an ecumenical event. About 50% of participants were Catholic and 50 % non-Catholic, and about half were under 35.

### **The ECC matures**

After Bern, the **ECC was re-structured in 1991** at a meeting in **Belgium** to take into account the new political realities, Pastor Marcel Dietler stepped down, and his place was taken by Pentecostal Pastor Peter Dippl from Berlin. There is now **an executive committee** co-chaired by Peter Dippl and Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins, and **a Council** of some 75 leaders, which meets every two years. Every three years or so a major consultation is convened, to which up to 400 people are invited. The geographical locations of the Councils and Consultations have moved more towards the East in the last years to encourage the new freedom given to those from Eastern Europe and also to enable the “Westerners” to learn more readily from the “Easterners”. This geographical factor has helped prevent the image of the West having all the assets and begun to make known the maturity of those who have been through trials and tribulations unknown to most Westerners.

At the **1993 Council meeting in Budapest** a whole day was given to a meeting with a leader from the Eastern Orthodox Church who was conversant with western Christianity and Evangelical mission issues, and was able to give us an Orthodox perspective of the charismata, and receive many questions on the general teaching of the Orthodox Church.

At the **1995 Council meeting in Vienna**, three very different and difficult themes were presented and discussed: the Toronto Blessing, Working Together, and Church Planting / Community Building. Also, the beginning of a new program of “Generation to Generation” was launched.

### **Generation to Generation**

This is **a new program for young leaders**, introduced in Vienna in 1995. The ECC has

been looking for ways to help prepare young European leaders and the youth of the various churches and ecclesial communities to continue to respond to the call of Unity in Christ, Evangelization and Renewal. The following activities have taken place in 1996: ECC Young Leaders' meeting in Berlin, September -- 1997, 2002: ECC Young Leaders' sessions in conjunction with Prague '97 and 2000 – Another ECC Young Leader's meeting in Sweden, January in 2001.

### **Collaboration**

The **Prague '97 Consultation/Conference** for leaders was held under the theme of **“Breaking Down Barriers and Building Bridges”**. It was sponsored jointly by ECC and International Charismatic Consultation for World Evangelization (ICCOWE). It was described as “historic” and “a watershed” by Roman Catholic theologian, Fr. Kilian Mc Donnell. Over 300 Christian leaders attended from Eastern and Western Europe with another 30 joining them from other parts of the world. Also running parallel to the plenary meeting was a theological consultation attended by 70 theologians.

The **Prague 2000 Conference/Consultation “Celebrate Jesus 2000”** was again a jointly sponsored event by ECC and ICCOWE. ECC prepared the conference program and participants were invited to “Celebrate Jesus” with the focus on the Incarnation of Christ – His birth 2000 years ago. There were about 260 participants from 30 countries, mostly European, including 11 Eastern European countries with about twenty coming from Moscow. The theological consultation was sponsored by ICCOWE with about 70 theologians. There were about 60 Orthodox, 70 Catholic and 95 Protestant and 35 Pentecostal/Non-denominational participants.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**The ECC celebrated in 2002 the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the European Pentecostal/Charismatic renewal at a Prayer Summit in Rome** - whether pan-European Charismatic congresses, consultations or other various gatherings the goal has always remained the same - sharing and promoting the baptism in the Holy Spirit, this experience of a personal Pentecost. God has used the ECC to draw together those in the Charismatic renewal - especially its leaders from the different churches and ecclesial communities – from every part of the continent of Europe. This has been done under the call of God with three aims in mind:

1. To encourage the continued renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and through His charisms.
2. To foster the recognition that we are brothers and sisters in Christ and, as far as possible, to enable the Body of Christ to function as one body.
3. To encourage evangelization so that every individual might get a series of opportunities to respond to Christ at a personal level and every society might be challenged by and infused with the Gospel.

During this gathering, Pentecostal Pastor Peter Dippl stepped down after 12 years as co-chairman but will continue the executive committee. He is succeeded by Pentecostal Pastor Olaf Franke of Berlin, who has been coordinating the “Generation to Generation” project. Catholic co-chairman Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins was reconfirmed.

There have been numerous times when the work of the **ECC has been a prophetic symbol** of what God has been saying to his Church in Europe. During this Prayer Summit, the ECC Council and specially invited guests, sought

the Lord united in prayer to understand more fully how **we can respond in this new day, needing new approaches and a fresh anointing from God.** – In 2003 ECC was fully incorporated into the International Charismatic Consultation which began in the

**mid-eighties. ICC is under the chairmanship of Charles Whitehead.**

**Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins,**  
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More from Kim Kollins on [www.stucom.nl](http://www.stucom.nl):

[0469uk](#) *Our journey together* - A Personal Journal - Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins On Ecumenism and Charismatic Renewal in the first decade of the new millennium

[0449uk](#) Overview of the *meetings of the Catholic Charismatic National Service Committees and National Contacts in Europe* in 1983-2019.

[0226uk](#) *Toward Unity – Ecumenism after Augsburg 1999* - Kim Kollins - A contribution in Leaders Conference, May 11th, Stuttgart 2007. On desire for the unity of Christians during the last centuries.

[0210](#) Acht redenen voor tongentaal - Artikel van K. Slijkerman en J. van Beeck ofm, op basis van een tekst van Kim Kollins

This is document 0468uk on [www.stucom.nl](http://www.stucom.nl)