



EURODIACONIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE 2010

*“Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 31 May - 2 June 2010*

*March 2010
AGM and Conference Mailing Number 1*

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am delighted to send you this first information letter about the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Conference. These important events will be held from 31 May – 2 June 2010 in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, hosted by Eurodiaconia member CrossReach.

Location

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland is situated on Scotland's East Coast on the south side of the Firth OF Forth. Home of the Scottish parliament, Edinburgh is enriched with culture, fine architecture and hosts of one of the most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom, The University of Edinburgh. The most well known attractions are Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, the Holyrood Palace and The National Gallery of Scotland. With a population of 435,790 in 2005, Edinburgh is Scotland's second largest city after Glasgow. Edinburgh is a very good base for exploring Scotland and we hope that members may take that opportunity after the close of the AGM.

Programme

Attached to this letter you will find a draft programme for our meeting and conference and you will see that we are anticipating an active, participatory and relevant time together with a focus on poverty and social exclusion. The first day of the AGM will focus on reporting and other statutory business. Day two will be a full day conference on Poverty and Social Exclusion, marking the European Year, and held in conjunction with CrossReach and the Scottish Churches Network on Social Inclusion. The conference will include speakers from Scotland and the rest of Europe, an interactive panel and 7 workshops on various aspects of poverty and social exclusion. Delegates will join us from various churches and civil society groups throughout Scotland. The third day will be an opportunity to visit several diaconal projects run by Crossreach in the Edinburgh area and these will be followed by exchange workshops on the issues raised by the visits. We will also have the opportunity to be hosted for a reception by Linda Fabiani, Member of the Scottish Parliament and on another evening experience a traditional Scottish Ceildh. There will also be an opportunity for members to display materials at this AGM.

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Eurodiaconia is supported under the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission.



Meeting of the Eurodiaconia Roma Network

In order to encourage participation and to reduce costs for members, the second meeting of the Eurodiaconia Roma Network will take place on Thursday 3 June in Edinburgh. We hope that many members will want to attend and will extend their stay until the 3rd so as to participate. Further information on this meeting will be sent in a separate mailing.

Languages

Following assessment of the last AGM the Supervisory Board have discussed the issue of interpretation. Due to the high cost of interpretation and the low use of the facility at previous AGM's it has been decided that interpretation will not be available at this AGM in a formal way. However, it is recognized that some members will need assistance with language in order to facilitate their participation. Therefore, Eurodiaconia will provide support to members who need such language assistance to bring an extra delegate who will assist another delegate with language. Eg, if the delegate from Country X only speaks language X, not English, then we will provide support for a second delegate to come who can translate from language X to English and vice versa. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this idea further and indicate on your registration form that you need such assistance.

Travel

Please note from the Programme that we will start at 12.00 on the 31 May – therefore you may arrange your travel to arrive on Monday Morning. We will have a full programme until 4 pm on the 2 June so please bear this in mind when planning your return travel. The most accessible airport is Edinburgh Airport. Connections from Edinburgh Airport to the city centre are by taxi or by public bus. Full details of the airport and connections can be found here: <http://www.edinburghairport.com> It is also possible to travel to both Glasgow Airport and Glasgow Prestwick Airports but you must allow around two hours getting from these airports to Edinburgh on public transport. However, good rail and bus services link Glasgow and Edinburgh so it is fairly easy to make the connection. Please consider your carbon footprint when making your travel arrangements.

Venue and Accommodation

The Annual General Meeting and Conference will take place at the South Hall Conference Complex at the University of Edinburgh, located within the Pollock Halls of Residence at the University of Edinburgh. The complex is situated within easy reach of the city centre. All sessions will be held in the same venue. Accommodation will also be available at the university within 5 minutes walk of the conference centre. The conference and accommodation complex also has various services such as café and small shop. Further details on the accommodation and venue can be found here <http://www.edinburghfirst.com/venues/southhallcomplex.asp>

Booking Accommodation

Delegates must book their own accommodation directly with the University of Edinburgh. The Eurodiaconia secretariat will not book accommodation for any delegates. Accommodation will be in Study bedrooms in Chancellors Court Student halls of residence next to the conference venue - <http://www.edinburghfirst.com/accommodation/roomspecifications.asp> . However, the rooms are all en suite and comfortable. Bookings should be made directly with Edinburgh First, the conference business of Edinburgh University by phoning 0131 651 2007 and mention that you are booking for the CROSSREACH event. You will be able to book accommodation immediately and pay at the time of booking by Credit or Debit Card. If you have any problems with this then please contact



the secretariat immediately and we can assist you. If you are requesting financial support for your accommodation please do not book anything before you receive confirmation of your support from the secretariat. The available accommodation is at a room rate of £57.50 per person, per night for a single room. Some twin rooms may be available.

The University complex also has a small town house hotel – Salisbury Green – which may also have accommodation available although it is very limited. Prices range from £74 - £104 per night. We strongly encourage delegates to use the proposed accommodation however if delegates do not wish to use either of these options then it is up to delegates to search for alternatives. Please note that Eurodiaconia will only provide for accommodation up to the value of £57.50 per person per night.

Financial Support

Under the PROGRESS funding we will be in a position to make a small number of grants to delegates from Member Organizations to support their attendance. If you would like to be considered for such a grant please tick the appropriate box on the registration form. **Please note that only a small number of grants will be available and there should be no assumption of a grant being given until you have received a confirmation letter from the Eurodiaconia secretariat. If no such confirmation is given then the costs of attending the conference and AGM are the responsibility of each delegate and his/her Association.**

Fee

The fee for this event is **170 Euro per person** and on receipt of your registration form an invoice will be issued for this amount for each of your Associations delegates. The participation fee must be paid **BEFORE** the conference opens and failure to pay may affect your participation in the conference. Please assist our financial situation by paying the conference fee as soon as possible. Please also note that accommodation costs are to be paid directly to the venue and not to Eurodiaconia.

Registration

Please find enclosed four forms. If you intend to attend the conference and AGM please complete the registration form and return it to the Eurodiaconia secretariat by 1 May. Please be sure to indicate which days you plan to attend the conference and AGM. If you are attending, please also complete the travel information form as soon as possible and also return this to the Eurodiaconia secretariat. If your organization DOES NOT plan to attend the Conference and AGM please complete the Notification of Non-Attendance Form and also return this to the secretariat – however, we hope that we will receive none of these forms and that all our members will be in attendance! As many members of your Organisation may attend as you wish and we encourage each member organisation to send more than one member. However, for the Business/Voting sessions of the meeting, each member will need to identify one delegate who has the mandate of the Member Organisation when voting on the business of Eurodiaconia. A form to identify the mandated person is included in this booking pack. If any partners or others wish to join the meeting in anyway then the registration fee must also be paid and the person registered as a delegate to the conference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



With my best regards

Heather Roy
Secretary General
Eurodiaconia