



AGM Mailing Number 1
1 March 2016



EURODIACONIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Utrecht, Netherlands 8 – 10 June 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am delighted to send you this first information and registration letter about the 2016 Annual General Meeting. This year, it will be held from **8 – 10 June 2016** and will be hosted by our member Kerk in Actie **in Utrecht (NL)**.

2016 is a very special year for Eurodiaconia as we mark 20 years of the establishment of Eurodiaconia following the merger of the European Federation for Diaconia and Eurodiaconia. The last 20 years has seen many changes in our network with some challenges but many more opportunities. Our membership has grown significantly and continues to grow. We have multiple partnerships in both the ecumenical and social NGO's and our relationships within the European institutions continue to be fruitful. Eurodiaconia has been lucky to experience a hospitable culture for our work both from partners but also from the members who have been so engaged and committed to the network.

That is why, at this AGM, we want to celebrate the past 20 years and consider the next 20 years and beyond but we wish to do so by considering the nature and experience of hospitality in Diaconia and Europe today. That may involve new ways of working, new organisations, new theological thinking and new partnerships.

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Hospitality has been on the minds of many as we have seen the increasing number of people come to Europe for refuge over the past year and our theological and ideological notions of hospitality have both been encouraged and challenged. Yet hospitality goes beyond welcoming the migrant

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and refugee. Hospitality is also about how we relate to each other in our local communities. Are we hospitable to the Roma community and other minorities? Are we hospitable to those who live daily with mental health challenges? Are we hospitable to those who experience poverty? Jesus Christ expressed His gift of hospitality with those who were refused entry into the world and homes of the leaders of his time? Can the same be said today? Jesus demonstrated His hospitality by meeting people where they were, usually in the margins, the gutters, of society. Do we do the same today?

At this AGM we will have the opportunity to explore different notions of hospitality and how they challenge or complement our diaconal actions. We will do this while considering what the next twenty years will bring Eurodiaconia by discussing our future strategy. We will also celebrate the 20 years we have had of working together to put our faith in social action.

In this, our 20th year, all members are strongly encouraged to attend this AGM and send at least one, but preferably more, delegates.

Programme

Attached to this letter you will find a draft programme and agenda for the AGM. The three-day meeting will be a unique opportunity to hear keynote speakers, exchange best practice, engage in political debate, visit projects across the Netherlands, participate in discussions about the strategic future of Eurodiaconia and share in the effective governance of our network.

Business Session

The Business Session will be held on the morning of the 9 June. However, a second business session will be held on the 10 June to elect members to the Supervisory Board. The call for nominations has been circulated separately to members.

Keynote Speakers

We are delighted to be able to announce three keynote speakers at this year's AGM:

Wednesday: **Dick Couvée** is the leader of the diaconal centre [St Pauls Church in Rotterdam](#) which is very engaged in working with the most marginalized in the city

Thursday (tbc): **Professor Dr. Johannes Eurich**, is Director of Diakonie Scientific Institute of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Heidelberg and Professor of Practical Theology/Diakoniewissenschaft.

Friday: **Dennis de Jong** (1955) is a member of the European Parliament since July 14, 2009. On behalf of the Dutch Socialist Party (SP) Mr. De Jong is part of the European United Left / Nordic Green Left European parliamentary group. He is a member of the European Parliament



Committees Internal Market and Consumer Protection and budgetary control. Mr. De Jong received his doctorate in 2000 with a thesis on freedom of religion and belief. He has previously worked for the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs, particularly in the areas of human rights and good governance. He has extensive diplomatic experience and has also worked for the European Commission. In 2009 and 2014 he was leader of the Socialist Party in the European elections. He is a member of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands and has supported Eurodiaconia on many occasions in the European Parliament.

Study Visits and work shops

Study visits to Dutch projects will take place on the Wednesday afternoon and workshops will take place on the Thursday afternoon. These are key parts of the programme. The full list of workshops and study visits will be sent to members as soon as it is available.

Languages

The meeting will be held in English. As in previous AGMs, due to the high cost interpretation will not be available 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. E.g., 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 the General Secretariat 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 the AGM will commence at 8.30 am on Wednesday the 8th of June– we therefore ask you to arrange your travel so you arrive on Tuesday evening. We will have a full programme until 13.00 pm on the 10 June. It is very important that delegates stay until the end of the meeting so please bear this in mind when planning your return travel.

Venue

The AGM will be hosted at the headquarters of Kerk in Actie in Utrecht. This building also holds the headquarters of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands and ICCO. It is very well situation for an event such as our AGM and we are grateful to KIA for putting their facilities at our disposal.

Address



Joseph Haydnlaan 2a, 3533 AE Utrecht (The Netherlands)

Tel: +31 30 6927811

<https://www.kerkinactie.nl/>



Accommodation

Booking accommodation is the responsibility of individual delegates. Eurodiaconia will not book accommodation for any delegates unless there is a very specific reason for doing so.

The closest hotel to the AGM venue is the Hotel IBIS which can be found approximately 5 – 10 minutes walk away at Bizetlaan 3533, KC Utrecht (NL)Bizetlaan.

We would recommend you use this hotel due to its very close location and reasonable price. The staff and Board of Eurodiaconia will be staying there. Bookings can be made online at this [address](#) or using any other travel booking system such as [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)

Unfortunately, we have not been able to reserve a block booking of rooms or negotiate a special rate with this hotel so we strongly urge delegates to reserve their room as soon as possible.

If you wish to stay nearer the city centre and travel either by taxi or public transport to the KIA building you may wish to consider the following hotels as recommended by KIA:



- [NH Hotel Utrecht](#)
- [Park Plaza Utrecht Hotel](#)
- [Apollo Hotel Utrecht](#)

If you are going to request support for accommodation costs from Eurodiaconia please do not book any hotels until your request for support has been approved.

Registration

Registration must be done using an online form which can be found at <http://bit.ly/1QKMMxZ>

Please register as soon as possible!

Conference Fee

The Conference fee will be 200 Euros. This fee includes all AGM materials, documents and meals as specified. Invoices for the fee will be sent to all registered delegates. **If following registration a delegate cancels participation for any reason less than two weeks before the AGM the conference fee will still apply and must still be paid.**

Financial Support

Thanks to our European Commission funding we will be in a position to make a number of grants to delegates from Member Organizations to support their attendance. In line with our policy this will mainly be for members in central and Eastern Europe or from minority church backgrounds. If you would like to be considered for such support, please indicate this 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 AGM are the responsibility of each delegate and his/her association. We would also like to encourage all delegates to contribute something towards the costs and encourage that this be the participation fee.

Questions



If you have any questions concerning the practical organisation of the AGM, requests for financial support or any other question please do not hesitate to contact Nicolas Derobert nicolas.derobert@eurodiaconia.org and Antonio La Mantia antonio.lamantia@eurodiaconia.org

Reminder

WHAT: 2016 Annual General Meeting

WHEN: 8-10 June 2016

WHERE: Joseph Haydnlaan 2a, 3533 AE Utrecht (NL)

HOW: <http://bit.ly/1QKMMxZ>

With my best regards,

Heather Roy

Secretary General - Eurodiaconia



	Tuesday 7 June	Wednesday 8 June	Thursday 9 June	Friday 10 June
Arrivals		08:30 Registration and Opening service of dedication Led by PKN synod moderator Karin van den Broeke	08:30 Morning Prayer and energizer (member of Eurodiaconia)	08:30 Morning Prayer and energizer (member of Eurodiaconia)
		09:00 Presentation of KIA	09:00 AGM Business session	09:00 Elections
		09:15 Looking at The Netherlands – Rev. Dick Couvée (confirmed)		
		10:00 Discussion groups Coffee break		10:00 Dennis de Jong MEP (confirmed) Other speakers/panelists to be confirmed
		11:00 Feedback and comments from Working Groups	11:00 coffee break	11:00 coffee break
		11:30 Lunch	11:30 Looking at Europe – Prof Johannes Ulrich (tbc)	12:00 AGM Closing
		13:00 Lunch	13:00 Lunch	13:00 Departures
		14:00 Study Visits	14:30 1st round of Workshops	
			16:00 coffee break	
		16:30 2nd round of Workshops End of workshops: 17:15		
	17:30 End of day	17:30 20th Anniversary Reception		





		19:30	Bring and share dinner	19:00	AGM Dinner	
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Please note that with the exception of start and end of day times, and evening programmes, the timings of various sessions are subject to change.