AGM Mailing Number 1
19 January 2017

EURODIACONIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
Oslo, Norway, 20 – 22 June 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am delighted to send you this first information and registration letter about the 2017 Annual General Meeting. This year, it will be held from 20 – 22 June and will be hosted by our members Diakonhjemmet and Church City Mission Oslo.

Programme
Attached to this letter you will find a draft programme and agenda for the AGM. The two and a half day meeting will be a unique opportunity to hear keynote speakers, exchange best practice, engage in political debate, see diaconal work in Norway, participate in discussions about the strategic future of Eurodiaconia and share in the effective governance of our network.

This year's AGM will be built around our concerns about the increasing precariousness and polarisation in our societies. Precariousness comes in many forms – precarious work, precarious finances for our social systems, precarious human and social rights and precarious identities, values and attitudes. The resulting social risks are increasing and becoming more complex and require innovative and intricate solutions. We are also seeing more polarisation in our societies, specific groups being seen as ‘burdens to the state’, increasing hate speech and politics that is going further to the extremes in our societies and will and is having an impact on social work and social justice generally. Ultimately, many of our members are concerned that our social fabric is being weakened, ripped and challenged as a result of such precarity and polarisation.

What is the role of Diaconia against this backdrop? How can Diaconia help to rebuild, repair or strengthen our social fabric? What is our role in debating the shape of our societies in the future? What is our role in rejecting damaging, polarising discourse? Is Diaconia part of the glue that can hold our societies more strongly together? How does our Christian identity, our engagement in systemic political change and our day to day praxis strengthen the common good? We hope that throughout the AGM we will consider these questions and many more.
Building on feedback from members, and experience in previous years, we are reshaping the AGM slightly this year. We know that for many the richness of the AGM is in the exchange with other members, presenting actions, discussing challenges, sharing news and building networks. At the same time, we know that there is also the need to go deeper into some topics and have more time than a 90 minute workshop provides. We also know that the business session, while essential for the good governance of the association may not be the most interesting part of the event for everyone. Therefore, in 2017 we are trying out an event in two parts. The first two days will be more conference-like with workshops, seminars, exchange sessions and other innovative programmes. This will be very much member led with opportunities for members to lead and run sessions. We hope to offer some in-depth seminars across a minimum of half a day on topics such as Health Care and Diaconia and the Reformation and Diaconia alongside member led workshops and exchange opportunities. Areas of praxis, advocacy and identity will be covered across these two days and each day will also include a keynote speaker, setting the scene and bringing both theological and other inputs into the discussions.

We hope that the more conference like structure of the first two days will make the AGM accessible for a wider number of people coming from our network. We would strongly encourage members to take advantage of this ‘prototype European Diaconia Conference’ and send many participants! A call for contributions to the programme will be sent out towards the end of February and a final programme should be confirmed by the end of March.

The final day will be devoted to the business of the Association in the traditional AGM format. This will include approving accounts and work of the previous year, electing board members and perhaps most significantly, agreeing our strategic orientation and plan for the coming years. Whereas all member delegates at the AGM are welcome to attend the business session we recognise that time is very precious for all. Therefore we ask that a minimum of one person attends the business session per member – but additional delegates from the previous two days may choose not to attend the business session and to travel home on Friday morning. I would stress however that one representative per member should be physically present at the business session until its conclusion at 12.30.

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 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 Tuesday 20th June - we therefore ask you to arrange your travel so you arrive on Monday evening. It is likely that there will be a welcoming reception on Monday evening at Diakonhjemmet. If you are staying for the business session than you should not plan to leave Diakonhjemmet until the end of the business session at 12.30 on the 22nd June.

**Venue**
The AGM will be hosted at Diakonhjemmet which is situated very close to a metro station in Oslo. The campus consists of a university, hospital, administration and housing. We are very thankful to Diakonhjemmet for putting their facilities and their hospitality at our disposal. Church City Mission Oslo will be contributing to the hosting of this AGM and we will have the possibility to visit one of their buildings during the AGM for one of our sessions.

**Address**
Diakonhjemmet
Diakonveien 14, Oslo
https://www.diakonhjemmet.no/en/

You can also read about Church City Mission Oslo on their website http://www.bymisjon.no/

**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.

There are no hotels in the immediate vicinity of Diakonhjemmet. However our hosts have suggested these hotels as being of good quality, reasonably priced and located near to a central metro station.

P-hotels Oslo  http://p-hotels.no/
Thon Hotels Oslo  https://www.thonhotels.com/

Unfortunately, we have not been able to reserve a block booking of rooms or negotiate a special rate with specific hotels on this occasion. You can also look for other options on www.hotel.com
If you are going to request support for accommodation costs from Eurodiaconia it is proposed that you book and pay for accommodation yourself and that this will be reimbursed to you on the presentation of receipts. Eurodiaconia will advise those requesting such support of the maximum amount per night that will be refunded.

**Registration**
Registration must be done using an online form which can be found at https://goo.gl/forms/yT2PDOMmP727NDes1
Please register as soon as possible!

**Conference Fee**
The Conference fee will be 220 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 Sharon.Levrez@eurodiaconia.org

With my best regards,

Heather Roy
Secretary General
Eurodiaconia
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<td>08:00</td>
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<td>workshops, seminars and best practice sharing</td>
<td>14:00 study visits</td>
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**Monday 19 June**
- 08:00 registration open
- 08:30 opening service of dedication
- 09:00 Welcome, Keynote speaker, Presentation of programme, First sessions of workshops and seminars
- 12:30 lunch
- 14:00 workshops, seminars and best practice sharing
- 19:30 Social evening including dinner hosted by Church City Mission Oslo

**Tuesday 20 June**
- 08:30 Morning Prayer and energizer
- 09:00 Keynote speakers specialised seminars, member café, workshops
- 12:30 lunch
- 14:00 study visits

**Wednesday 21 June**
- 08:30 Morning Prayer and energizer
- 09:00 AGM Business Session
- 12:30 AGM Closing
- 13:00 Departures

**Thursday 22 June**
- 16:00 AGM Business Session
- 17:30 End of day
- 19:30 Social evening including dinner hosted by Diakonhjemmet