

**WELCOME TO BRUSSELS**  
**for the 2022 Eurodiaconia Conference and  
Annual General Meeting**

*Diaconia at the Heart of Europe*

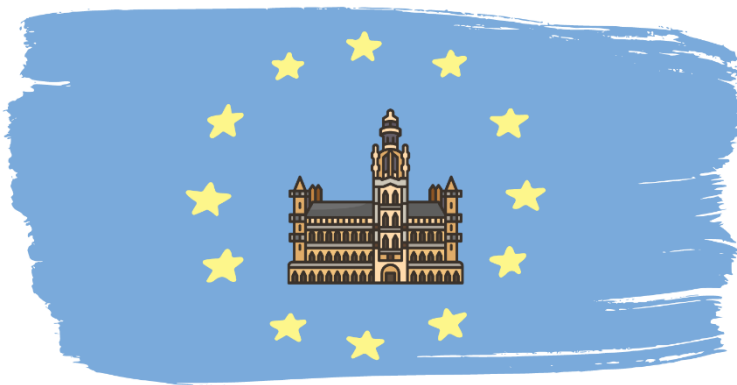




showing what solidarity, care, love and mutuality can really mean. We are courageous in standing for what is right – even if many disagree with us and we have hope that from days and weeks and months of darkness there can be light.

At this conference and AGM we will be looking together at what we bring to Europe and why Diaconia is at the heart of Europe. We will look at this from a practical, advocacy and spiritual perspective, weaving the threads of our faith, our services and our prophetic voice into a vision of European continent where all are heard and seen.

**The 2022 Conference and AGM** will be the first in-person event held by Eurodiaconia in over 2 years and we are really looking forward to welcoming you all to **Brussels** – the home of our secretariat. Under the current regulations it is possible to hold such events in Belgium and most travel restrictions have been lifted. We hope by May that any remaining restrictions will



have been lifted and that there will be no barriers to participation. However, we will be taking as many precautions as we can to ensure a happy and healthy event and further information on these will be given nearer the time and be in line with the legal requirements at that time.

To help with keeping us all happy and healthy we have decided to hold the AGM and arrange accommodation in the same place – to minimise organised movement around Brussels and on public transport. We therefore strongly encourage all delegates to book accommodation in the conference hotel. We will have to release some rooms by 31st March if they have not been reserved and so after that date, we cannot guarantee you will get accommodation at a favourable price. It is also unlikely that we will be able to hold ‘in person’ study visits and so we will be introducing innovative ways for you to learn about other members work and visit it in a virtual way. Members can offer to be part of this programme in the registration form.

We want to encourage you to come with as many delegates as you wish – particularly for the first 2 days – and to ensure that at least one person from your organisation attends the Business Session on Friday. We do recognise that it may not be possible for everyone who would like to attend the event from your organisation will be able to do so due to health concerns, so we are exploring the possibility of virtual participation – however our priority is to bring us together in person.

As we are in Brussels we recognise that it is an opportunity for some members to meet with their members of the European Parliament or with officials responsible for various funding programmes or just have a visit to the European institutions. Therefore, we are offering a pre-event programme on Tuesday 10 May which is optional for all members. The Eurodiaconia would be happy to arrange the following possibilities for members:

- 1) Arranged meetings with your MEPs in the European Parliament.
- 2) Arranged meetings with European Commission desk offices on specific financial programmes or on specific policy topics.
- 3) A tour of the European Parliament.
- 4) A general training/information session on EU funds (with participation from EU officials and with other members).

We would anticipate that most of this programme would take place in the afternoon of the 10 May to allow members to travel to Brussels in the morning.

There is no cost for this optional programme but members should indicate on the registration form if they wish to take advantage of this possibility. Depending on demand we will see if we can fit in more than one possibility for each member so please indicate all of those that are of interest to you and we will come back to you.



**Annual Conference and General Meeting**  
**11 – 13 May 2022**  
**Brussels, Belgium**

[Draft Programme](#)

<b>Tuesday 10 May – Various Locations</b>	
	<b>Pre AGM programme – please see information in the invitation</b>
17:00 – 18:30	<b>Registration</b> open at the Eurodiaconia office Rue Joseph II 166
18:30	<b>Opening Service of Worship</b> – Chapel for Europe  Informal welcome reception – Chapel for Europe

<b>Wednesday 11 May – First Euroflat Hotel</b>	
08:00	<b>Registration</b> opens at First Euroflat Hotel
08:30	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
09:00	<b>Greetings</b> from hosts, Eurodiaconia, partners and friends  <b>Icebreakers and introductions</b>  <b>Introduction to the theme “Diaconia at the Heart of Europe”</b>
10:00	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>
10:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:15	<b>Breakout sessions and discussion groups on Diaconia at the Heart of Europe</b>
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	Workshops – Further details to be announced
15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
(end around 17:00)	Workshops – Further details to be announced
18:30	<b>Informal Social Event</b>

**Thursday 12 May - First Euroflat Hotel**

08:30	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
09:00	<b>All day</b> <b>Workshops and Virtual study visits highlighting innovative and impactful social services and advocacy initiatives.</b>
19:00	<b>AGM dinner</b>

**Friday 13 May – First Euroflat Hotel**

08:30	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
09:00	<b>Annual General Meeting of Eurodiaconia</b> Business Session  <i>(see separate Agenda to be circulated at a later date)</i>  <i>All members are entitled to attend and participate in this session. Guests are very welcome to attend as observers.</i>
12:00	<b>Conclusion of the meeting</b>  <b>Blessing for the Road</b>  <b>Aiming to finish around 12:30/12:45</b>



## Accommodation

Eurodiaconia has reserved rooms at a preferential price at the First Euroflat Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 50, Brussels 1000

<https://www.firsteuroflathotel.be/index.php/en/>

The cost per night is 150 euros including breakfast and city tax.

This hotel is located approximately 5 minutes from the Eurodiaconia office and 5 minutes from the Schuman Metro and Train station. A direct train will take you in 15 minutes from the airport to Schuman station. It is in this hotel that most of the AGM programme will be held and we strongly encourage all delegates to stay in this hotel. Booking of the hotel can only be done via the Eurodiaconia office and so you must indicate on the registration form the number of nights you require accommodation for. Your room will then be reserved via the Eurodiaconia office and you will pay the hotel directly on arrival. We have a limited number of rooms available at this hotel and so we encourage you to reserve your accommodation via Eurodiaconia as

soon as possible. Please note that Eurodiaconia will not support the booking or payment of accommodation elsewhere and financial support will not be available for accommodation anywhere else unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Travel

Brussels is very well served by an international airport (Brussels National airport) connecting Brussels with the major cities of Europe. There are also many flights available to the satellite

airport of Brussels Charleroi – particularly with Wizzair and Ryanair.

Reaching the Schuman area of Brussels where the AGM will take place is very simple from the Brussels National airport with a direct train from the airport to Schuman station twice an hour and taking around 15 minutes.

Transport from Brussels Charleroi is also simple but takes longer. There is a

shuttle bus from the airport to Brussels Midi/Zuid/South Station approximately every 30 minutes and the journey takes around 40 – 50 minutes depending on traffic.

Full local travel information will be sent out with your confirmation of your registration.

## Registration

Participants should register as soon as possible using this link:

<https://forms.gle/11c9qakfEFh8mzcj7>

## Conference Fee

The Conference and General Meeting Fee is 250€ and includes attendance at the conference and general meeting, all meals as specified in the programme, documentation, and social events. The fee **does not** include accommodation. A request for payment of fees will be sent by the Eurodiaconia office shortly after registration has been received and must be paid by the start of the event.

## Support for Participation

Thanks to the support of the European Union ESF+ programme we can offer reimbursement of travel and accommodation to several participants. This will follow the usual Eurodiaconia policy of support for participants from Central and Eastern Europe and minority church members. If you would like financial support to attend the Conference, please indicate this on the registration form.

## COVID requirements

Based on current information it is likely that delegates will have to display proof of vaccination or exemption or recent recovery from infection at the opening of the AGM. We hope that all delegates will be able to accommodate these requirements. Confirmation on what will be required will be given prior to the AGM and will depend on the situation and rules in Belgium at the time.

## Entry Requirements to Belgium

Nationals of some countries may require a visa to enter Belgium. Information on the visa requirements can be found here: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel-to-belgium/visa-for-belgium> Please indicate on your registration form if you will require a visa. The Eurodiaconia Secretariat can then support you with necessary documentation. Please note, it is participants responsibility to apply for a visa in due time.

## Languages

The Conference language will be English however members who require support with other languages should contact the Eurodiaconia office to discuss options for support for an additional participant to assist with interpretation.


For any further questions please email [Henriette.Umutesi@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:Henriette.Umutesi@eurodiaconia.org) or consult the conference website <https://www.eurodiaconia.org/events/conference2022/>





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 Eurodiaconia is a federation of 55 social and health care organisations founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice. Eurodiaconia is a registered aisbl in Belgium. This publication has received financial support from the ESF+ programme for further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social>. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.  
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