



About us

Dear friends,

Since its first edition in 2004, the popularity of the Caritas Europa Annual Meeting on Communications and Fundraising has been steadily growing. This year's Annual Meeting was held in Brussels on 2-3 April 2009.

Among others, the event included a workshop on "The 21st Century Catholic Donor" designed and delivered by Holly Ball, Head of Fundraising and Marketing, CAFOD. Contributions in the session on "NGO-Corporate Relations" dealt with a recent evaluation published by Secours Catholique, examples of successes and pitfalls presented by a CORDAID representative, and the Microsoft experience in running Community Affairs programmes. Guest speaker Stephen Pidgeon looked at "Stewardship" as the very best way to create relationship with supporters.

In line with previous Annual Meetings where initial ideas were collected, Caritas Europa has been pursuing preparation for a Caritas campaign on the occasion of the EY 2010. Elements of this campaign were presented to participants during a joint session with attendees of the briefing seminar for contact persons for the EY 2010.

Next year's Annual Meeting on Communications and Fundraising will be held in Vienna (Austria).

Annalisa Mazzella,
Advocacy and Communication Officer



Activities review

→ The third and fourth plenary meetings of the Caritas Europa Task Force on the EY 2010 took place in Brussels and Vienna on 18 February and on 1 July 2009. The Task Force is preparing for 2010 – the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. A campaign, a website, a handbook with ideas for events and fundraising initiatives, as well as the Poverty Papers (core publication and related products) are being developed for use by member organisations. A coordination meeting of the EY 2010 contact persons was held in Brussels on 2-3 April 2009.

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→ The 9th Caritas Europa Migration Study visit took place in Lviv, Ukraine on 25-28 May 2009. The aim of the visit was to understand the complexities faced by this relatively new state, and to get an overview of the role of Caritas in Ukraine. The main themes addressed were the situation of Ukrainian emigrants in EU member states; refugees and asylum-seekers in Ukraine; human trafficking and labour migration from a European perspective. The visit included expert seminars as well as numerous field visits.

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→ Caritas Czech Republic and Caritas Europa actively contributed to the conference on the effectiveness of civil society organisations in development, co-organised by FoRS, the Czech platform of development NGOs, and CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs. The conference took place in Prague on 23-24 June 2009, as part of the EU Presidency programme of FoRS.

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→ Nearly forty participants from 26 Caritas Europa member organisations met in Berlin on 9-10 March 2009 to exchange ideas and begin a new strategic direction for the network by developing sustainable financial strategies. The workshop, graciously hosted in Berlin by DCV-Caritas Germany, was organised and led by the ESF Committee, operating under supervision of the Commission on Internal Network (CIN).

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Caritas Europa event

The crisis we are facing has its roots in human behaviour. 'We are talking about a human-made crisis, not about a natural disaster', said Caritas Europa President Erny Gillen while delivering the main outcomes of the Caritas Europa Social Policy Forum (Prague, 27-30 April 2009) at the presence of Marián Hošek, Czech Vice-minister for social policy and services, and representatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Creative solutions are needed to address the crisis in all relevant areas. According to Prof. dr. Anton C. Hemerijck, Director of the Scientific Council for Government Policy in The Hague and keynote speaker of the forum, a new architecture is necessary for the finance system; targeted investments into green technologies would contribute to positive developments. In any case, especially in a time of crisis, social services should be expanded and not reduced. This message came clearly out from the workshop related to the impact of financial crises on social/health services.

Participants also underlined the importance to better understand the culture of Roma in order to facilitate their integration, as well as the reality of children - orphans of labour migration, who are not victims of deprivation but rather of a lack of love and moral support. Furthermore, as service provider and employer of workers providing domestic services, Caritas can use that experience to promote employment rules and measures aimed at improving their social protection.

Read: Social Policy Forum 2009 - "[Caritas call to action in the face of the crisis](#)"



European Elections 2009

CARITAS EUROPA WELCOMES THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear member of the European Parliament,

You have been elected as a member of the European Parliament for the new legislature starting in 2009.

You are assuming an important responsibility by representing not only your political constituency but in fact all people in the European Union member states. Your actions and choices will have an impact on all people within and beyond the European Union.

Hundreds of thousands of Caritas workers – paid staff and volunteers – are concretely engaged in the fight against poverty, and in promoting integral human development and justice.

Our key areas of competence are social inclusion and social cohesion; migration, asylum, integration and human trafficking; international cooperation.

We ask you – as newly elected member of the European Parliament – to support us – and the people we serve – by bringing our messages to the agenda of the appropriate political discussions.

Caritas experts from all over Europe look forward to support these efforts by sharing with you our knowledge and experience, and by engaging in constructive dialogue with you on the issues concerned.

With all my best wishes for your important work!

Brussels, June 2009

Erny Gillen
President, Caritas Europa

Our overall vision for Europe and the European Union

Caritas envisions Europe as a continent where:

- Human dignity, human rights, and solidarity between people and nations are shared values.
- Poverty and social exclusion are ultimately eradicated.
- Civil dialogue and participatory democracy are flourishing.
- Effective action is taken to promote integral human development around the world.

Our messages to the European Parliament on...

- Social inclusion and social cohesion
- Migration, asylum, integration and human trafficking
- International cooperation

...are included in our new brochure: [EN](#)



➤ **January 2009: Helping people living on the edge of society –**
During the year 2009, under the heading “Social Manners for a Better Society”, DCV-Caritas Germany wants to direct public attention to the situation of people who live on the edge of society.
[DCV-Caritas Germany \(8 January 2009\)](#)

[Caritas Bosnia Herzegovina launched new website \(6 January 2009\)](#)

➤ **February 2009 – Saturation of reception centers for asylum seekers –**
In Belgium the sector of reception of asylum-seekers currently passes through a major crisis: all the places available are occupied and new asylum-seekers are directed towards emergency receptions or find themselves on the streets. This happens despite the fact that asylum-seekers are entitled to adequate reception conditions.
[Caritas International Belgium \(9 February 2009\)](#)

[Caritas Monaco launched new website \(16 February 2009\)](#)

➤ **March 2009: International Women’s Day –** What do women’s organisations worldwide against violence suffered by women? On the occasion of the International Women’s Day, Cordaid held exchanges with women’s rights activists and emphasised their important role.
[Cordaid \(8 March 2009\)](#)

➤ **April 2009 – Earthquake in Abruzzo –** The international solidarity of the Caritas network has become particularly evident following the Abruzzo earthquake in Italy. More than 60 Caritas organisations from outside Italy have manifested their closeness to the victims and the availability to contribute to the aids and the reconstruction.
[Caritas Italy \(20 April 2009\)](#)

➤ **May 2009 – Regional Conference –** This year’s Regional Conference was held in Brussels on 15 May. Among others, the delegates reached consensus on the revision of the statutes and the new Institutional Regulations, and on the Common Management Standards for national member organisations.
[Caritas Europa \(18 May 2009\)](#)

➤ **May 2009 – ERSO photo exhibition –** In the framework of ERSO - European Reintegration Support Organisations Network, an exhibition was held in Brussels on 19 May including photos taken by returnees picturing their way back home. The ERSO project is co-financed by the European Union, and coordinated by Caritas Austria.
[Caritas Austria \(19 May 2009\)](#)

➤ **June 2009 – Annual Conferences –** The Annual Conference of CSAN was held in Windsor (UK) on 4-5 June. The conference asked “How does Catholic social action help to build a more equitable society?”. The 33rd congress of Italian diocesan organisations was held in Turin on 22-25 June with one of the main focuses on “The Church, the Poor and the Environment”.
[Caritas Social Action Network \(11 June 2009\)](#)
[Caritas Italy \(22 June 2009\)](#)

[Caritas Internationalis launched "I am Caritas" \(12 June 2009\)](#)



Calendar

➤ **17-19/09** – Migration Forum 2009, Warsaw

➤ **23-25/09** – Trans-national Conference on Social Inclusion, Ostritz (Germany)

➤ **07/10** – Meeting of the Task Force on the EY 2010, Brussels

➤ **08-10/10** – COATNET Annual Users Meeting, Bucharest

➤ **27/11** – Annual Planning Meeting for the year 2010, Brussels