



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände
european alliance of catholic women's organisations
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques

INVITATION

***andante* General Assembly 15th –18th April 2010 in Strasbourg, France**

To the member organisations of *andante*

November 2009

Dear Madame President, dear friends,

Only a few months ago 56 women gathered for *andante's* first Summer School in Hoddesdon, U.K., in order to gain experience in using all types of communication. After the Study Conference in Vught 2007 and the Study Days in the context of the General Assembly in Sion 2008, this Summer School on media-training marked another step in *andante's* mission to strengthen the position of women in society and church and therefore to provide training opportunities in the form of conferences where women from all parts of Europe can meet and benefit from each other's experiences.

Today, I have the pleasure of inviting you to the next General Assembly of *andante* which will be held from 15th to 18th April 2010 in Strasbourg, France. There, we will be welcomed by the diocesan branch of our member organisation Action catholique des femmes (Acf).

Study days and excursion

Strasbourg – as the seat of the Council of Europe and, for one week each month the European Parliament of the EU – is the ideal venue to study aspects of European politics. Therefore, the study part of the assembly will focus on questions such as: 'How does democracy work in our different countries? How can we, as *andante*, influence politics and achieve change? How can we undertake lobbying for values? How can we use the European institutions? How can we use our combined to be influential?' etc. There will also be an opportunity for some sight-seeing in the capital of Alsace. The organisation of this cultural excursion will be in the hands of our French friends and we are very grateful that they offer this as a donation to *andante*.

Venue and cost

We will be accommodated in the Cultural Centre St Thomas which is situated within walking distance of the Council of Europe and other European Institutions, such as the Court of Human Rights. The cost for participation is € 350 per person. This amount includes a contribution for meeting the expenses of the study programme and the simultaneous translation as well as the cost of accommodation and meals for the whole duration of the General Assembly. (For those attending only the study days, the cost is € 290).

Participation / Delegations

At the study part of the General Assembly organisations can be present with as many members as they wish. At the statutory part, however, each member organisation can be represented by a maximum of three delegates who have one vote together. We would like to remind you that, in order to have voting rights at the Assembly, member organisations must be up-to-date with their dues for 2010. An invoice inviting you to pay your annual dues will be sent to you in January 2010.

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Statutory Assembly

During the Statutory Assembly we shall, among other things, elect a new Co-ordinating Committee. Some members on the committee now reach the end of their first, others of their second two-year term and, in principle, all could continue for at least one more term of mandate. But even if each of them wishes to continue, the whole committee will have to step down and elections for a new one must take place. There is no automatic succession – either for the individual members or for the organisations they come from. This means that **all** organisations may nominate a candidate.

Nominations

Attached you will find an outline of the responsibilities of committee members and the requirements for candidates as well as a nomination form. We are sending you these documents already now in order to give you more time to consider nominations from your organisation, and whom.

Whether nominating a new candidate or renewing the nomination of some one who has already been on the Co-ordinating Committee during one or more previous terms of mandate, it is necessary to **send in the nomination form**. Please, do this as soon as you can but **not later than 15th February 2010**. The form must be signed by the president of your organisation and by the candidate and be accompanied by a short notice from the candidate outlining her motivation for standing for election.

Official convocation

In accordance with the provisions in our Statutes (Art. 6.3), the official convocation for the General Assembly will be sent to you by mid-January 2010. It will be accompanied by the draft agenda for the statutory part as well as all the documents referring to the various items. By that time you will also receive the registration form for the official delegates and other participants from your organisation. However, do not wait until then before deciding how many / who from your organisation will be coming to Strasbourg next year!

Take your chance!

A General Assembly is an important event in the life of an organisation – not only because it is there and then that the members decide on its policy, its priorities. An Assembly, especially the study part, also offers the opportunity for members to meet and get to know each other better.

I would say that, for a young organisation like *andante*, it is even more important that all member organisations are represented with as many delegates as possible. So, if you want to meet other women living elsewhere in Europe, and to have a voice in developing *andante*'s policies for the coming years – this is the time, take your chance!

I really look forward to meeting you in Strasbourg next year!

With my very best wishes to all of you,



Marie-Louise van Wijk-van de Ven
Chair *andante*