



Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa (GEKE)  
Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)  
Communion d'Eglises Protestantes en Europe (CEPE)

## **First International Meeting of the Protestant Synods in Europe**

**20 to 22 January 2012**

**Protestant Academy Bad Boll, Germany**

To:

**The Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches,**

**Meeting in Bathania-Harissa, Lebanon, 13 – 15 February 2012 for the  
Conference:**

**Middle Eastern Evangelical Churches: Challenges for the Present and the  
Future**

We, 82 participants from 51 member churches of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, are gathered for the First International Meeting of the Protestant Synods in Europe, in Bad Boll, Germany, from January 20 – 22. We are here to strengthen our co-operation, identify common challenges for our churches and define the role of Protestant churches in the future of Europe.

Some of our churches live in minority situations, others are majority churches. In the variety of societies we come from, we are looking for the common ground of Protestant churches in Europe. Acknowledging the differences between us, we wish to focus on what we have in common. In this process we recognise that there are core issues we also share with you as Protestant churches in the Middle East.

But we are also aware of the particularity of your situation. We know that as Christians you are a minority, living in uncertainty in a volatile political situation. As we are witnessing the political changes, uprisings and unrest in your region, we recognise your presence in the region as one of the utmost importance. We would therefore strongly encourage you to remain visible parts of your societies. We see

the solidarity you show as a fellowship of churches, sharing the lives of sisters and brothers living in very difficult circumstances in your region. We appreciate your active initiative to support Christians in the whole of the region, reminding us of Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

*If one part of the body suffers, every part of the body suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it." (1 Cor 12: 26)*

As we are linked to you in Christ, we not only suffer with your losses, but we are also strengthened by your courage as witnesses to our common faith. In this spirit we are inspired by your continued cooperation with other Christian communities, and people of good faith in your countries.

Many Christians in Europe are concerned with the situation of their fellow Christians in your region. A number of activities are being undertaken in this regard, such as thematic meetings, political activism and on-going prayers. In these activities, we find it crucial that you continue to share experiences and views with us with emphasis on the challenges and changes in the Middle East.

We have been informed about your meeting in February in Beirut. We would appreciate your sharing the outcome of this meeting. As participants in the CPCE Synodal meeting, we are committed to conveying your message to our churches and communities in Europe.

We are pleased to hear that the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches will be present at the General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, gathering around the theme "Free for the Future" in Florence, Italy, in September 2012. We look forward to the opportunity of being together and share our thoughts around the situation of your churches.

With this, we pray for God's blessing for your meeting.

The participants of the First International Meeting of the Protestant Synods in Europe,  
Bad Boll, Germany, January 22nd, 2012.