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**In this issue:** *Historical Overview 1983 – 2019 of the meetings of the Catholic Charismatic National Service Committees (NSC's) and National Contacts in Europe .*

**This is the final issue of this info-letter under responsibility of the European subcommittee of ICCRS. Pentecost 2019 CHARIS start. We are happy to present you a historical overview.**

Looking back in history can help us on our further as humble servants of the 'current of grace', as Pope Francis defines Catholic charismatic renewal.

The ecumenical charismatic renewal meetings of leaders from different churches and ecclesial communities began on a European level in 1972. This group met in various countries and Cardinal Suenens attended several meetings during the 1970's and in 1982 when they organized the large pan-European conference of over 20,000 in Strasbourg.

#### **History CCR 1983-1996**

In September 1983 the first Catholic charismatic meeting on a European level was in Rome, organized by ICCRS under the name of "European Conference for National Leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal."

Members of NSC's were invited by ICCRS-director Tom Forrest. 21 countries participated. The theme was "Re-evangelizing Europe for Christ" and the topics: a) New Faith for Europe; b) Ecumenism and the Believing Catholic; and c) Spiritual Gifts for Producing Catholic Evangelists.

*September 1988* the second meeting was in Berlin, organized by the National Service Committees of England, Germany and Switzerland. The meeting to understand how the Catholic renewal was developing in the different European countries. Also to hear about the various ecumenical initiatives in Europe. The day after started the European Charismatic Consultation (ECC), an ecumenical meeting.

Next meetings of Catholic NSC's were in Switzerland 1989, France 1992, Poland 1994 and Slovak 1996.

#### **Info-letter, website and committee**

Next meeting, in Malta 1999, became a turning point. 14 countries were represented. The need for a more structured way of communication on European level was felt. I offered to set up an e-mail newsletter and a European website.

That's how this info-letter EUCCRIL started, and with help from Sweden the website [www.isidor.se/ccreurope/nl-nl/home.aspx](http://www.isidor.se/ccreurope/nl-nl/home.aspx). During the meeting in Malta an ad hoc committee was selected to guide a consultative process with the NSC's about a European structure. Out of this consultation the wish became clear to meet every two years and to have an executed committee. Nikol Baldacchino communicated this with ICCRS and the Pontifical Council of Laity. They proposed to create a European subcommittee of ICCRS, including European members of the ICCRS-Council and three or four members elected by the European NSC's. First elections were in Rimini 2000. The full story of the following elections and all European meetings is now published as [www.stucom.nl/document/0449uk.pdf](http://www.stucom.nl/document/0449uk.pdf).

#### **CHARIS in Europe**

In the final meeting, March 2019, the moderator of CHARIS and the two European members of the new International Service of Communion (Etienne Melot and Paolo Maino) asked me to continue my service on the European level. We will prepare the formation of the European Continental Service of Communion.

Starting with Pentecost 2019 CHARIS will be the one single service for all expressions of charismatic renewal in the Catholic Church. You are all invited to follow the continuing story on [www.charis.international](http://www.charis.international).

#### **Thank you Christof**

Many thanks to all the workers ICCRS, especially our European chair and ICCRS vice-president of Christof Hemberger, who entered the European subcommittee in 2004 and became chairman in 2011. He has travelled, organised and worked extremely much for CCR in Europe and more.

Kees Slijkerman

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