

2026 Annual Meeting of National Councils of Churches

21 – 23 September 2026 - BERN

Draft programme

Monday, 21st September 2026

15:00 – 16:00	Registration, Coffee & Cakes		Christkatholisches Gemeindezentrum
16:00 – 16:20	Welcome, Opening Prayer	Frank-Dieter Fischbach, Anne Durrer, Christoph Schuler	
16:25 – 17:30	SESSION 1 Welcome Remarks Programmatic priorities of CEC Information and NCCs sharing 1st part	Frank-Dieter Fischbach	
17:45 – 18:45	Evening Service		Church Peter & Paul
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner Buffet with informal conversations		

Tuesday, 22nd September 2026

09:00 – 09:20	Greetings & Morning Prayer	Florian Schubert, President of Swiss Council of Churches	Christkatholisches Gemeindezentrum
09:30 – 11:00 09:30 – 10:30	SESSION 2 New Topics in Charta Oecumenica Panel	Speakers: Lea Schlenker, Co-chair of the drafting committee Florian Schubert, Swiss Council of Churches Emil Saggau, Danish Council of Churches	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break		

11:00 – 12:30	SESSION 3 Theology of the Charta (Statements from different confessions followed by the discussion)	Speakers: Prof. Barbara Hallensleben (Roman-Catholic) Prof. Christophe Chalamet (Protestant) Prof. Stefanos Athanasiou (Orthodox)	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	SESSION 4 Charta und Young People Creative discussion on Charta, ecumenism and young generation	Discussion with young people of different confessions	Christkatholisches Gemeindezentrum
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break		
16:00 – 17:15	SESSION 5 Implementation and Practical Work with the Charta (part 1) Working groups	Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How was the Charta received in your country, your Council of churches? • Was the Charta translated? • Is in your country/council a discussion about implementation of the Charta? • Does Charta have any impact of the relationship, trust building or cooperation among the churches in your country/council? 	
17:15 – 18:00	SESSION 6 Implementation and Practical Work with the Charta (part 2) Plenary session	Feedback from the working groups	
18:00 – 18:15	Evening Prayer	One of participants	
18:15 – 19:30	Walk in the Old Town of Bern*		
19:30	Dinner		

Wednesday, 23rd September 2026

09:00 – 09:20	Morning Prayer	One of participants	Christkatholisches Gemeindezentrum / Kirche?
09:30 – 11:00	SESSION 7 Charta review and outlook Plenary discussion	Open discussion and brainstorming on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes of the previous day - Next steps in implementation of the Charta - Challenges, open points 	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30 – 12:30	SESSION 8 Information and NCCs sharing 2 nd part	Moderation: Frank Dieter Fischbach	
12:30 – 13:00	Next NCCs meeting (date, venue, topics)	Moderation: Frank Dieter Fischbach	
13:00 – 13:30	Closing remarks, closing prayer and blessing	Frank-Dieter Fischbach & Anne Durrer	
13:30	Pack lunch and departures		On -site catering

* Sunset at 19:30

Speakers

Session 1

Frank Dieter Fischbach

General Secretary, Conference of European Churches

Session 2

Lea Schlenker

Co-chair of the Charta Oecumenica drafting committee, former member of the CEC Governing Board

Florian Schubert

President of the Swiss Council of Churches

Emil Saggau

General Secretary of the Danish Council of Churches

Session 3

Barbara Hallensleben, Roman-Catholic

Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Ecumenical Theology at the Faculty of Theology, University of Fribourg/Switzerland. As a member of the Institute for Ecumenical Studies, she founded a centre for the study of the Eastern Churches. From 2004 to 2014, she was a member of the [International Theological Commission](#) in Rome. She is a member of the commission investigating the admission of women to ordained ministry which was set by Pope Francis.

Christophe Chalamet, Protestant

Christophe Chalamet is a professor of systematic theology at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Geneva. A father of three and an amateur musician, he lives in Pully. He taught for eight years at a Jesuit university in New York (Fordham University). His work covers various topics in Christian theology (Theological virtues, Trinitarian theology, Christology) as well as the history of modern Protestant theology (19th–20th centuries). He is a member of the Centre for Theological Inquiry at Princeton.

Stefanos Athanasiou, Orthodox

[Professor](#) of [Systematic Theology](#) at the [Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich](#). His research focuses on dogmatics, ethics and ecumenical theology. In 2018, he was ordained as priest by Metropolitan Maximos of Switzerland. Since then, he has represented the Metropolis of Switzerland (Ecumenical Patriarchate) on the Swiss Council of Religions and in the Swiss Council of Churches. In addition to his teaching duties, he is a member of numerous organisations and provides pastoral and liturgical services to his community in Zurich and Bern.