

## CCME Press Release of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

### Refugee resettlement to Hungary “important lessons to learn from regional cooperation”

#### *Round table in Budapest underlines importance of European cooperation*

A debate on refugee resettlement to Hungary on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 in Budapest brought together representatives of the Hungarian government, the UN refugee agency UNHCR, civil society organisations and other EU member states.

The debate was the last in a series of debates on refugee resettlement, which the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) organised in 2009-10 with partners across the EU. The debate, which was co-organised by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, took place in a setting largely influenced by the recent discussions on an EU resettlement programme, in particular the respective proposals currently debated in the European Parliament.

The round table debate in particular looked at the interplay of national policies and EU cooperation in selection, reception and integration of resettled refugees. Representatives of Sweden and Belgium shared insights on national resettlement programmes and underlined the importance which resettlement had and has in their recent and upcoming EU presidency.

Considerable attention was devoted to taking stock of the particular situation of newer EU member states engaging in resettlement: representatives of the Czech and the Romanian government reported about the resettlement programmes, which their countries had started in the last two years. While Hungarian government representatives expressed doubt that Hungary would commit to a resettlement programme prior to the general election taking place in April, participants underlined the usefulness of such regional exchange, which would provide for “important lessons to be learnt”.

#### **Note to editors:**

Refugee resettlement is the process by which refugees who have to flee their home country and find initial, but insufficient or temporary protection in another country, are resettled into a third country and find permanent protection and a durable, sustainable solution there. While around one hundred thousand refugees are annually resettled to the US, Canada and Australia, resettlement is since the 1960ies scarcely used in Europe: currently only eleven EU member states carry out resettlement, resettling around 4.000 refugees annually. The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is since 2004 actively promoting resettlement as an additional tool for refugee protection in Europe.

For more information contact CCME at Tel. +32 2 2346808 or [info@ccme.be](mailto:info@ccme.be)



ERF-CA 2007

The ASPIRE project “Assessing and Strengthening Participation In refugee Resettlement to Europe” project is co-financed by the European Refugee Fund -Centralised Actions 2007 of the European Commission (DG JLS).

The views expressed and information provided by the project and the partners involved do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the European Commission and do in no way fall under the responsibility of the European Commission.

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies across Europe. CCME formally cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.