

## 16.8 REPORT 3: DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY ABROAD – GREATER EUROPEAN DESK (Art 48)

- A. Rev HS Coetzee tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

### C. REPORT

**Deputies responsible for this desk:** Rev HS Coetzee (s) and prof J Smit.

#### **Mandate**

##### **General recommendation regarding church in the rest of Europe**

Since there are Reformed Churches in European countries like the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, etc. with which the GKSA have no ties and for the sake of ministering to Reformed members from South Africa, living in these countries, the Deputies are instructed to increasingly reach out to Reformed Churches in this part of the world. Greater contact with East European churches can be facilitated through the churches in the Netherlands that have already established ties with these churches.

The Deputies are to endeavour to make increasing contact with Reformed Churches in this part of the world.

#### For notice

##### 1.1 *Execution of the mandate*

- 1.1.1 The GKSA doesn't have ecumenical ties or unity with any churches in Europe, outside of the Netherlands. Attempts to establish such ties the past term, during visits to prof J Smit, have as yet been unsuccessful.
- 1.1.2 The engagement of the churches in the Netherland with churches in the rest of Europe were discussed with them and it became clear that there are no churches in Europe with which the GKSA can establish meaningful ties. There is, however, still opportunity for contact at international conferences like the ICRC and during visits to churches in the Netherlands.

**Decision: Points 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 noted.**

#### For decision making

##### 1.2 *Recommendation*

Given the high cost of travel and the lack of opportunity for contact, ties with churches in the rest of Europe should not be actively sought. As contact is made during conferences and visits to professors, however, contact can once again be considered. Should ties be established, the practical implications and mutual value thereof need to be considered.

**Decision: Approved.**