

# Editor's Letter

Welcome to the first *MOZAIK*, the new WSCF-Europe magazine. It was produced in response to the new momentum in WSCF, felt in the conferences and in the activities of the National Movements, with a greater range and number of people becoming involved in WSCF than ever before. *MOZAIK* will be published twice a year, with news of Student Christian Movements (SCMs) around the Europe Region, reports of WSCF events and conferences, and articles reflecting the life and times of student Christians in Europe.

We live in uncertain times. The old order in Europe that provided a brutal stability disappeared within the space of two or three years: so fast that we seemed sometimes to be mere spectators as our history unfolded. Prophecy what the future holds for Europe is difficult, as we often appear to move in two directions at once. Just as one part of our continent was loosening up, for example, another was binding itself closer together. And when we started to take down 'cur-

tains' within our own borders, we began to put them up elsewhere, to turn away those from the rest of the world. And as communication and travel became easier in Europe - and thus the possibilities for (especially) the young to learn about other European cultures, languages and peoples, increased - there was a homogenizing and economising in education, so that it was presented merely as a training for a profession.

All these issues - which affect directly the future of Europe - have been and are being recognised and discussed by WSCF-Europe. There have recently been conferences on the themes of the 'Consequences of the Single European Act'; the 'Re-emergence of Nationalism'; 'Refugees in Europe'; and 'Multi-cultural Europe'. And in March of this year there will be a conference in Strasbourg looking at the 'Future of Higher Education in Europe', which is the theme of this issue of *MOZAIK*.

Being involved in WSCF means living and working with the conviction that the Gospel message is relevant to the world about us today. This leads us to raising

awareness, furthering understanding and enabling action, in struggles for peace and justice: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everlasting stream" (Amos 5:24). And at this time of change in Europe, as it decides its future and its relation to the rest of the world, WSCF plays a part in the struggle.

The SCMs of Europe, together forming WSCF-Europe, are perhaps coming to symbolise what the continent of Europe may some day look like. With distinct identities, yet making up a unified whole; each with their own cultures, but with a common heritage and purpose. The many peoples and countries of Europe make up a mosaic of language and tradition. And the SCMs of Europe - with different Christian traditions and practices, but with one commitment - make up the mosaic of WSCF in Europe. We hope it is reflected in our *MOZAIK*.

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## In this issue:

In preparation for the Strasbourg Conference, this issue of *MOZAIK* has a series of articles on the theme of 'Education'. On p.23 Anders Wesslund, Programmatic Coordinator, who has been on the Conference Planning Committee, sets the scene for the conference, and looks at the issues that are likely to be raised.

Elsewhere there are reports of events that have taken place involving various European SCMs. The National

Movement reports start on p.5 and on p.31 Kari Sirkiä writes about the Nordic Sub-Region's attempt to try to find a 'cosmic' identity in nature, while on p.30 Roe Frountzou reports on the Greek movement EKIX's meeting on the island of Serifos. The recent developments in the east of Europe have given a new impetus to the Churches and to the youth movements. On p.29 Zsolt Kovács gives an account of the history of the movements in Hungary, and looks to the potentials of the future.

Last year in Hirschluch the European

Regional Assembly (ERA) - the big gathering of the WSCF-Europe 'executive' body, held every two years - made important decisions on the Region's future plans. More news about these is given on p.4, and a report from the Assembly, with reflections and photos, as well as an account of the proceedings and decisions made, starts on p.12. Another act by the ERA was to elect a new European Regional Committee (ERC), whose members are introduced on p.10.