



COPIC-CONSELHO PORTUGUÊS DE IGREJAS CRISTÃS

To:

Churches Together in Britain & Ireland
Churches Together in England
Cytûn – Churches Together in Wales
Irish Council of Churches
Action of Churches Together in Scotland

3 June 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We send greetings and prayerful good wishes from the annual meeting of the General Secretaries of the European National Councils of Churches, currently meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, under the auspices of the Conference of European Churches.

We note that the United Kingdom will hold a referendum on membership of the European Union on 23rd June. Please be assured of our prayers and good wishes at this momentous time of decision.

We believe that peace and reconciliation lie at the heart of the European Union, particularly given the legacy of past conflicts. Our calling as Christians to serve God and our fellow humanity must transcend national boundaries. Meeting in fellowship, friendship and mutual respect, we encourage you to reflect on the words of Jesus, who said "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

Meeting in Lisbon, we are conscious that Portugal was ruled by a dictatorship as recently as 1974. The distinctive British contribution to values of tolerance, democracy and the rule of law has been instrumental in making Europe a better place in recent decades. We urge the peoples of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to continue to help shape our shared European continent for the better.

On behalf of the General Secretaries of the European National Councils of Churches,

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Sifredo Teixeira
President
Portuguese Council of Christian Churches (COPIC)