

The light of Christ shines upon all

CLC was present among all the other communities and movements, two members of Euroteam: Agnes Rausch and Monika Sander as well as the English president, Evelyne Maloret participated. More than 2000 persons from all Christian religions came together in this part of Europe where different peoples and religions live in peace since many centuries. The meeting was divided in different parts: The light of Christ and the Church, the light of Christ and Europe, the light of Christ and the world.

During the opening ceremony, Cardinal Kasper rooted the meeting in the Gospel of St. John and underlines what is gathering us: be brothers in Christ. But he added that the divisions of the church take a part of responsibility in the divisions of Europe, so we have to learn from each other and construct a common future. *We need the courage to stand up for our differences as Christians, to witness to the light of Christ and to bring it out into the world, which needs it urgently. For who can give us anything better? Where else can we find such words of life?*

José Manuel Barroso underlines as well how important are the churches to understand each other better, Europe is and will be a continent of many ethnics, many cultures and many religions. *In the history of this civilisation, Christianity with its various confessions have been a unifying force which has made it possible to incorporate all the different contributions of the Celtic, Germanic and Slav peoples as well as the major contribution of Islamic culture.* And he finished saying that Europe counts on our Christian contribution to overcome divisions and reach the desired unity in diversity.

And all people present were very happy to hear the call of Andrea Ricardi from Sant'Egidio: *don't be afraid*. Then he remembered us that our most important task is to welcome the others, be open to everybody and every religion.

The assembly wrote a letter to the world which you can find in a few days on the website. 10 concrete points to help us in our daily life to bring the light of Christ in the world. We Christians give witness that light of Christ is stronger than darkness, this hope is for all churches, for Europe and the whole world. The last point proposes September 1st as a day for creation and peace.

We followed messes and celebrations in different churches, we prayed together and had wonderful songs together. In the afternoons we met in smaller groups with the possibility of nearer contacts.

The only wrong point was the weather, cold and rainy.

The last day, Jean-Arnold de Clermont, KEK president, said us: now its up to you, write each other, contact each other and work together – and he gave us his mail address!

(For more informations : www.eea3.org and www.ccee.ch)