



OMAEC General Assembly – Rome, October 2017

UNAEC-Europe Report

UNAEC-Europe was created in 1980 as the European branch of OMAEC, mainly to help in the defence of the Catholic education at the European level.

UNAEC-Europe groups today national Confederations of Catholic education alumni of 6 countries : France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, as well as the only Confederation of alumni of a religious order, which exists formally at the European level : that of the alumni of the Jesuit Fathers ; the European representatives of the world confederations of alumni of religious orders participate also in UNAEC-Europe (Sacred-Heart, Daughters of Mary Help, Lasallians, Salesians). Financially, UNAEC-Europe received normally 15 % of the contributions of the national federations subscribing to OMAEC.

Since OMAEC Assembly of Paris in April 2016, our main activities were :

- The appointment of an ecclesiastical assistant for UNAEC-Europe, Don Alberto Zanini, Salesian priest.
- The creation of a website <http://www.unaec-europe.org> that we should now enrich with information and the creation of a WhatsApp group between the heads of UNAEC-Europe.
- The continuation of our presence in Strasbourg : UNAEC Europe is endowed as INGO, International Non-Governmental Organization, with participatory status within the Council of Europe. This representation of UNAEC-Europe is assured by Laurent Grégoire, assisted by Stephen Gatt very involved in helping refugees. We have participated in all the parliamentary sessions and INGOs meetings during these 18 months and we are active in the working groups and commissions.
- OIEC, the International Office for Catholic Education, also has a participatory status and has just re-launched its representation to the Council of Europe. UNAEC-Europe and OIEC are working now together, with the support of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe, to prepare a colloquium that could be held at the end of November 2018. Finally, in Strasbourg, we also take part in the meetings of CINGO, a coordination which brings together INGOs of Christian inspiration.
- Our participation in meetings of the CEEC/ECCE, the European Committee for Catholic, of which we are an associate member ; the CEECECCE brings together the heads of Catholic education of all the European countries and meets twice a year, each time for two days. In spring 2017, the meeting was held in Tirana, Albania, for which we had sent a report and a contribution about European citizenship ; the next meeting, in which we will participate, will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in early November 2017.
- Laurent Grégoire, Secretary General of UNAEC-Europe, was invited to speak at the Eurobosco Congress which has just been held in Samoëns, France. In particular, he presented the main themes on which UNAEC-Europe, such as COFAEC and OMAEC, intervenes within the international institutions : the role of civil society, the defence of freedom of education, the role of parents in education, the defence of the family, the intercultural dialogue, welcoming migrants, fair trade, helping for the training and job creation for young people in developing countries ...

The program of activities of UNAEC-Europe for the coming years includes : the continuation of our representation with the Council of Europe and the CEEC/ECCE, perhaps a presence in Brussels for the European Union, the development of our communication (newsletter, web site), the appointment of correspondents in as many countries and cities as possible, and the creation of new national federations, the creation of an annual Day and a European Charter for Alumni of Catholic education, actions to raise awareness of volunteering and the integration of young people into working life.