

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

The EEA is the movement representing evangelical Christianity in Europe and its 15 million citizens. It is an Alliance of more than 50 European grassroots national and transnational evangelical movements from all Protestant traditions present in 33 European countries. The EEA serves as a platform for common action and a voice for Europe's 15 million Evangelicals. The Brussels office of the EEA promotes active citizenship of its constituency and represents it to the European Institutions.

About the Brussels office

Our interests and action at the EU level

The Brussels office is part of the socio-political network of the EEA. It actively engages its **grassroots membership** with European political developments and pan-European socio-political cooperation. The EEA is involved in monitoring broad or specific areas of proposed EU legislation. Our main areas of interest currently include *religious freedom and secularity, development, immigration, awareness-raising on environmental issues, non-discrimination, as well as cultural and religious diversity*. The EEA, therefore, aims to facilitate interaction between its members as well as to act as an interface to the European institutions. The EEA's Brussels office actively represents the concerns of the EU Institutions to its 34 national Evangelical Alliances, and affiliated networks and agencies, and vice versa.

Activities Europe-wide

The EEA **facilitates activities** around issues of culture, values, society and politics. The EEA is committed to a consensus and cooperative style of political engagement, and encourages its whole constituency to follow its (significantly influential) lead locally, nationally and at the European level. It has the privilege of a wide range of connections both inside and outside the faith

communities. The EEA has a wide range of activities, including monitoring legislation, launching several actions at European level such as conferences, a European Platform on Religious Intolerance and Discrimination, interactive electronic communication and consultations across all Europe, visits to our member Alliances in 35 countries, and networking, to name but a few.

Why the StuFo?

Together with IFES, **we wanted to organise this Forum** to involve young people from all over Europe and introduce them to the EU Institutions and to teach them about European values, European democracy, the European Project and our European heritage. Particularly, the focus was to involve them in the development of the national Evangelical Alliances' impact on the EEA's grassroots citizens, whether in Member States or in other European countries, for the benefit of all. We wanted the Student Forum to be a cross-cultural and transnational event which gathers and strengthens IFES groups. Our view is to raise awareness and stir involvement from Evangelical students in Europe in their own communities. That is also why the Forum does not have a party political bias. We have done our best to invite speakers and mentors from a variety of political persuasions.