

**Ms. Maria Nyman***Secretary General, Caritas Europa*

Maria Nyman is Secretary General of Caritas Europa, one of seven regions of Caritas Internationalis, the global confederation of Catholic charity organisations. She assumed the position in May 2019, having been elected a year earlier by the network of 49 member organisations, which work with and for people in the most marginalised and vulnerable situations in 46 countries in Europe, not least those who are newly arrived as migrants or refugees.

Based in Brussels, the Caritas Europa secretariat conducts advocacy at the European and international level, supports capacity building for the network and coordinates humanitarian support when an emergency hits Europe.

Between 2012 and 2019 she was Director of Mental Health Europe, the main regional non-governmental network advocating for social inclusion and the protection of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Previously, she was a Policy Officer and Campaign Manager at the European Disability Forum. She has a Master of Laws from the University of Uppsala in Sweden. She is Swedish and has been living in Belgium since 2004.