



Religious Diversity and
Secular Models in Europe –
Innovative Approaches
to Law and Policy

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Area



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities

Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe: What role and potential for the EU?

RELIGARE Meeting

14th January 2011 (09.30h – 13.00h)

Brussels, Belgium

PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES

The RELIGARE project is a three-year research project funded by the FP7 Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Programme of the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission.

It is a project on the challenge of religious pluralism in contemporary Europe. This new socio-legal European project investigates the diversity of convictions in contemporary Europe with a focus on law and on questions relating to management of pluralism under State Law. It examines the current realities, including the legal rules protecting or limiting (constraining) the experiences of religious or other belief-based communities. Where practices of communities turn to their own legal regimes or tribunals, the reasons behind these developments need to be understood. The purpose is to explore adequate policy responses. Adequate policies seek meeting points between realities and expectations of communities and the protection of human rights in terms of equality and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. For more information, please visit: www.religareproject.eu.

This RELIGARE Meeting will be held on the **14th January 2011** at the Conference Room of the **Belgian Senate** (Leuvenseweg 21, 1000 Brussel). It will provide the Work package leaders of the project with the opportunity to present their preliminary policy recommendations in order to discuss them with the partners, members of the Advisory Board as well as the invited participants present in the meeting. The event is not open to public (**by invitation only**) and it will facilitate an active exchange of views among the project partners of the consortium, members of the Advisory Board and the participants.

Date: 14th January 2011

Venue: Belgian Senate, Conference Room, Leuvenseweg 21, B-1000 Brussel
(09.30h – 13.00h)

Contact person: Miriam Mir, miriam.mir@ceps.eu

EXPERT SEMINAR

Venue: Belgian Senate, Conference Room, Leuvenseweg 21, 1000 Brussel

09.30 – 09.50 Welcome Address: Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe: What role and potential for the EU?

Chair: **Prof. Marie-Claire Foblets**, Coordinator of the RELIGARE Project, K.U. Leuven

- **Prof. Rik Torfs**, K.U. Leuven
- **Mrs. Louisa Anastopoulou**, Project Officer, European Commission, DG RTD

09.50 – 10.00 Presentation of all the participants "Who is Who Round"

10.00 – 12.00 Presentations of the preliminary RELIGARE policy recommendations

Chair: **Jørgen Nielsen**, University of Copenhagen

- **Sergio Carrera & Joanna Parkin** (CEPS)
- **Mathias Rohe** (University of Erlangen - Nürnberg)

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break

- **Rik Torfs** (K.U. Leuven)
- **Silvio Ferrari** (University of Milan)
- **Francis Messner** (PRISME)
- **Veit Bader** (University of Amsterdam – UvA)
- **Prakash Shah** (Queen Mary, University of London)

Discussant: **Jorge César das Neves** (Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers)

12.00 – 12.30 Open Discussion with the members of the Advisory Board, invited participants and partners

12.30 – 13.00 Concluding Remarks by **Adam Seligman** (Boston University)

RELIGARE Meeting organized by:



Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

In collaboration with:

Coordinator of the project:



K.U. Leuven
University of Leuven (Faculties of Law and
Canon Law)



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