



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

# Secularism and Religious Diversity in Europe: Opportunities and Perspectives

**RELIGARE Conference**

**4 – 5 December 2012**

**4 December**

Auditorium Zeger Van Hee  
University of Leuven  
Leuven, Belgium

**5 December**

Centre Albert Borschette  
36, Rue Froissart  
Brussels, Belgium



## Background

RELIGARE ('Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe: Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy') is a European framework project focusing on the ways in which European states govern the diversity of religions and beliefs within their territories. Its ultimate aim is to advance 'promising practices' through an in-depth comparative study of case law and sociological data on the freedom of religion and the right to non-discrimination.

RELIGARE seeks to show how historically rooted models of the Secular state in Europe are challenged by Europe's changing religious and philosophical diversity. To do so, it examines both the theory and practice of the protection of the freedom of religion and belief and the right to non-discrimination in 10 countries, concentrating on four major domains: (1) family life, (2) employment, (3) access and the use of public space, and (4) the different forms of State support to religions and non-confessional groups.

The project applies an inter-disciplinary approach, comparing legal data gathered from 10 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey and the UK) and sociological data collected through semi-structured interviews with key opinion makers or stakeholders, in six countries (Bulgaria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Turkey, the UK).

This two-day conference will offer a unique opportunity to discuss and reflect upon the project's key findings.

- The first day (*4 December - University of Leuven*) will be dedicated to a detailed presentation and an in-depth discussion of the research results among RELIGARE partners and external scholars and experts.
- The conference will be followed by an evening panel (*University of Leuven*), featuring a keynote speech by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the EU Council.
- The second day (*5 December - Brussels*) will situate the RELIGARE research findings in a wider context, exploring their relevance and potential for an EU approach to the protection of the freedom of religion and belief and the right to non-discrimination. The programme features keynote speeches by Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and László Surján, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

The RELIGARE project has yielded a number of research outputs of scientific and policy relevance at EU and national levels such as a database of case law covering the 10 countries investigated. For further information on key outputs and publications produced under the RELIGARE project, please visit: [www.religareproject.eu](http://www.religareproject.eu).

**This event is co-organised by the Institute for Human Rights and the Faculty of Canon Law at KU Leuven, and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).**

**- FIRST DAY -**

**PROGRAMME 4 DECEMBER - Auditorium Zeger Van Hee, KU Leuven**

**08.30 – 09.00 Registration**

**09.00 – 09.30 Introduction and Welcome Panel**

- **Bernard Tilleman**, Dean of the Law Faculty, KU Leuven
- **Marie-Claire Foblets**, Coordinator of the RELIGARE project, KU Leuven

**09.30 – 10.30 Panel I: Religion and Belief in the Public Space**

Chair: **Jorgens Nielsen**, RELIGARE partner, University of Copenhagen

Speaker: **Silvio Ferrari**, RELIGARE partner, University of Milan

Discussants:

**Ronan McCrea**, University College London

**Koen Lemmens**, KU Leuven

**Vladimiro Zagrebelsky**, Former Judge, European Court of Human Rights

**10.30- 11.30 Panel II: Religion and Belief in the Work Place**

Chair: **Veit Bader**, University of Amsterdam

Speaker: **Katayoun Alidadi**, RELIGARE partner, KU Leuven

Discussants:

**Lucy Vickers**, Oxford Brookes University

**Julie Ringelheim**, Université Catholique de Louvain

**Frank Hendrickx**, KU Leuven

**11.30 – 11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45- 12.45 Panel III: Family Law**

Chair: **Prakash Shah**, RELIGARE partner, Queen Mary, London

Speaker: **Mathias Rohe**, RELIGARE partner, University of Erlangen

Discussants:

**Jean-Yves Carlier**, Université Catholique de Louvain

**Roberta Aluffi**, University of Torino

**12.45-14.00 Lunch Break**

**14.00 – 15.00 Panel IV: State Support to Religions and Beliefs**

Chair: **Rik Torfs**, RELIGARE partner, KU Leuven

Speaker: **Francis Messner**, RELIGARE partner, CNRS/PRISME,  
University of Strasbourg

Discussants:

**Cole Durham**, Brigham Young University

**Pierre-Henri Prélôt**, University of Cergy Pontoise

**Patrick Loobuyck**, University of Antwerp

**15.00 – 18.00 Panel V: Researching Religious and Philosophical Diversity**

Chair: **Silvio Ferrari**, RELIGARE partner, University of Milan

Speakers (First part):

**Linda Woodhead**, Lancaster University

**Pasquale Annicchino**, European University Institute

**16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break**

Speakers (Second part):

**Lori Beaman**, University of Ottawa

**Eva Brems**, University of Ghent

Discussants:

**Cécile Laborde**, University College London

**Rinus Penninx**, University of Amsterdam

**Bertram Turner**, Max Planck Institute, Halle

**18.00-18.30 Open Debate**

## **19.30 – 21.30 Evening Panel: Convictions and Beliefs in Future Europe**

Introduction: **Louis Tobback**, Mayor of Leuven

Keynote Speaker:

**Herman Van Rompuy**, President of the European Council

Music: **Joeri Wens & Kay Sleking**

Moderator: **Marie-Claire Foblets**, KU Leuven

**Adam Seligman**, Boston University

**Olivier Roy**, European University Institute

**Maleiha Malik**, King's College London

**Marco Ventura**, KU Leuven

**Tore Lindholm**, University of Oslo

**Reception and Drinks**

## **Practical Information**

**Dates:** 4 December 2012

**Location:** Leuven

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (Leuven)**

**Venue:** Auditorium Zeger Van Hee, Collegium Falconis

**Address:** Tiensestraat 41, Law Faculty 3000 Leuven

**Venue Evening Panel:**

Promotiezaal: Universiteitshal, Naamsestraat 22, 3000 Leuven

**Contact person:** Zeynep Yanasmayan ([zeynep.yanasmayan@law.kuleuven.be](mailto:zeynep.yanasmayan@law.kuleuven.be))

**- SECOND DAY -**

**PROGRAMME 5 DECEMBER - Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels**

**09.00 – 09.30 Registration**

**09.30 – 10.00 Welcome Panel**

- **Louisa Anastopoulou**, Research Programme Officer - Scientific Officer, DG Research, European Commission
- **Marie-Claire Foblets**, Coordinator of the RELIGARE project, KU Leuven

**10.00 – 10.30 Keynote Speech by Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

**10.30 – 13.15 Panel I: The challenge of religious diversity in Europe**

Chair: **Rik Torfs**, RELIGARE partner, KU Leuven

Presentations:

**Abdullahi An-Na'im**, Professor, Emory University

**José Casanova**, Professor, Georgetown University

**Heiner Bielefeldt**, Professor, University of Erlangen / UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion

**11.30 – 11.45 Coffee Break**

Respondents:

**Tariq Modood**, RELIGARE Advisory Board, University of Bristol

**Maleiha Malik**, Professor, King's College London

**Jean-François Gaudreault-DesBiens**, RELIGARE Advisory Board, University of Montreal

**Paul Lemmens**, Judge, European Court of Human Rights

**Prakash Shah**, RELIGARE partner, Queen Mary, London  
Open Discussion

**13.15 – 14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00 – 14.30 Keynote Speech by Lázló Surján**, Vice-President of the European Parliament

**14.30 – 17.30 Panel II: RELIGARE research findings and recommendations for the EU**

Chair: **Sergio Carrera**, RELIGARE partner, CEPS

Presentation:

**Marie-Claire Foblets**, Coordinator of the RELIGARE project, KU Leuven

**Katayoun Alidadi**, RELIGARE partner, KU Leuven

**Veit Bader**, RELIGARE partner, University of Amsterdam

**Silvio Ferrari**, RELIGARE partner, University of Milan

Respondents:

**Andreas Stein**, Head of Unit - Equal Treatment Legislation, DG Justice, European Commission

**Katharina von Schnurbein**, Advisor, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)

**Stephanos Stavros**, Executive Secretary, European Commission - against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe

**Giulia Amaducci**, Policy Officer, DG Home, European Commission

Open Discussion, chaired by **Mathias Rohe**, RELIGARE partner, University of Erlangen

**17.30** Video address by President **José Manuel Durão Barroso**

**Practical Information**

**Dates:** 5 December 2012

**Location:** Brussels

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (Brussels)**

**Venue:** Centre Albert Borschette

**Address:** 36, Rue Froissart-1049 Brussels, Belgium

**Contact person:** Miriam Mir ([miriam.mir@ceps.eu](mailto:miriam.mir@ceps.eu))