

About RELIGARE

RELIGARE, “Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe: Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy”, is a three-year EU 7th Framework Program (2010-2013). This project addresses the challenges of religious pluralism in contemporary Europe. It starts from the idea of equality and the ways in which it is challenged by the increasing diversity of religions and other convictions that are transforming Europe into a new type of entity.

The focus is on ten target countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

For further information on RELIGARE, see: www.religareproject.eu

This event is organized by PRISME-SDRE (CNRS, Université de Strasbourg, France).

PRISME (*Policies, Religions, Institutions and Societies: European Transformations*), a joint research unit of the University of Strasbourg and the CNRS, combines two research teams studying contemporary Europe in its political, legal and social dimensions: the SDRE (*Society, Law and Religion in Europe*) and the GSPE (*Centre for European Political Sociology*). Research at the SDRE focuses on law and religion, canon law, the social sciences of religion and European law on human rights (<http://sdre.misha.fr/>).

Within RELIGARE, **SDRE** is in charge of one of the thematic work packages, dedicated to State support, in a context of increasing religious and cultural diversity. The Center ensures the supervision of the thinking on the legitimacy for the State to continue the financial support of Churches, religious and faith-based organizations in present-day context. Furthermore, the research will be completed with a study of the relevance of the various methods of financial support and a prospective thinking on possible new models.

Venue:

European Parliament
“Winston Churchill” entrance
Room N1.2
STRASBOURG - France

Contact :

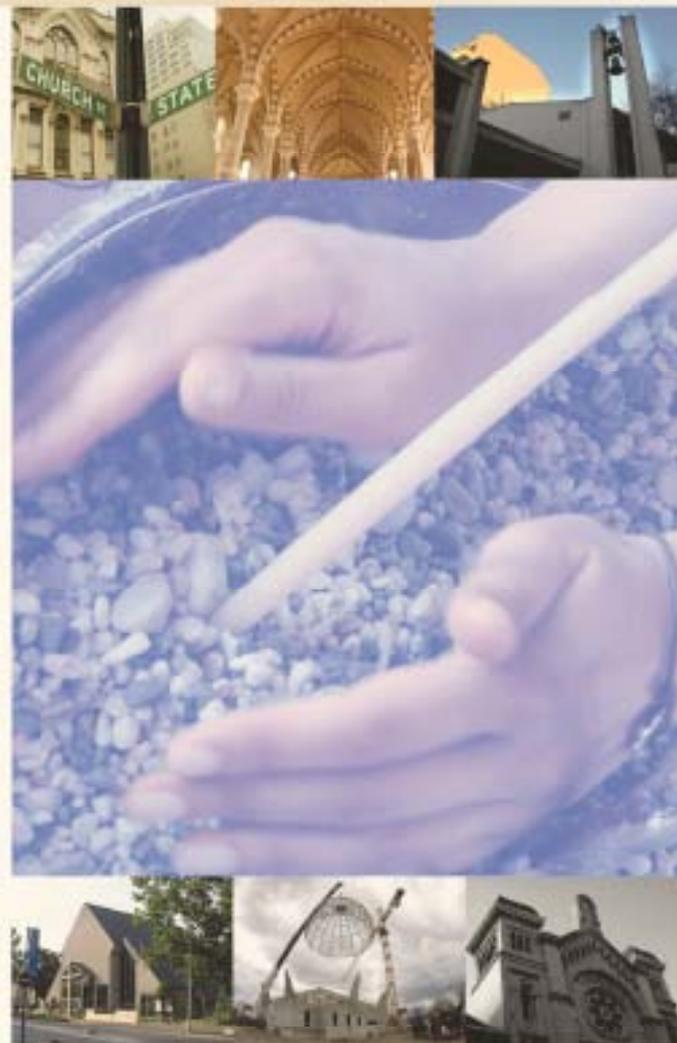
The entrance is free but registration is compulsory. For **registration** or any further information, please contact: laure.pubert@misha.fr
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Création : Laetitia Bauer, Communication CNRS / MISHA

Religare International Seminar

Religious communities & State support



Strasbourg June 27th, 2012
European Parliament, France



PRISME



Religious communities & State support

This scientific event will focus on the key elements of the denominational law and theological principles specific to the Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim religions and dealing with the financing of religious communities.

In other words, it aims at specifying how religions consider their funding by public authorities, through their founding texts and their religious internal law (buildings maintenance, salary and training of religious leaders, charity, educational and social institutions). Do these various texts provide for a contribution of public funding? Or, on the contrary, do they suggest a self-financing through, for example, a contribution of their members?

This presentation of the theoretical framework forged by the canonists and theologians will be discussed and completed by the intervention of religious authorities of the different countries covered by WP6 within the RELIGARE project (Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, the United Kingdom). Indeed, if law and theology of each of the aforementioned religions have a universal or at least general claim, national legal frameworks are characterised by particularism. Every religion abides by the principles set in its normative texts while flowing into the status of cult of the host country. But funding mechanisms vary across countries. They differ even more within a country depending on the degree of «recognition» and «cooperation» of religion with government.

Accordingly, various issues and tensions are likely to arise from bridging domestic secular systems and religious internal positions on public support to religions: the compatibility of the various means of public support with denominational doctrines and rules in general, but also the aims pursued by such support (for worship or social and charity activities), the public control of the funding within the organisational freedom of religion, and how the State abides by its duty to ensure the actual exercise of worship, and the legitimacy of the current financing system, the differential treatment of denominations and the relevance of mechanisms being extended from majority to minority religions.

Following the theoretical presentation, religious authorities from various countries will present their position and highlight how the theoretical frameworks are implemented.

8.30-9.00 *Registration*

9.00-9.30 *Welcome address*

Michel Deneken (First Vice-president of the University of Strasbourg)

Francis Messner (Director of PRISME-CNRS, University of Strasbourg)

9.30-10.45 First session: Catholic Church and State support

Chair : **Rik Torfs** (Catholic University of Leuven)

Presentation: **Patrick Valdrini** (Pro-rector of the Pontifical Lateran University)

Discussants:

France - **Mgr Roland Minnerath** (Archbishop of Dijon)

France - **Chanoine Bernard Xibaut** (Chancellor of the Archbishopric of Strasbourg)

Denmark - **Mr Erling Tiedemann** (Councilor for the Roman Catholic Bishop in Denmark)

Discussion

Coffee break

11.15-12.45 Second session: Protestant churches and State support

Chair : **Lisbet Christoffersen** (University of Roskilde)

Presentation: **Jean Volf** (Avocat général honoraire à la Cour de cassation)

Discussants:

Italy - **Tiziano Rimoldi** (Director of the Italian Adventist College Villa Aurora - Florence)

Denmark - **Bishop Peter Fischer-Moeller** (Diocese of Roskilde, Danish Lutheran Church - *folkekirken*)

United Kingdom - **David McClean** (Diocesan Chancellor, Reader Emeritus - Sheffield)

Discussion

12.45-14.15 Lunch break

14.15-15.30 Third session: Islam and State support

Chair : **Jørgen S. Nielsen** (University of Copenhagen)

Presentation: **Franck Frégosi** (PRISME-CNRS, France)

Discussants:

France - **Driss Ayachour** (Vice President of the Regional Council of the Muslim Faith - CRCM-Alsace)

Italy - **Imam Yahya Sergio Yahe Pallavicini** (President of the Institute of Islamic Studies - IHEI - and Vice President of the Islamic Religious Community in Italy - COREIS)

Turkey - **Dr. Fazlî Arabacı** (Rector of the Private Faculty of Islamic Theology of Strasbourg, Diyanet)

Discussion

Coffee break

15.30-16.45 Fourth session: Jewish religion and State support

Chair : **Louis-Léon Christians** (Catholic University of Louvain)

Presentation: **Raphaël Draï** (Aix-en-Provence University - Interuniversity Institute for Jewish Studies and Culture)

Discussants:

France - **Francis Levy** (President of the Bas-Rhin Consistory)

France - **Yeshaya Dalsace** (Massorti Rabbi)

Turkey - **Rabbi Isak Alaluf** (Jewish Community of Turkey)

Discussion