

Conference/debate at EU Parliament

A cause for concern in Europe

Freedom of opinion, religion and belief
Persecution of, and discrimination against, minority-groups

Organized by:

- *The European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom (EIFRF)*

With the Partnership of

- *The Gerard Noodt Foundation*
- *Soteria International*
- *CAPLC Europe*

This conference will be held

*On the **16th of October 2013** (13:00 to 18:00)
In the EU parliament, rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels.*

Please make a reservation by sending your full name

*Contact: Laure Ferrari 0032 228 45469,
laure.ferrari@europarl.europa.eu*

Sponsored by Godfrey Bloom (EFDG)

*Interpretation in French, English and Italian
Food, refreshments and hot drinks will be provided*



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Freedom of belief, religion and opinion, as well as religious freedoms in general, are fundamental rights, guaranteed by numerous international treaties and conventions, including several European ones. Nevertheless, many recent reports describe a large number of infringements of these rights, even in European countries. Indeed, minorities of belief are increasingly subjected to discrimination in some European countries, or even to persecution, by means of various deleterious instruments, which give an appearance of legality but which, in reality, are at odds with European and international standards of Human Rights.

Because the believers in every religion, and the holders of any particular belief or opinion, are in the minority somewhere, the rights of the adherents of any faith or view are liable to infringement, as perpetrated by governments or as promoted by groups working as front-organizations for particular vested interests or for governments.

In this Conference, we will examine in detail the trend in Europe to increase restrictions on freedom of opinion, religion and belief, as well as the clandestine efforts of some governments to export discriminatory systems to other countries via European institutions, and the concrete effects of these things. We will examine the existing tools for protecting freedom of belief, religion and opinion (including international law, international jurisprudence and EU-jurisprudence). The speakers (in 3 different panels) will be representatives from various religious denominations, international experts in the relevant fields and specialist defenders of human rights.

Each panel-presentation will be followed by live debates.

Speakers (other speakers will add soon)

Bashy Quraishy

Chairman of ENAR Advisory Council
Chair of European Platform for Jewish/Muslim Cooperation
Secretary General of EMISCO

Professor Juan Ferreiro Galguera

Full professorship of Ecclesiastical Law at University of Coruna
Former D/Director General for Promotion and Protection
of Religious Freedom at the Spain Ministry of Justice.

Hans Noodt

President of the Gerard Noodt Foundation

Gérard Ducrey

PhD in political sciences, Attorney at law, France

Eric Roux

Steering Committee of the European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom