

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:
HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL
INCLUSION AND POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION
THE CASE OF CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES**

**Florence,
June 13th – 14th 2011**



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
Many cultures. One humanity.





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Draft *Non paper*

(as of June 7th)

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INTRODUCTION

Spain and Italy propose to hold on 13th and 14th June 2011, an International Seminar under the title “RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. THE CASE OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES”. This Seminar will be convened in cooperation with the European University Institute in Florence under the auspices of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, and along with a number of countries of different regions committed to this pivotal issue.

This encounter would be structured in two parts. The first part will be dedicated to the mentioned topic of the Seminar. The second part will consist in a preparatory meeting in view of the IV *UNAOC* Forum due to take place in Qatar on 11-13th December 2011, focusing on *Religious diversity*.

Main goals for both exercises will be:

- To promote an objective analysis on the situation of religious minorities and on how to assure the full exercise of freedom of religion and belief and the equal enjoyment of social, economic and political rights.
- To generate awareness of countries where minorities live so that governments can promote, through dialogue and coordination, good policies and practices to avoid discrimination and remove obstacles against the exercise of the full set of rights and freedoms by the members of those communities.
- To contribute to prepare general works on the protection and respect of religious minorities and for the adoption of measures that will promote acceptance, non-discrimination, recognition and inclusion for religious minorities.
- To overcome divisions and conflicts fight against discrimination of religious communities.
- To identify projects, actions and policy recommendations in this field.

Overview

- Dates: 13-14th June 2011
- Duration: two days
- Place: European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- Sponsors: Governments of Italy and Spain in cooperation with the European University Institute in Florence and under the auspices of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

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- Invited participants: Official delegations, international organizations, experts, academic scholars, religious leaders and representatives
- Participants: aprox. 60
- Language: English

PROGRAMME

Sunday, June 12th

--:-- h. Arrival of Delegations and experts

Monday, June 13th

09:15 h. Transfer by bus from the hotels to the European University Institute

10:00 h. Official opening of the Conference

- Josep Borrell, European University Institute President
- M^a Victoria González Román, Ambassador at Large for the Alliance of Civilizations, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Pasquale Ferrara, Head, Policy Planning Unit, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Marc Scheuer, Director of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat

11:00 h. Plenary Session

Title: "Religious Freedom: Individual Human Right or Minority Right?"

- Olivier Roy, Head of the Mediterranean Programme, European University Institute, Florence (moderator)
- Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Council, Council of Europe
- Magda Zaki, Director of the Department of the Dialogue among Civilisations, Arab League (TBC)
- Fasil Nahoum, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia
- Asiya Nasir, Member of the National Assembly, Pakistan

Debate

12.30 h. Luncheon (Buffet)

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14:30 h. Thematic sessions in simultaneous panels:

Panel 1: International cooperation for the promotion of freedom of religion: human rights and their cultural dimension.

- *Moderator:* Hadi Adanali, Advisor of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey (TBC)
- *Rapporteur:* Alexander Stummvoll, European University Institute, Florence.

Segments:

1.1 Global citizenship, fundamental rights and freedom of religion

- *Kick off Speaker:* Denis Huber, Director North-South Center

1.2 How to address the cultural dimension of freedom of religion?

- *Kick off Speaker:* Father Samir Khalil Samir, Professor at Political Oriental Institute, Rome (TBC)

1.3 How to address religious diversity at a global level?

- *Kick off Speaker:* Carlos García de Andoín, Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of the Presidency, Spain

Panel 2: Institutional and political participation for the full respect and exercise of religious freedom

- *Moderator:* Justo Lacunza, Rector Emeritus, PISAI
- *Rapporter:* Nadia Marzouki, European University Institute, Florence

Segments:

2.1 Sharing best practices on religious pluralism and political participation

- *Kick off Speaker:* Marco Ventura, Professor, University of Siena, Faculty of Law

2.2 Improving the institutional framework for the respect of freedom of religion

- *Kick off Speaker:* Kheloudja Khalfoun, Lawyer in Tizi Ouzou, Algeria

2.3 Freedom of religion and religious pluralism: a central issue in democratic transitional processes

- *Kick off Speaker:* Ömür Orhun, OIC

Panel 3: Good practices and policies for the respect and promotion of Freedom of Religion and Belief: the social and economic dimensions of religious discrimination

- *Moderator:* Ms. Bience P. Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union (TBC)

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- *Rapporteur*: Martyn Egan, European University Institute, Florence

Segments:

3.1 The social and cultural dimension of religious discrimination

- *Kick off Speaker* (TBC): Joseph Maïla, Director of Prospective, France

3.2 The economic dimension of religious discrimination

- *Kick off Speaker*: Bernard Sabella, Associate Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University

3.3 Best projects, initiatives and policies in education, youth, media and migration against religious discrimination

- *Kick off Speaker*: Margaretha M. Hendricks-Ririmasse, Indonesia.

3.4 Mapping key policies and recommendations for the prevention of religious radicalism and intolerance against religious communities. The case of Christian minorities

- *Kick off Speaker* (TBC):

16:30 h. Coffee break

17:00 h. Continuation of panels

18.00 h. Visit of the Roman Theatre of Fiesole

19:30 h. Dinner hosted by the President of the European University Institute at Villa Schifanoia

22:00 h. Transfer by bus to the hotels

Tuesday, June 14th

08:45 h. Transfer by bus from the hotels to the European University Institute

09:00 h. Panels wrap-up sessions

10:30 h. Coffee break

11:00 h. Plenary session

Presentation of panel conclusions by panel moderators

Official closing of the Conference with the participation of:

- H.E. Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy



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- H.E. Mrs. Trinidad Jimenez García-Herrera, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain
- H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European University Institute

12:00 h. Family picture

12.15 h. Press conference

12:30 h. Luncheon (Buffet)

14.00 h. UNAOC Focal Points meeting on Religious Diversity in preparation of the AOC IV Global Forum of Doha

17.00 h. Transfer by bus to the hotels



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BACKGROUND

At the III United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation proposed together with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs to organise, under the auspices of the Alliance of Civilizations and according to the EU efforts to assure the protection of freedom of religion and belief and its exercise by minorities, a seminar on Christian minorities.

The freedom of conscience, and its corollary, freedom of religion represents the pivotal basis to overcome prejudice and distrust within societies. As such, they are protected by virtue of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This proposal follows similar exercises organised by Spain and Italy. Spain organised the Conference on Anti-Semitism held in the framework of the OSCE (Cordoba, 2005), the Conference on “*Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims*” on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the OSCE (Cordoba, 2007) and, more recently, the International Conference on “*Religious freedom in democratic societies*” on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, under the auspices of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (Cordoba, 2010).

Italy, on the other hand, organized and hosted on the same vein several initiatives on religion and international relations, including the seminars on “*Religions and International Relations: Challenges and Opportunities*” (Trento, 2009) and on “*Religions and Global Governance*” (Trento, 2010). Both the initiatives were held under the auspices of the Alliance of Civilizations. On the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the G8, a conference of Leaders of World Religions was convened (Rome 2009) to address the issue on the upcoming G8 Summit in L’Aquila. Moreover, an international seminar on Religions and Human Rights was organized in Rome in 2010 with the Italian Government contribution and active participation.

The Alliance of Civilizations has been participating in similar exercises on religion and interreligious dialogue. At the last Rio Pre-Forum, a session on *Islamophobia* .was organized with the sponsor of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, together with the Council of Europe and the British Council. The Alliance of Civilizations also organized with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in partnership with the Aga Khan Network, the 2010 Lisbon Forum, dedicated to “*Freedom of Expression, Conscience and Religion*”, as a follow-up of the mentioned Cordoba International Conference.



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The European University Institute at Florence (Italy), founded and supported by the European Union, brings together four departments of doctoral studies (Law, Economics, Civilization and History, Social and Political Sciences) and a research centre, the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS). In the framework of the RSCAS, Professor Olivier Roy is heading two programs which are respectively devoted to the relations between Europe and Middle East (*The Mediterranean Programme*) and to the development of a common approach towards the issue of religion in the public sphere (*Religion-West*). The aim of the latter programme is to study how countries on both sides of the Mediterranean may converge, beyond their historical and cultural differences, in recasting religious practices in terms of individual human rights.

Italy and Spain consider that religious diversity should be analysed from a global perspective and take advantage of the Alliance of Civilizations as a platform for dialogue and cooperation where these special and sensitive issues linked to cultural and religious differences can be tackled in a constructive spirit. For this reason, Italy and Spain considers that the next 4th Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Qatar on December 2011 will be a great opportunity to reinforce religious diversity by assuring the full exercise of freedom of religion and the protection of minorities.

CONCEPT NOTE

Religion is a valuable complement to every society, because of its commitment to ethical values, role in social cohesion, and cultural dimension. The growing cultural and religious diversity in our world, as a result of migratory movements and the effects of globalisation, demands a process of reflexion on coexistence, both within and among societies.

The right and the freedom to profess a religion are enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants. They are the result of the convergence and aspiration of different religions and beliefs. Delving deeper into our common principles and values is the key to overcoming approaches that emphasise what divides us.

Fear of the transformation of identities generates tensions and provokes unease, defensiveness and attitudes of resistance towards different cultural and religious traditions. A better understanding of diversity issues including the situation of religious minorities is essential to avoiding discrimination in its different forms, counteracting stereotyping, prejudice and mistrust, for the sake of building inclusive, open societies to accept diversity as a source of enrichment, not of division and conflict.

The social and political inclusion of religious communities needs to address issues related to citizenship and democratic participation, and of equal rights and



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opportunities. Ensuring social cohesion and preventing radical attitudes and religious extremism should be an object of special consideration.

Other fundamental rights directly related to religious freedom, such as freedom of opinion and of expression, equality between men and women, and those regarding religious education, will be the object of particular attention.

Political institutions and governments are increasingly aware of the role that reciprocal tolerance between religions can play in esteem between cultures, and cooperation and peace in international relations. How to achieve this goal and how to combat such attitudes will be other issues to be discussed

Moreover, interfaith dialogue initiatives launched in recent years are contributing to mutual knowledge, understanding and respect among communities finding ways to build common ground for more harmonious relations between individuals and communities. Such an approach contributes to overcoming mistrust, favouring reconciliation, and making it possible to develop one of the main positive aspects of every religious confession.

The auspices of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, as a platform for dialogue and cooperation and a catalyst for concrete projects and initiatives, offers an ideal framework for bringing positions closer together and overcoming divisions based on religious and cultural differences. As an action-oriented initiative, it focuses its activities on four priority areas: education, youth, the media and migration. Therefore, our reflections should be aimed at offering specific results that could be translated into initiatives and projects for action, related to, among other areas, good governance of religious diversity, education for diversity, transmitting intercultural competence.

The preparatory meeting in Florence will offer the possibilities to address religious diversity in general and the case of Christian Minorities in particular. The experience of the mentioned previous exercises as well as the outcomes of this Seminar will contribute to the preparation of the Session on Religious Diversity in the IV AOC Global Forum in Doha.

ORGANISATION & LOGISTICS

- *Language: English*
- *Venue*

The Seminar will take place at the European University Institute:

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Badia Fiesolana
Via Roccettini 9
I -50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (Firenze)
Tel. +39 055 46851

– *Accommodation*

Hotel Villa Fiesole
via Beato Angelico, 35 – 50014 FIESOLE – FIRENZE – tel. 055 597 252

Hotel Villa Aurora
Piazza Mino, 39 – 50014 FIESOLE – FIRENZE – tel. 055 59 363

Hotel San Gallo
via Lorenzo il Magnifico, 2 – 50129 FIRENZE – tel. 055 463 871

Hotel Athenaeum
via Camillo Cavour, 88 – 50129 FIRENZE – tel. 055 589 456

– *Transportation*

How to reach the premises

From Florence Airport

Take the airport shuttle (Linea Volainbus) to the Autostazione SITA next to Florence railway station (Santa Maria Novella).

Take bus: 1a, 1b, 6, 17, 23 to Piazza San Marco (via Giorgio La Pira).

From Piazza San Marco (via Giorgio La Pira) take the bus 7 for Fiesole and get off at San Domenico.

For shuttle timetable see HYPERLINK "<http://www.ataf.net/>" www.ataf.net.

Inner-city travel

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- *By Bus:* You can reach the EUI, by taking bus 7 from Piazza San Marco and getting off at San Domenico bus stop.
From Florence railway station (SMN) take bus 1a, 1b, 6, 17, 23 to Piazza San Marco.
Bus tickets (biglietti) must be bought before boarding and stamped in the machine on the bus. Tickets are on sale outside the railway station, ATAF ticket kiosks and vending machines, tobacconists, newspaper kiosks, and some bars.
For bus routes and timetables see www.ataf.net
- *By Car:* From the A1 Milano-Napoli (Autostrada del Sole) take the Firenze Sud exit and follow directions for Fiesole/Stadio.
- *By Taxi:* For info on tariffs see: <http://www.socota.it> or call +055 4242, 055 4798.

COORDINATION

- Ambassador M. Victoria Gonzalez Román, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Director General Pasquale Ferrara, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Professor Olivier Roy, Head of the Mediterranean Programme, European University Institute

Contact:

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DRAFT LIST OF CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

By alphabetical order

- Zhamilya Abugalieva Saurebayeva, Diplomat of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan
- Hadi Adanali, Advisor Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
- Pasquale Annichino, Researcher, EUI, Italy
- Nasir Asiya, Member of the National Assembly, National Assembly, Pakistan



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- Dominique Avon, Professor, University of Le Mans, France
- Mahmoud Azab, Adviser to the dialogue of the Grand Imam of Al Azhar Ahmed Tayeb, Egypt
- Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Council, Council of Europe, North-South Centre
- Valeria Biagiotti, Deputy Head of the Policy Planning Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- Mariano Blázquez, General Secretary, FEREDE, Spain
- F. Javier Cantero Talavera, Head of Area, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Henar Corbí, Director of Holocaust and Antisemitism, Casa Sefarad-Israel, Spain
- Minister Daniel, Director, Justice for All, Ethiopia
- Fadi Daou, President, Adyan Foundation, Lebanon
- Ardak Dukenbayuly Doszhan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan
- Martyn Egan, Researcher, EUI
- Alfonsas Eidintas, Ambassador, Lithuanian MFA and OSCE Taskforce, OSCE
- Pasquale Ferrara, Head of the Policy Planning Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- Mons. Anthony Frontiero, Pontificio Consiglio Iustitia et Pax, Holy See
- Bience P. Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union
- Carlos García de Andoín, Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of the Presidency, Spain
- Ilias Ginting, Secretary of the Directorate for General Information and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
- Flaminia Giovannelli, Undersecretary, Pontificio Consiglio Iustitia et Pax, Holy See
- Alain Godonou, Conservateur du Patrimoine, UNESCO
- Michel Goffin, Deputy DG for Multicultural Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium
- María Victoria González Román, Ambassador at large for the Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Jeremy Gunn, Member of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, ODIHR, OSCE
- Ibrahim Ali Hassan, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
- Jan Henningsson, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

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- Denis Huber, Director, The North-South Centre, Council of Europe
- Massimo Introvigne, Personal Representative of the Chairperson in Office, OSCE
- Amal Jadou, Focal Point for the Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Palestine
- Kheloudja Khalfoun, Lawyer in Tizi Ouzou, Algeria
- Anne Koistinen, Policy Officer European External Action Service, Human Rights Policy Instruments Division, EU
- Sabine Kroissenbrunner, Head of the Task Force for Dialogue of Cultures, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria
- Justo Lacunza, Rector Emeritus, PISAI, Spain
- Rev. Margaretha Maria Hendriks, Vice moderator, World Council of Churches, Indonesia
- Nadia Marzouki, Jean Monnet Fellows at the Robert Schuman Center, EUI
- Omar Monieb, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
- Fasil Nahoum, Minister, Prime Minister, Ethiopia
- Jessica Northey, Researcher, EUI
- Ömür Orhun, Ambassador, Special Envoy of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
- Antonio Papisca, Professor. UNESCO Chair Human Rights Democracy and Peace, University of Padua, Italy
- Marta Pérez Soria, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Ilari Rantakari, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Mohamad Razdan, SDG Political and Security Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
- Dato Rohana Ramli, Ambassador, DG Political and Security Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
- Olivier Roy, Head of the Mediterranean Program, RSCAS, EUI
- Gerhard Sabathil, Director of the European External Action Service, EU
- Bernard Sabella, Associate professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University, Palestine
- Simona Santoro, Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, ODIHR, OSCE
- Mariano Sanz González, Rector of the National Spanish Church of Santiago and Montserrat, Spanish Episcopal Conference, Spain
- Alexander Stummvoll, Researcher, EUI



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- Joy Tirol, Executive Director, DG United Nations and International Organizations, Philippines
- Malek Twal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jordan
- Marco Ventura, Professor, University of Siena, Faculty of Law, Italy
- Konstantin Victorovich Shuvalov, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia
- Katja Weigelt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- Setyo Wibowo Agustinus, Professor, STF Driyarkara, Indonesia
- Magda, Zaki, Director Department of the Dialogue among Civilizations, Arab League, Arab League
