

# SEMINAR & NETWORKING RECEPTION

March 19-20 2013 – Brussels, Belgium

Fair Treatment for All: Religion and Belief, Law and Equalities in Europe

- To suggest methods for more consistent implementation of EU Directives on Equalities and Non-Discrimination on grounds of Religion and Belief across Europe.
- To increase public awareness of the fundamental right of freedom of religion and belief: diversity or lack of inclusivity?
- To explore policies and actions, at governmental and grass-roots levels, which move away from confrontation towards reasonable accommodation.

Registration for all participants is at: [www.enorb3.eventbrite.com](http://www.enorb3.eventbrite.com)

## Programme

### DAY ONE – 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

**SEMINAR** at the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, Hall 6Q1, Batiment Altieri Spinelli, Main (Guest's) Entrance, off Place de Luxembourg, 1047 Brussels.

**SESSION 1: Setting the Equalities Agenda for Religion & Belief in Europe.** Chair: **Alan Murray**

#### 15.00 WELCOME

Vice President **László Surján**.

**Challenging Inequality, Enriching Public Debate: ENORB members and partners**

#### 15.30 Religion and Belief, EU Law and Equalities

New Legal Developments: **Lucy Vickers**

New Challenges and New Paradigms: **Marco Ventura**

**SESSION 2: Implementing the Directives across Europe.** Chair: **Martin Gurvich**

#### 16.30 Improving Implementation: New European Perspectives

RELIGARE : Lessons from a 10-nation project – Employment Law: **Katayoun Alidadi**

Combating Discrimination: Experience from ENAR: **Bashy Quraishi**

BELIEFORAMA: Anti-discrimination training: **Robin Sclafani**

Working together across the divides:

i) Education: **Richy Thompson**

ii) Grassroots action: **Tinci Singh**

iii) Exploring conflicts between equality strands: **Karim Chemlal**

**17.30 Political Perspectives on Improving Implementation: Dennis De Jong MEP**, Chair of EU Parliamentary Group on Religion and Belief

**18.00 Seminar ends.** Move to Centre Espaces.

**NETWORKING RECEPTION** at Centre Espaces, Avenue de la Renaissance, 40, B-1000 Brussels

**19.00 Evening Meal**

**20.00 Networking and Planning of Member State Seminars and Regional Exchange Visits 2013.** Chair: **Catriona Robertson**

**21.00** End of first day.

### DAY TWO – 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

**Towards a Framework for Improving Application of Directives.** Chair: **Lucy Vickers**  
Centre Espaces, Avenue de la Renaissance, 40, B-1000 Brussels (Prayer facilities available)

**09.15 Introduction**  
**Alan Murray & Peter Petkoff**

**09.30 Religion and Belief Priorities in European Regions**

i) Eastern Europe : **Renata Uitz**

ii) SE Europe: **Peter Petkoff**

iii) SW Europe: **Eugenia Relano**

iv) N Europe: **Anu Laas**

Followed by contributions from participants.

**11.00 Coffee Break**

### 11.15 Workshops (in Regional Groups)

- a. How can consistent implementation of the R&B strand of the directive be achieved, in the light of current challenges in your region?
- b. How can European Institutions help to reframe the debate on religion and belief - away from diversity as a challenge, towards lack of inclusivity as a challenge?
- c. How can grassroots organisations help to move public awareness of Religion and Belief away from confrontation towards reasonable accommodation?

Workshop Chairs: **Paul Weller, Lucy Vickers, Peter Petkoff.**

Workshop Rapporteurs: **Anu Laas, Julie Pascoet, Win Burton.**

### 12.15 Final Plenary Alan Murray and Marco Ventura

Reflection and Action

### 13.00 Finish

#### Afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> March: informal networking

*Visits to religious and humanist places of interest in Brussels are being arranged during the afternoon for anyone who would like to stay on for some informal networking. We will leave Centre Espaces at around 14.30 and eat together in the evening. Please let us know if you would like to join us: [enorb@enorb.eu](mailto:enorb@enorb.eu)*

**Context:** The Treaty of Lisbon both integrates the Charter of Fundamental Rights, notably Article 10 on freedom of religion and belief, and affirms, in Article 17, the need for dialogue with religious and non-religious organisations. The treaty can have a major positive impact for the future of Europe, by creating a potential 'European Free Area for Religion and Belief' built on the shared European values enshrined in the treaties. It opens the way to reducing conflict between worldviews and increasing the impact of the work done by religious and belief organisations, both separately and together, for the common good of Europe's citizens from all backgrounds. The conference, linked to the Review of the EU Equality Directives, examines their potential major contribution in a changing, broader context.

This event is the third public seminar organised by ENORB, a new European network combating discrimination and prejudice and promoting mutual understanding and harmony in the field of Religion and Belief. As with other EU Equalities networks, ENORB works for common action on the basis of the inclusive policies enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

[www.enorb.eu](http://www.enorb.eu) (Register at: [www.enorb3.eventbrite.com](http://www.enorb3.eventbrite.com) )