March, 9-10-11-12, 2010

TWO JOINT MEETINGS
TWO JOINT CALLS FOR PAPERS

Dialogue and concertation between philosophies of life/religions and the public authorities in Europe
Challenges and limits of new forms of governance

—I— NATIONAL POLICIES

—II— INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Conference held at Higher Institute of Philosophy of Life, Public Authorities and Society (HILOS),
www.hilos.be
Ghent, Belgium, March 9-10, 2010

and at Catholic University Louvain,
www.uclouvain.be/chaire-droit-religions
Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, March 11-12, 2010
**Dialogue and concertation between philosophies of life/religions and the public authorities in Europe**

**Challenges and limits of new forms of governance:**

— I — NATIONAL POLICIES

Conference held at Higher Institute of Philosophy of Life, Public Authorities and Society (HILOS), Ghent, Belgium, March 9-10, 2010

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**Objectives**

Article 17 of the Consolidated version of the Treaty concerning the working of the European Union, after the Treaty of Lisbon, provides for an “open, transparent and regular” dialogue with the Churches, but “while recognising their identity and specific contribution”, as well as with the non-confessional organisations.

On the one hand, this provision contributes to the development of relations between politics and philosophies of life and religions. On the other hand, it remains vague and silent about the manner in which the dialogue should be conducted. How is this dialogue to be carried out? Who are the conversation partners? How will the agenda be drawn up? What will be the impact of this type of dialogue on the public authorities? Thus many questions arise. The challenges are incisive.

Meanwhile, without waiting for the unification process of the European Union, several European countries have started a less structural consultation with both the Churches and other philosophies of life and with the government. In some other countries, specific consultative bodies have been established to explicate the relation to Islam. Still in other countries, rather multilateral initiatives have been taken.

Can these national initiatives lead to a better understanding of the meaning and challenges of a future European practice of participative democracy? The colloquium aims at creating a comparative approach in order to exchange good practices and to discern the similarities as well as the differences.

These comparative studies presented by specialists from different countries will, on the one hand, contribute to a clearer understanding, in detail, of the practical and concrete conditions of the new forms of dialogue in Europe. On the other hand, they will enable people to evaluate the own practices of each system and to ascertain how they might be improved in light of other national practices.

In the framework of this Congress, HILOS has invited expert speakers from nine European countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain.

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For the OTHER European countries, HILOS launches a call for papers

**Deadline:**

The deadline for submission of abstracts (max 300 words) is October 15, 2009 and for selected papers the deadline for full-text (in French or English, between 45,000 and 60,000 signs, in word rtf) will be January 15, 2010.
Who

Submissions of papers on the conference themes are welcome from junior researchers and PhD Students.

Applicants should:

- be a PhD Student or junior scholar in law or the social sciences (anthropology, sociology, political sciences etc.)
- have relevant previous experience and be active in a relevant area of specialisation
- have a good command of English or French

Schema for the completed contribution

Concertation (structured or not) between religions/philosophies of life and the public authorities in (name of the country):

I. Introduction

II. Legal and administrative framework concerning the structured and nonstructured concertation between religions/philosophies of life and the government.

Are there references in the actual legislation, in administrative practice, in jurisprudence which mention structured or nonstructured concertation?

III. The existing structured (formal) and nonstructured (informal) concertation between religions/philosophies of life and the public authorities:

- types of dialogue structures and/or cooperation on federal, regional, local level (commissions, councils, occasional and annual meetings, ...);
- concrete organisation (composition of the structures, members, chairmanship, manner of representation of the religions/philosophies of life and the public authorities);
- concrete functioning of these structures on federal, regional, local level;
- subjects for discussion and the manner of follow-up.

IV. Juridical and practical evaluations of the functioning of these concertation structures.

V. Proposals for the future

Selection Process

The selection of participants will be made on a competitive basis. In the selection, the profile of the selected group of participants as a whole will be taken into consideration. The purpose is to select a team that is as complementary, multidisciplinary and multicultural as possible.

The applications will be reviewed by the selection committee headed by Prof. Patrick De Pooter and Prof. Louis-Léon Christians. The selection committee will include scholars and researchers of Belgian Universities.

Successful candidates will be informed on the admission decision by mid-November 2009.
Where

The HILOS Conference on March 9-10, 2010 will be held in the Guislain Formation Centre, Jozef Guislainstraat 43 in Ghent, Belgium. It is situated near the centre of Ghent. For more information, please see www.hilos.be.

Organizers

The conferences are collaboratively organized and funded by HILOS (www.hilos.be), the Flemish Government, National Research Funds, Catholic University Louvain (www.uclouvain.be).

Costs

The conference fee for these two days March 9-10, 2010 will be 100 euro. The conference will be free for accepted paper-givers, while travel and accommodation costs will be covered by each individual participant/institution.

How

The application documents include:

1. Application form completed in English or French (see attachment)

2. Curriculum vitae, in English or French, with attached list of publications (if available)

3. An outline of your proposed paper of minimum 1 page - maximum 2 pages, in English or French

Submission, registration and further information

For registration and practical matters please contact:

e-mail: hilos@skynet.be

The conference programme will be continuously updated. Please see the latest version at www.hilos.be.

Deadlines :

* Deadline for submission of abstracts (max 300 words) is October 15, 2009 and for selected papers the deadline for full-text (in French or English, between 45,000 and 60,000 signs, in word rtf) will be January 15, 2010.

* Deadline for attending and registration and payment is February 15th, 2010. Your registration is binding.

Early registration and payment before January 15th, 2010 = 25 euro bonus.
Dialogue and concertation between philosophies of life/religions and the public authorities in Europe

Challenges and limits of new forms of governance:

—II— INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Conference held at Catholic University Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, March 11-12, 2010

Objectives

The Alliance of Civilisations’ UN process, the religious dimensions of the White Paper on the intercultural dialogue (CoE), the European Union debates on the open, transparent and regular dialogue with the Churches and Philosophies, but also the international impact of the meetings in Assisi launched by Pope John Paul II, or the Madrid process show today that the dialogue between the public authorities and the religions cannot be conceived without taking into account a dialogue between the religions themselves. Diverse forms of interaction between these two types of dialogues equally develop progressively depending on the different national experiences.

The attention the national and international organisations gradually spend on the interconvictional programmes seems to be crossed by a kind of ambiguity which, nevertheless, finds itself at the centre of new potentialities of the mechanisms for the public regulation. Ambiguity because of the blurred border between the actual religious stakes vis-a-vis those programmes and the stakes of the Civil Society or Public Policies. New potentialities because adapting multilateral structures to religious issues might be interpreted as an answer to the open requirements of Participative Democracy, whereas most national policies were constructed according to purely bilateral negotiatory methods. Anyway, new legal guarantees should be enforced in order to avoid strategic and unconstitutional instrumentalisation of these interreligious dialogues. If a risk/benefit analysis is correctly assessed, public and transparent interactions with interreligious processes might under reasonable conditions fit into the new forms of public governance invented in other sectors of the society.

Two kind of questions will be adressed by this pluridisciplinary colloquium: how do the international organisations or the European Union take into account or mobilise the resources produced by several forms of interreligious dialogues, be it by redefining them?

But, vice versa, how do the actors of interreligious dialogue react to the expectations or the attention given to their religious action by the international organisations?

Does this involve a simple game of instrumentalisation, in one way or two directions? Or are the stakes much deeper, either substantial or procedural? What contribution can these analyses make to the different knowledges mobilised in religious sciences?

It will not be a matter of making a substantial analysis of the interreligious confessional efforts or of intercultural, national or international policies, but of envisaging two transverse questions: (a) why and how do the nations and international organisations attach growing significance to certain dimensions of the interreligious dialogue, and conversely, (b) does this attention or public expectation have a boomerang effect on the religious actors and on the own confessional initiatives of the interreligious dialogue?

Within the framework of this Congress, the Chair for Law and Religions (UCL) will invite as keynote speakers high-level experts - jurists, sociologists, as well as theologians of different traditions.

The Chair for Law and Religions also issues a call for papers framed for junior researchers.
Call for papers:

**Deadline**

Deadline for submission of abstracts (max 300 words) is October 15, 2009 and for selected paper, the deadline for full-text (in French or English, between 45,000 and 60,000 signs, in word rtf) will be January 15, 2010.

**Who**

Submissions of papers on the conference themes are welcome from junior researchers and PhD Students.

Applicants should:

- be a PhD Student or junior scholar in law or the social sciences (anthropology, sociology, political sciences etc.)
- have relevant previous experience and be active in a relevant area of specialisation
- have a good command of English or French

**Themes for contributions**

In order to promote a comparative approach, the authors are invited to present their paper on one of the proposed themes below.

*Hypothesis 1*: analysis of one interreligious initiative and interaction with public and social expectation

- evolution and/or adaptation of the theological discourses and analyses (theologies, history);
- evaluation of the biographies of the theological or religious actors acting in these interactions (theology, sociology).

*Hypothesis 2*: analysis of a public initiative (local, national or international) with multilateral interactions among a large rank of religions

- specific legal structures of multilateralisation and horizontalisation of the consultation process with the religions and philosophies of life (jurists);
- evaluation of the biographies of the actors and/or active religious representatives in these systems (history, sociology);
- evaluation of the efficiency of the process (sociology, political science).

**Selection Process**

The selection of participants will be made on a competitive basis. In the selection, the profile of the selected group of participants as a whole will be taken into consideration. The purpose is to select a team that is as complementary, multidisciplinary and multicultural as possible.

The applications will be reviewed by the selection committee headed by Prof. Patrick De Pooter and Prof. Louis-Léon Christians. The selection committee will include scholars and researchers of Belgian Universities.
Successful candidates will be informed on the admission decision by mid-November 2009.

Where

The Conference on March 11-12, 2010 will be held at Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. It is located at 25 km in the south of Brussels. For more information, please see http://www.uclouvain.be/en-visiteur-international.html.

Organizers

The conferences are collaboratively organized and funded by the UCL Chair for Law and Religions, and Hilos, Flemish Government, National Research Funds, Catholic University Louvain.

Costs

The conference fee for these two days March 11-12 will be 100 Euro. The conference will be free for accepted paper-givers, while travel and accommodation costs will be covered by each individual participant/institution.

For a full participation to four days meeting Ghent + Louvain-la-Neuve : see below.

How

The application documents include:

1. Application form completed in English or French (see attachment)
2. Curriculum vitae, in English or French, with attached list of publications (if available)
3. An outline of your proposed paper of minimum 1 page - maximum 2 pages, in English or French

Submissions, Registration and further information

For submission, registration and practical matters please contact:

e-mail: ll.christians@uclouvain.be with as email object : CDialg

The conference programme will be continuously updated. Please see the latest version at www.uclouvain.be/chaire-droit-religions

* Deadline for submission of abstracts (max 300 words) is October 15, 2009 and for selected paper, the deadline for full-text (in French or English, between 45,000 and 60,000 signs, in word rtf) will be January 15, 2010.

*Deadline for registration and payment is February 15th, 2010. Your registration is binding. Early registration and payment before January 15th, 2010 = 25 euro bonus.
**Special Cost for a full participation to the two joint events (March, 9+10+11+12):**

The conference fee for full participation to the two joint events (March, 9+10+11+12) will be 175 Euro (or 200 Euro also including the tourist excursion from Ghent to Louvain-la-Neuve, and dinner at Brussels).

The full conference will be free for all accepted paper-givers, while travel and accommodation costs will be covered by each individual participant/institution.

**Deadline for registration and payment is February 15th, 2010. Your registration is binding.**

**Early registration and payment for a full participation, before January 15th, 2010 = 50 euro bonus.**