

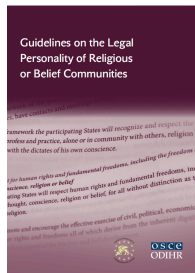
The European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission (CDL) – and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) have been providing international legislative support and assistance to many States in drafting laws on freedom of religion or belief.

From these experiences, both institutions drafted together the Guidelines for Legislation Pertaining to Religion or Belief in 2004. From 2004 to 2014, the international standards on freedom of religion or belief have been transformed, mainly through the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the commitments of the OSCE. Moreover, many new reports on legislative support to draft laws have been issued.

As a new step in this process, new Guidelines were adopted 2014. They focus on collective issues in religious or belief communities and, as they gather coherently and clearly all international standards in this regard, they constitute an essential tool for the legislators and for any person interested in the legal protection of freedom of religion or belief.

Both Guidelines of 2004 and 2014 and the CDL(CoE)/ODIHR(OSCE) Reports on national legislative drafts help the implementation of human rights and religious freedom in national legislations and take part in the development of International standards on FORB.

The Conference aims to analyse these new avenues and to discuss the procedural and substantial specificities of CDL(CoE)/ODIHR(OSCE) international legislative support, its influence on national legislations in OSCE countries, on international law and on the case law of the ECtHR.



TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON DRAFTING LAWS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Scientific Committee

Prof. Louis-Leon Christians (UCL)
 Prof. Cole Durham (Brigham Young University)
 Prof. Sebastien van Drooghenbroeck (USL-Bxl)
 Prof. François Foret (ULB)
 Prof. Silvio Ferrari (Univ. Milan)
 Prof. Jan Velaers (UAntwerpen)

An international meeting co-organised by

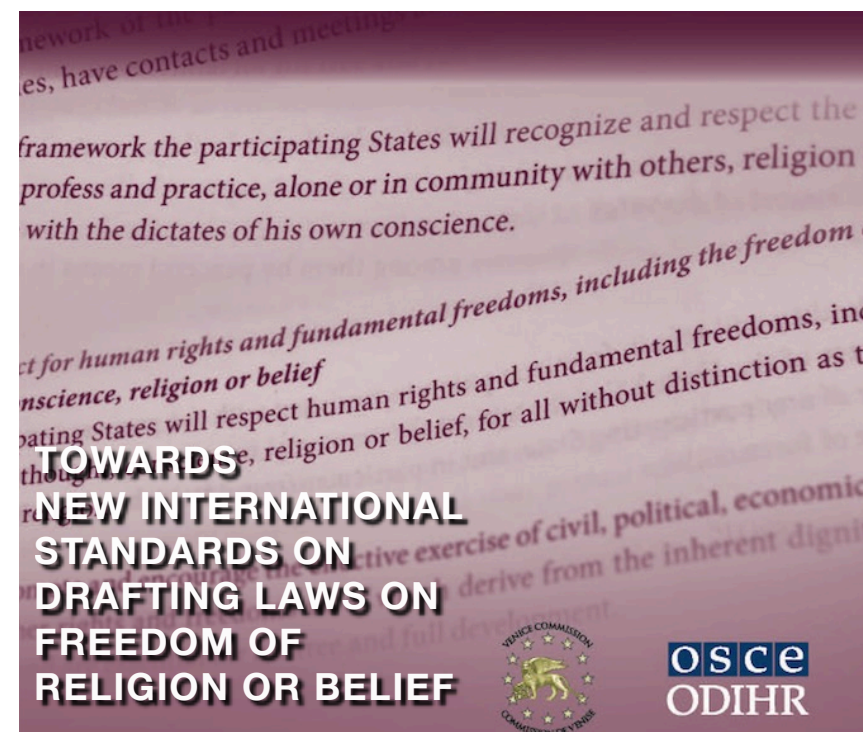
- Chaire de droit des religions, Institut RSCS Religions, Spiritualités, Cultures, Sociétés, Université catholique de Louvain
- the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (BYU - USA)
- with the support of the Belgian National Research Fund FNRS, and
- Commission de Venise (CoE) and
- ODIHR (OSCE)

Registration as Observer : Any university researcher, body or agency, which is qualified in matters covered by the Meeting, and which has informed the secretariat of its wish to be registered as an observer, may be so admitted.

Information and registration : www.uclouvain.be/513956



EXPERT MEETING CDL(COE)/ODIHR(OSCE) GUIDELINES ON THE LEGAL PERSONALITY OF RELIGIOUS OR BELIEF COMMUNITIES



TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON DRAFTING LAWS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Louvain-la-Neuve
June, 25-26th 2015

SÉNAT ACADÉMIQUE
www.uclouvain.be/513956



TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON DRAFTING LAWS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Program - THURSDAY 25th

Some short introductions by UCLouvain team, and systematic round table by experts

- 10h00 - Welcome - **Theoretical issues - Pragmatical answers ?** - Prof. Louis-Leon Christians
10h30 - Introduction - **Drafting laws on FORB : an international experience** - Prof. Cole Durham
11h00 - **First session - Guidelines as an international mandate** - Chair : Prof. Marco Ventura

What are the competences and specific understanding of the international bodies in charge of preparing Guidelines ? What are the links between preparing such Guidelines and the general goals of the Organization. Short presentation and description : a short introduction by Gerald Tilkin and round table (after a coffee break)

- 12h10 - **2nd session - The International Legal Status of Guidelines** - Chair : prof. A. Overbeeke

Are legal opinions and General Guidelines becoming new sources of international (soft) law ? What are the consequences of the cross quotation of guidelines and decisions by the European Court of Human Rights ? Through their compilations, are the legal opinions becoming a new kind of precedent rule ? a short introduction by Louis-Leon Christians, and round table

- 13h00 - LunchTime

- 15h00 - **3rd session - The Guidelines evolving content and FORB (2004-2014)** - Chair : Prof. J. Gunn

What are the specific content, priorities and focuses of FORB in the Guidelines ? Are they static or evolving ? How can they contribute to a substantial typology of FORB ? Are they mainly substantive or procedural ? Why are they apparently more limited in 2014 than in 2004 ? a short introduction by Gerald Tilkin, and round table

- 16h00 - **4th session - The procedural aspect of preparing Legal opinions and Guidelines** - Chair : Prof. J. Martinez Torron

What are the specific, formal or informal procedures in preparing Legal Opinions and Guidelines? How to describe the cooperation between ODIHR and CDL about the Guidelines? How to compare the procedures for preparing legal opinions between ODIHR and CDL ? What are the role and influence of individual expert, national contexts, local procedures ? What about other bodies such ECRI or EU ? a short introduction by Louis-Leon Christians, and round table

- 17h00 - Coffe break

- 17h30 - Cultural visit of Louvain-la-Neuve and dinner

Program - FRIDAY 26th

Some short introductions by UCLouvain team, and systematic round table by experts

- 09h30 - Welcome - **Short summary of previous sessions 1 to 4** - Prof. Louis-Leon Christians
09h50 - intermediate evaluation - **Drafting laws on FORB** : Prof. Javier Martinez Torron
10h20 - **Fifth session - FORB, guidelines and open dialogue in EU** - Chair : Prof. Marco Ventura

What are the competences and specificities of the EU way of dealing with FORB ? What kind of cooperation and interrelation with OSCE and CoE on these issues ? : a statement by Katarina von Schnürbein (EU Commission) and round table

- 11h20 - Coffee Break

- 11h40 - **Sixth session - The pragmatic effectiveness of Guidelines and Legal Opinions** - Chair : Prof. Rik Torfs

Are legal opinions and General Guidelines effective in local context ? Which are the ways for assessment and improvement ? How to compare Eastern and Western standards and effectiveness ? How to compare their effectiveness with classical expost international monitoring ? a short introduction by Gerald Tilkin , and round table

- 12h40 - **Prospective and Concluding remarks** - Chair : Prof. Cole Durham and LL. Christians

What could be the main lines, turning points or future evolutions of these kind of legal opinions and Guidelines

- 13h20 - End of the meeting - Lunch Time

Experts



Louis-Leon **CHRISTIANS** (Universite catholique de Louvain)
Cole **DURHAM**, (Brigham Young University)
Finola **FLANAGAN** (CoE-CDL-Venice)
François **FORET** (Universite Libre de Bruxelles)
Ombretta **FUMAGALLI-CARULLI** (OSCE-ODHIR, Univ. SC Milano)
Simona **GRANATA-MENGHINI** (CoE-CDL-Venice)
Jeremy **GUNN** (Al Akhawayn University, Morocco)
Javier **MARTINEZ-TORRON**, (Universidad Complutense, Madrid)
Adriaan **OVERBEEKE** (Vrije Univ. Amsterdam)
Stephanos **STAVROS** (CoE-ECRI)
Gerlad **TILKIN** (Universite catholique de Louvain)
Sébastien **VAN DROOGHENBROEK** (Univ. Brussels - ECHR expert)
Rik **TORFS** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Marco **VENTURA** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - Universita Sienna)
Katharina **VON SCHNURBEIN** (EU Commission)
Mine **YILDIRIM** (Freedom of Belief Initiative, Istanbul, Turkey)