

Conference on Religion, Beliefs, Philosophical Convictions and Education

*From Passive Toleration to
Active Appreciation of Diversity*

The conference is organised by



College of Europe
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hosted by

the City of Bruges,
the Province of West-Flanders,
the Governor of West-Flanders

The opening and closing keynote addresses
are open to the public and the media.
The other parts of the conference will be
limited to conference participants only.

Conference accommodation:

Hotel De Tuilerieën, Dijver 7, Brugge

Conference venue:

Town Hall of Bruges, Burg 12, Brugge
Provinciaal Hof, Markt 2, Brugge

**7-9/12/2010
Bruges - Belgium**

TUESDAY, December 7, 2010

18:30 **Conference Welcome**
Venue: Town Hall of Bruges, Burg 12, Brugge,
Room: Gothic room, 2nd floor

19:00 **Opening Session**
**Piet Akkermans Lectures embedded in
the Bruges Conference**
Welcome by **Mayor Patrick Moenaert**

Introduced by: **Jan De Groof** (*College of
Europe, University of Tilburg - TIAS, UNESCO
Chargé de Mission (2007-2009), Government
Commissioner*)

Speakers:

Riza Mahmut Türmen (*Formerly Justice
for Turkey at the European Court of Human
Rights*)

**“Religious Education in the Case Law
of the European Court of Human
Rights”**

Hent de Vries (*Director of The Humanities
Center of the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and
Sciences - Johns Hopkins University*)

**“A Religious Canon For Europe? Policy,
Education, and the Post-Secular
Challenge”**

20:00 **Plenary Discussion**
Moderator: **Wim van de Donk**
(*University of Tilburg, Her Majesty's
Governor*)

20:30 **Mayoral Reception at Townhall of Bruges**
Room: Salons 1st floor

21:00 **Walking Dinner for Sponsors and
Attendees at Hotel De Tuilerieën**

WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2010 - MORNING

Moderator: Jan De Groof
Room: Provincial Court of Bruges
at the Provinciaal Hof, Markt 2, Brugge

9:30 **Introduction**
by: **Jan De Groof** and **Wim van de Donk**

9:45 **Plenary Session A:
Opening Address**
**“From Passive Toleration to Active
Appreciation of Religious
Differences”**
Opening Speaker: **Herman Van Rompuy**
(*President of Europe, Former Prime Minister
of Belgium*)

10:00 **“Religious Conflicts and the Principle
of State Neutrality”**
Speaker: **Juliane Kokott** (*Advocate General
at the Court of Justice of the European Union,
Professor at the University of St. Gallen*)

10:30 **“Values and Religion. The Transmission
of Values and Interreligious Dialogue
Today”**
Speaker: **Hans Joas** (*Max Weber Center,
Erfurt, and University of Chicago*)

11:00 **Break**

11:30 **Panel**
René van der Linden (*President of the
Senate of the Dutch Parliament, Former
President of the Council of Europe
Parliamentary Assembly*)
Roberto Toniatti (*Trento University*)
Erik Borgman (*Forum - Commissie Religie &
Publiek Domein*)
Hans-Peter Füssel (*Humboldt University*)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

13:00 **Lunch**
Room: Residence of the Governor of
West-Flanders - Mr Paul Breyne

WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2010 - AFTERNOON

Moderator: Wim van de Donk
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14:00 **Plenary Session B:**
“Desecularisation of the Public Sphere – the Specificity of Islam in the European Public Sphere in the Light of the Recent Debates on Minaret and Niqab and what it means for Educational Systems in Europe”

Speaker: **Joselyn Cesari** (Harvard University)

14:40 **Panel**
Gabriel van den Brink (University of Tilburg)
Mona Siddiqi (University of Glasgow)
Riza Mahmut Türmen (former Turkish judge at the European Court of Human Rights)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

15:30 **Break**

16:00 **Plenary Session C:**
“Balancing Freedom of Religious and Philosophical Convictions in a Democratic Society”
Speaker: **Albie Sachs** (Formerly Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa)

16:40 **Panel**
Michalis Stathopoulos (University of Athens)
Paul De Hert (Free University of Brussels)
Hent de Vries (Johns Hopkins University)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

19:30 **Walking Dinner for Sponsors and Attendees at Hotel De Tuilerieën**

THURSDAY, December 9, 2010 - MORNING

Moderator: Wim van de Donk
Room: Provincial Court of Bruges
at the Provinciaal Hof, Markt 2, Brugge

9:30 **Plenary Session D:**
“Values or Reasons: the Contribution of Public Education to a Culture of Democratic Difference”
Speaker: **Christoph Möllers** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany)

“Religion and Belief in Higher Education Institutional Practice: Introducing A Research Project and a Leadership Project from the UK”

Speaker: **Paul Weller** (University of Derby - UK)

10:10 **Panel**
Luce Pépin (Consultant, Network of European Foundations - NEF)
Wibren van der Burg (Erasmus School of Law – Netherlands)
Pedro Barbas Homem (University of Lisbon – Portugal)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

11:00 **Break**

11:30 **Plenary Session E:**
“Balancing Provisions of Non-discrimination, Equal Educational Opportunities, and Identity of Non-governmental Schools”
Speaker: **Ben Vermeulen** (Council of State of the Netherlands)

Panel
Dympna Glenndening (Barrister - Ireland)
Chakib Benmakhlouf and Haytham Rahmah (Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe)
Verhack Etienne (European Committee for Catholic Education)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

12:30 **Lunch**
Room: Residence of the Governor of West-Flanders - Mr Paul Breyne

THURSDAY, December 9, 2010 - AFTERNOON

Moderator: Jan De Groof
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13:30 **Plenary Session F:**
“From Cultural Conflicts to Toleration and Appreciation in and through Education – Best Practices”
Speaker: **Professor the Baroness Afshar OBE, AcSS** (University of York - UK)

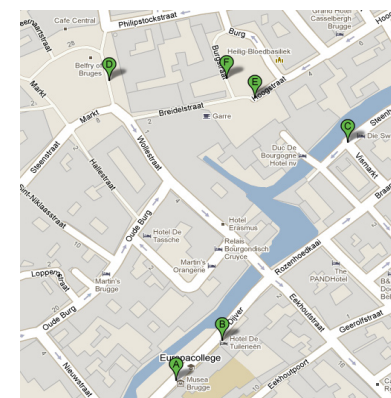
14:00 **Panel**
Wil Derkse (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen - Netherlands)
Charles Glenn (Boston University - USA)
Kishore Singh (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education - United Nations)

Followed by Roundtable Discussion

15:00 **Closing Session**
Report of the Task Force
Gracienne Lauwers (University of Antwerp - Belgium)
Closing Lecture
“National Identity and Multicultural Values: the Constitutional Approach of Positive Secularism”
Roberto Toniatti (Trento University)
Conclusions
Jan De Groof and **Wim van de Donk**

16:00 **Closing Reception**

Exposition ‘Van Eyck tot Dürer’
in the Groeningemuseum, Dijver 12



- A: Groeningemuseum
- B: Hotel De Tuilerieën (hotel main building/ dinner)
- C: Hotel second building
- D: Provinciaal Hof (conference venue)
- E: Stadhuis/Town Hall of Bruges (Piet Akkermans Lectures)
- F: Residence of the Governor (lunches)

Conference registration at <http://www.lawandeducation.com/>

Organizers or sponsors cannot be held responsible for any accidents during the conference or damage to property of the participants.