

EHF Eurozine - December 2003

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

1. EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE 51

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS IS STILL BEING THREATENED

1. EHF European campaign for the withdrawal of article 51

STILL GOING ON AND STILL GOING STRONG !!!

The campaign of letters to national Ministers of EU countries and candidate countries demanding the withdrawal of article 51 from the draft of the future European Constitution that EHF started at the beginning of September 2003 is **still going on**.

Information on article 51, on why it must be withdrawn, and on how to write to your Ministers, on [Daniel faire un lien vers 04-act-europinstitut](#) Also translations into Dutch, Spanish, Portugese, Italian, German ...

2. During the last months, EHF has

- organised a press conference with 6 other European networks on 5 November 2003, in the European Parliament in Brussels [lien vers http://www.humanism.be/english/04act-europinstitut.htm](http://www.humanism.be/english/04act-europinstitut.htm)

-drafted a document showing that the **Vatican's demands since 1996** have finally been met by **article 51 in 2003** - Intervention of the Churches in the EU (Nov 2003) [Daniel ce doc se trouve dans un email et est à poster sur la page 04act-europinstitut.htm](#)

- taken part in debates and given talks on State-Church relations in Europe and on laicity/secularism and the European Institutions during the Paris European Social Forum, on 14 November 2003

- taken part and given a talk on "Secularism, religious lobbying, which purposes will art.51 serve ?" at the international conference "*La laïcité, une idée européenne*" organised the Comité Laïcité République, in Bordeaux (France), on 29 and 30 November 2003

- taken part and given talks at the international colloquium « *Secularism is essential to the equal treatment of citizens by the institution* », co-organised by the Italian Union of Rationalist Atheists and Agnostics and EHF, in Rome (Italy), on 29 and 30 November 2003

- organised with Olga Zrihen, European MP, a hearing with European MP's in the Brussels European Parliament, on 3 December 2003.

Gave a talk: Olga Zrihen (European MP), Georges Liénard (EHF General Secretary), Elfriede Hart, Representative for Catholics for a Free Choice/Europe, Neil Datta of the International Planned Parenthood Federation/European Network, Sheila Swatschek of the International Lesbian and Gay Association/Europe, Jacqueline Herremans of Right to Die/Europe, Sophie Dimitroulias of the Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale and Olivia Welcke of the European Federation for Education and Culture.

Document circulated at the meeting and "Appeal to Decision-Makers on the future EU Constitution" drawn up after the meeting on [Daniel, ces doc se trouvent dans un autre email](#)

- taken part and given a talk on the withdrawal of art 51 at the European gathering “*For secularity in Europe*”, organised by the National Secular Society and the Libre Pensée Française, and sponsored by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, in Paris (France), on 6 December 2003

The EHF member organisations have also unremittingly been very active in the European campaign for a Europe of tolerance and equality. IHEU relayed the EHF campaign by writing on 6 December 2003 to the Governments of the EU Member States.

2. Events

“Der Beitrag Europas zur Zukunft der UNO”

Seminar organised by the Dachverbandes Freier Weltanschauungsgemeinschaften, in Lichtenfels (Germany), on 23-25 January 2004

Info : horst.prem@web.de

“L’Europe, une chance pour la femme musulmane”

International conference organised by EHF and by La Pensée et les Hommes
Friday 6 February 2004 – European Parliament – Brussels

Info and registration : pensees.hommes@swing.be

3. EHF meetings

The next meeting of the EHF Board will be in Brussels, on March 6 2004