

EHF Eurozine - October 2003

1. EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE 51

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS IS BEING THREATENED

1. EHF European campaign for the withdrawal of article 51

EHF has launched a campaign of letters to national Ministers in the EU countries demanding the withdrawal of article 51 from the draft of the future European Constitution.

Information on article 51, on why EHF wants it withdrawn, and on how to write to your Ministers, on [Daniel faire un lien vers 04-act-europinstitut](#) Also translations into Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian ...

2. European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium) – 5 November 2003

Hearing for European MP's on the withdrawal of article 51 of the European Constitution, organised by EHF and 6 other European networks.

3. Paris (France) - 14 November 2003 – European Social Forum

During the ESF, debates on the State-Church relations in Europe and on laicity/secularism and the European Institutions. Organised by Union des Familles Laïques, Ligue de l'Enseignement (France) and EHF. <http://www.fse-esf.org/francais/rubrique1.html>

4. Bordeaux (France) – 29 and 30 November 2003 - International conference

"La laïcité, une idée européenne » organised the Comité Laïcité République

- *The Law of 1905, French exception or European model ?*

- *Citizen of "laïque" (secular) Europe laïque or community identity*

- *Citizen and European political area*

www.laicite-republique.org

A representative of EHF is to talk on the European Constitution.

5. Rome (Italy), 29 and 30 November 2003 - International colloquium

AT THE SAME TIME AS THE EUROPEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE !

"Secularism is essential to the equal treatment of citizens by the institutions"

Organised by the Italian Union of Rationalist Atheists and Agnostics and by EHF.

Under the patronage of the City of Rome.

The European Union is on the verge of adopting its first Constitution, the provisional draft of which leaves the system of privileges enjoyed by religions in most European countries unaltered.

By legitimating "the status under national law of churches and religious associations or communities in the Member States", the proposed Constitution violates the principle of the equality of citizens since it discriminates against roughly half of Europe's population who either owe allegiance to other religions, or to none.

Simultaneous translation into Italian, French and English.

Admission is free.

If you intend on attending the conference, would you please send an email to international@uaar.it giving your name and the number of persons attending the conference.

Programme and more info on [Daniel, faire un lien vers 04-act-events](#) and on <http://www.uaar.it>

6. Paris (France) – 6 December 2003 – 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.

Info on <http://www.secularism.org.uk> and <http://www.multimania.com/librepensee>

2. Situation of fundamental rights in the EU (2003)

NGO's are requested for a contribution to the annual report of the European Parliament on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU (2003). The effectiveness of the rights laid down in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union will be evaluated, in order to be able to make political recommendations. The mechanisms of protection of fundamental rights in the EU and in particular Article 7 of the Treaty on the European Union will be subjects of this report.

For more info : aboumedienne@europarl.eu.int

3. Islam and Muslims in the European area : a challenge for humanism

Conference organised in spring 2003, in the European Parliament in Brussels, by EHF and La Pensée et les Hommes, with the support of the European Commission.

The proceedings (only in French) have just come out of press.

Among the topics : Is there a European, liberal, humanist Islam ? - What are the historical and Koranic foundations of the Muslim Humanism ? - Islam and human rights – Islam and secularism – the place of religions in the 21st century society.

Available from : Espace de Libertés – espace@cal.ulb.ac.be - www.laicite.be

“La référence aux religions dans l’Union” Daniel, le doc est déjà sur le site

Paper presented at the conference by Georges Liénard, EHF General Secretary.

4. EHF meetings

The next meeting of the EHF Board will be in Rome, on 28 November 2003.