

## **EHF Eurozine – September 2003**

### **Doctrinaire thinking : from Che Guevara to George Bush**

**Brussels, Friday 3 October 2003**

85<sup>th</sup> lunch and debate organised by Thinking freely about Europe (European Commission recognised cultural club for staff members supported by FHE).

Talk by Jean Sloover, journalist

<http://www.humanism.be/english/04act-lunchdebate.htm>

### **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 seuclarims – the place of religions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century society.*

Available from : Espace de Libertés – [espace@cal.ulb.ac.be](mailto:espace@cal.ulb.ac.be) - [www.laicite.be](http://www.laicite.be)

**“La référence aux religions dans l’Union” *Daniel, le document est en attachement de mon email***

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

### **Secularism is essential to the equal treatment of citizens by the institutions**

**Rome (Italy), Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November 2003**

International colloquium organised by the Italian Union of Rationalist Atheists and Agnostics and by EHF.

*The expanding European Union is faced with a plethora of religions, old and new, and increasingly widespread secularisation, which is posing new challenges linked to partisan demands, giving rise to potential conflict and discrimination.*

*The purpose of the colloquium, which is being held as the European Union will be adopting its first constitution, is to show that social cohesion within Europe cannot be based on any narrowly-defined identity, often seen as a regional, national, linguistic or religious exclusive "heritage". The privileges enjoyed by majority religions discriminate against the members of other faiths and against the ever-increasing numbers of those with none, and their associations.*

*Secularism offers a formula for organising society in a way that encourages peaceful coexistence between people with differing convictions. This is why we consider secularism to be essential in 21st century Europe.*

*The first morning of the colloquium will be devoted to the importance of accepting multiple and non-discriminatory identities, and an examination of the final draft of the European constitution. In the afternoon, the colloquium will see how education that respects the convictions of all and is receptive to multiple cultural inputs should train and educate citizens who are receptive and tolerant towards differences. The day will end with a round table and a general discussion.*

*The morning of the second day will be spent on jointly laying down avenues for action, to give greater visibility to the secularist viewpoint and to encourage secularist and humanist associations to spread the practice of secularism.*

<http://www.uaar.it>

**"La laïcité, une idée européenne »**

**Bordeaux (France), Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November 2003**

International conference 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](http://www.laicite-republique.org)