



European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects
 Participant in the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union since 2010
 NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2009
 INGO with participatory status at the Council of Europe since 2005
<http://fecris.org>

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) 2017
Warsaw, 11 to 22 September 2017

Luigi Corvaglia, member of the Board and of the Scientific Committee of
 FECRIS

Thursday, 14 September 2017 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Working session 6: Fundamental freedoms II, including: – Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief

FECRIS, the European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects committed itself in the Paris Declaration of the European Conference of 1999 by all its associations it was "united in fighting the effects of adverse sectarian practices and assisting the victims of such practices." It stated in the same declaration, its unwavering attachment to the fundamental values and freedoms of our Western democracies¹.

FECRIS' associations are committed to respect freedom of thought and worship and belief whilst protecting individuals against all forms of undue influence whatever the mask, be it philosophic, religious or commercial.

For your part, your assembly, constituted by the various governments represented here, signatory to the said Declarations, is committed to defend and implement the same democratic principles. One should bear in mind, however, that these same "principles" (transformed into slogans) are often used by the enemies of our secular and inclusive society, as we can note every year in this room. Smear campaigns against our organisation² are constantly being promoted by a few organizations, even within these same walls.

¹[as defined in the European Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in general by the various Declarations of Human and Citizen's Rights ratified by the different European States].

²[which enjoys participatory status in the Council of Europe, special consultative status in the UN-ECOSOC, is part of the NGO Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU,]

In Italy, the country in which the association I represent is located, such organisations hold defamatory lectures within the precincts of the Palace of Parliament, which is clearly unacceptable.

Accordingly, we recommend that the European and other Inter-governmental forums exercise the necessary vigilance to monitor those who act as "transmitters of values" of our open societies and unmask those who pretend to carry these values to better disregard them.

We furthermore, call on the Italian government to comply with European directives, respond to parliamentary questions submitted regarding the protection of individuals against sect abuse, and, lastly, not to be misled by impostors.