

## **Danièle Muller-Tulli, President of FECRIS**

### **Conclusions of the Conference**

I thank all the participants of this remarkable conference. Remarkable for the number of speakers, more than a dozen, remarkable for their quality and diversity, a researcher, a lawyer, a psychiatrist, a philosopher, a professor of sociology, Presidents of associations defending victims, the President of MIVILUDES, and last but not least, the Deputy Rudy SALLES whose report, viciously attacked by cult lobbies, failed, but inspired the title of this conference "Concerted and deliberate confusion between cults and religion."

Mr. Rudy SALLES in his capacity of deputy, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, emphasised how the approach to the question of cults differed from one European country to another, some countries doubt about the need to address the issue, others deny its very existence, others ignore it. Europe "is a continent without borders, conducive to the development of certain cultist multinationals". Difficult under such conditions to find a consensus.

Hence arises the absolute necessity of belonging to a network without which there could be no information concerning the groups that are present on the international scene. That is the role of FECRIS as Didier PACHOUD reminds us "When you use one of our associations, you are in fact contacting all the network."

It seems to me, at the end of the day, having heard the victims as well as researchers and experts that "concerted and deliberate confusion between cults and religion" operates on two levels.

.- In the system designed to snap up the future follower, even if, as was so clearly demonstrated by Pierre Le COZ, it is ultimately a different system, one resulting in "loyalty", the other demanding severance and rupture.

.- The political project, as brilliantly demonstrated by Jean-Pierre JOUGLA, detailing "the cult State, "a real danger to democracy", the cultist project is to change the paradigms on which we base ALL the sovereign principles of our democratic societies.

Each year at the meeting of the ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, FECRIS tries to raise awareness among the government representatives present that cults, far from being "New Religious Movements" are systems where fundamental freedoms are flouted.

However, to date, only two countries, Belgium and Luxembourg have followed France by drawing up a law on the model of the About-Picard law. I warmly thank Catherine Picard, co-author of that law, for being present among us today.