



## **A human right set aside:**

### **Freedom of Religion or Belief in Europe and the world**

**27 September 2016**

**10:30 h – 12:30 h**

**Venue: European Parliament, A3 E-2, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium**

Within the European Union, the basic human right of Freedom of Religion or Belief is seen as common knowledge and anchored in the constitutions of most Member States. Nevertheless, a look at the bigger picture shows that religious freedom is at risk in 60% of the world's countries, whereby 80% of the persecuted are Christians.

In times of ISIS, Boko Haram, and other fanatic religious movements, it is more important than ever for the European Union to protect the human right of religious freedom with an internal and external perspective. All different kinds of faith exist in this world and should be able to coexist amongst each other in peace. One significant step towards that was the adaptation of the resolution that the European Parliament published in February 2016: The decimation of religious minorities by ISIS is officially genocide.

The aim of this conference is to find ways to further secure Freedom of Religion or Belief where it already exists, but also to implement, establish and improve it in countries and areas where Christians and others still get persecuted for their beliefs. What should be the European Union's answer on the ongoing discrimination and persecution of Christians in the world? Further, how can the European Union have a positive impact on implementing the right of Freedom of Religion and Belief all over the world? What concrete actions can be taken to initiate a constructive dialogue about the acceptance of religious freedom outside the EU?

Please use the following link to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-OOgSKtQ7W3uXCZlJTVMTeNj32kSD8V2cxq6PVBzYXmScw/viewform>

## PROGRAMME

### Registration

### Welcome remarks:

**György Hölvényi**, Member of the European Parliament (EPP), Co-Chair of the Interreligious Dialogue WG of the EPP Group

Father **Heikki Huttunen**, Secretary General of Conference of European Churches

**Dr. Stefan Gehroid**, Director, European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

### Panel discussion:

## **“The hurdles of establishing and maintaining religious freedom in the world – What must the EU do?”**

Moderator: **Dr. Stefan Gehroid**, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

**Friedrich Bokern**, General Manager and Founder of Relief and Reconciliation Syria

**Mercedes García Pérez** Head of Division – Human rights / Global 1, European External Action Service

**Archimandrate Nikifor Milovic** Serbian Orthodox Church diocese of Budimlje-Nikisic in Montenegro

**Alojz Peterle**, Member of the European Parliament, EPP

**Branislav Stanicek**, Policy Adviser to the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union

**Düzen Tekkal**, Yazidi Journalist, Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist

### Get together and reception