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2013 Council of Europe Exchange
on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue
“Freedom of religion in today’s world : challenges and guarantees”

Preliminary Draft Programme
Yerevan, Armenia – 2 and 3 September 2013

Sunday 1 September

Arrival of participants
Shuttle buses from the airport to the ANI PLAZA hotel

18.00 – 19.00 Registration of participants **at the hotel**

20.00 *Dinner offered by the Armenian authorities **at the hotel***

Monday 2 September

Venue of the 2013 Exchange: Republic of Armenia Government Guest House
 47, avenue Mashtots, 0009 Yerevan

08.15 Departure of the shuttle buses

08.15 – 09.00 Registration of participants at the Government Guest House

09.00 – 09.45 ***Opening of the 2013 Exchange***

Mr Edward NALBANDIAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

His Holiness KAREKIN II

Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians

Mrs Maria OCHOA-LLIDO, Director a.i., Directorate of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination, on behalf of **Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr Paolo CORSINI, member of the Parliamentary Assembly, on behalf of **Mr Jean-Claude MIGNON**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr John WISHAM, Vice-President of the Congress, on behalf of **Mr Herwig VAN STAA**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Ms Eva SMITH-ASMUSSEN

Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Mr Jean-Marie HEYDT

President of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

09.45 - 10.00

Introductory statements

Co-Chairs of the 2013 Exchange:

Ambassador Luís Filipe CASTRO MENDES

Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe,
 Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education,
 Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment

Ambassador Andrey TEHOV

Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe,
Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights

10.00 – 11.00

Speakers:

High-level religious leaders

- Reverend Father Laurent MAZAS, Pontifical Council for Culture, Holy See
- Grand Rabbi Gershon BURSHTAIN, Grand Rabbi of Armenia
- Hegoumen Philip RYABYK , Representative of the Moscow Patriarcat to the Council of Europe, on behalf of Metropolitan HILARION of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations
- Bishop Karloo KALLIALA, Evangelic Lutheran Church of Finland
- Mr Mohammed MOUSSAOUI, Honorary President of the French Council for the Muslim Faith
- Mr Michel AGUILAR, Vice-President of the European Buddhist Union

Representatives of non-religious convictions:

- Mr David POLLOCK, International Humanist and Ethical Union, Head of delegation to the Council of Europe
- Mr Jean de BRUEKER, Centre d'Action Laïque.

International Organisation of Francophone Countries (OIF)

- Mr El Habib BENESSAHRAOUI, Counselor to the Secretary General

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.30

PANEL I

“Freedom of religion, conscience and thought as a fundamental human right in contemporary societies”

Moderator: Mr Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI, Expert on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, University teacher on religious freedom, San Marino

Resource person: Professor Silvio FERRARI, Professor of Law and Religion, University of Law, Milan

Rapporteur: Mr Stein VILLUMSTAD, Secretary General, European Council of Religious Leaders

First speakers

- Mr Giancarlo BRUNO, Deputy Head of the Delegation, Deputy to the Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe
- Mrs Fatos ARACI, Deputy Section Registrar, European Court of Human Rights

- 13.30 – 14.45 *Lunch offered by the Armenian authorities at the Government Guest House*
- 14.45 – 16.45 **PANEL II**
 “Protection of persons belonging to religious minorities, believers and non-believers and their contribution to the fight against intolerance, discrimination and hate speech with regard to freedom of religion”
- Moderator:* Ambassador Armen PAPIKYAN, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Council of Europe
- Resource person:* Ms Elizabeta KITANOVIC, Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Communication, Church and Society Commission of Conference of European Churches (CEC), Belgium
- Rapporteur:* Mr Gabriel NISSIM, Working Group on Media and Human Rights of the Conference of INGOs, Vice-President of the Group « Démocratie, Construction européenne et religions » (DECERE) of the Dominican Order
- 17.00 *Departure to Etchmiadzin, seat of the Armenian Apostolic Church
 Visit of the Cathedral*
- Dinner offered by the Armenian authorities*

Tuesday 3 September

- 8.30 Departure of the shuttle buses
- 9.00 – 11.00 **PANEL III**
 “Avenues for future action within and beyond Europe: youth education and awareness-raising on religion and beliefs, dialogue and co-operation among and with religious and non-religious representatives”
- Moderator:* Ambassador Francisco SEIXAS DA COSTA, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- Resource person:* Mr David POLLOCK, President of the European Humanist Federation and trustee of the British Humanist Association, United Kingdom
- Rapporteur:* Mr James BARNETT, Anglican Church, Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe, Representative of the Intereuropean Commission on the Church and School (ICCS), United Kingdom
- First Speaker:* Mr Liviu OLTEANU, Secretary General of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Freedom
- 11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 12.30

Closing Session**Report of the three Panels:**

Mr Stein VILLUMSTAD, Secretary General, European Council of Religious Leaders, Norway

Mr Gabriel NISSIM, Working Group on Media and Human Rights of the Conference of INGOs, vice-president of the Group « Démocratie, Construction européenne et religions » (DECERE) of the Dominican order

Mr James BARNETT, Anglican Church, Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe, Representative of the Intereuropean Commission on the Church and School (ICCS), United Kingdom

CONCLUSIONS**Ambassador Luís Filipe CASTRO MENDES**

Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe,
Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education,
Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment

Ambassador Andrey TEHOV

Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe,
Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights

12.30

Departure to the hotel
Lunch at the hotel

14.15

Departure for the Cultural Visits
Yerevan : Matenadaran Museum of ancient Manuscripts,
Monastery of Geghard

Open air dinner at Garni