

AGAINST FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF?

**QUESTIONS
ABOUT A
EUROPEAN "NGO":
FECRIS.**



pour la Liberté de Conscience

AGAINST FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF?

QUESTIONS ABOUT A EUROPEAN "NGO": FECRIS.

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European Coordination of Associations
and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience

Member of ENAR (European Network Against Racism)
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Introduction

NGO or GONGO¹?

If one found out that an NGO (non-government organisation) was targeting new or traditional religious groups, and if this NGO was a federation of groups with similar aims, one would have every right to be surprised.

The information presented in this document goes far beyond what you might imagine—and that's probably what has allowed it to remain relatively unnoticed until now.

We consider it important to bring this information to the attention of all those who are committed to true European democratic principles—the result of a long and sometimes painful history—of freedom and tolerance regarding religious beliefs.

That this “NGO” is almost exclusively financed by one government is just one of the intriguing facts...

1. NGO : Non Government Organisation, as opposed to a GONGO: Government Operated Non Government Organization.

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I

What FECRIS claims... and some quotes

What FECRIS claims...

FECRIS is an acronym for *Fédération Européenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme* (European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects) and it presents itself in this way:

“FECRIS is politically,
philosophically and
religiously neutral.”

Source: *FECRIS Internet site home page.*

www.fecris.org/en/european-federation-centres-research-and-information-cults-and-sects-51en

... and some quotes

“From the Orthodox viewpoint, Krishna is one of the demons.” See this brochure p. 13.

“[Transcendental Meditation] is based on a huge deceit.” See p. 27.

“Should we follow our inclination, we would put an end to all this nonsense, that of the cults as well as that of great religions.” See p. 33.

“Either Mohammed suffered from a disease and it was a delirium vision; or it was a demonic obsession.” See p. 33.

“Mormons are a danger for both the state and on a personal level, as their rites affect the psyche.” See p. 35.

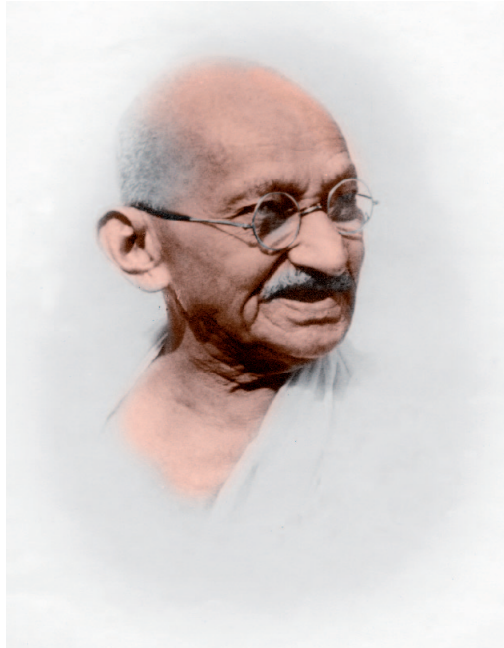
“The Orthodox Faith is the original, a traditional religion is the original; and a sect is a fake, something forged, something tawdry.” See p. 37.

“Sect people are 80 percent primitive and stupid people.” See p. 39.

II

Individual beliefs... and quotes

Individual beliefs...



Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).

“I came to the conclusion long ago... that all religions were true [...] and whilst I hold by my own, I should hold others as dear as Hinduism. [...] Our innermost prayer should be a Hindu should be a better Hindu, a Muslim a better Muslim, a Christian a better Christian.”

Source: *Young India*, [weekly journal published by Mahatma Gandhi from 1919 to 1932] January 19, 1928.
www.gandhiheritageportal.org/journals-by-gandhiji/young-india

... and a quote

“We won't be mistaken if we say that, from the Orthodox viewpoint, Krishna is one of the demons.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: Take Care: a Sect movie. Part 4 - 2003.

Note: Krishna is one of the most powerful incarnations of Vishnu, the Godhead of the Hindu Trinity of deities.

Indian as well as Western scholars have now accepted the period between 3200 and 3100 BC as the period in which Lord Krishna lived on earth.

People consider Krishna their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one. Krishna has influenced Indian thought, life and culture in myriad ways. He has influenced not only its religion and philosophy but also its mysticism and literature, painting and sculpture, dance and music, and all aspects of Indian folklore.

<http://hinduism.about.com/od/lordkrishna/a/krishna.htm>

Individual beliefs...



John Lennon (1940-1980).

After coming into contact with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishnas) in 1969, the Beatles took an interest in the movement.

The words "Hare Krishna" are included in the lyrics of some of John Lennon's songs, such as *Give Peace a Chance* (1969) and *I Am the Walrus* (1967).

They can also be heard in the backing vocals of Ringo Starr's 1971 hit *It Don't Come Easy*.

The Hare Krishna mantra can be heard sung by George Harrison in the backing vocals of his song *My Sweet Lord* (1970), and the track *Living in the Material World* (1973) contains the lyrics: "*I hope to get out of this place by the Lord Sri Krishna's grace. My salvation from the material world.*" Other Harrison songs that reference Krishna include *It Is 'He'* (*Jai Sri Krishna*) (1974), *Sat Singing* (1980) and *Life Itself* (1981).

... and a quote

“[Hare Krishna] is no doubt a totalitarian sect with a criminal background, which any mafia can envy... drug trafficking, arms trafficking, rapes of minors, murders.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRI Vice-president since 2009.

Source: RenTV, *Evening with Tigran Keosayan show*, topic: sectarians, March 2007.

Note: The term "Hare Krishna", or *The Hare Krishna Movement*[™] Organization, formally The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), is at the orthodox core of Hinduism. It was registered in the West (in New York) in July 1966, but dates back over 5000 years. Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486-1532) popularized the movement all over India. Hinduism is the world's third largest religion with over 900 million adherents, second to Christianity and Islam (according to various leading encyclopedias, websites and almanacs). The principal scriptures are *The Bhagavad-gita* (The Song of God), and the *Shrimad Bhagavatam* (the story of the Personality of Godhead *Shri Krishna Bhagavan*). Krishnas believe in one God.
<http://iskcon.org/philosophy#.Uy8DwulOWMw>

Individual beliefs...



Julia Roberts, American actress.

“Hinduism, which I do practice... It is something that has been part of my life for a very long time.”

Source: August 18, 2010, News conference in Tokyo for her movie *Eat Pray Love*.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=G57S8fl4wEs — Julia Roberts talks about Hinduism.

... and a quote

“Westerners have a mistaken romantic idea of the Buddhist, Hindu and other masters, who expect the unconditional submission of their disciples. What right-minded Westerner would accept such submission, when usually enjoying complete freedom to think and act, unless he or she is a member of a mind-robbing cult?”

Sophie Blazejewski, GEMPPI Delegate
GEMPPI is a member of FECRIS and
GEMPPI President is FECRIS Treasurer.

Source: Découvertes sur les sectes et religions, No 87, 01 Oct. 2010,
www.gemppi.org/accueil/liens/groupes-et-sectes-religieuses.html?id=85

Individual beliefs...



Pope Jean-Paul II (1920-2005).

“There are a multitude of publications attesting to the fact that *Sainte Thérèse of the Child Jesus* had extraordinary wisdom and that her teachings have helped countless men and women from all circumstances to get to know and to love Jesus Christ and his Gospel.”

Source: *Proclamation of Sainte Thérèse of the Child Jesus as a Doctor of the universal Church, 19 Oct. 1997.*
http://jeanpaul2.cef.fr/enseignement/lettres-apos_191097.html

... and quotes

“So, as of 1990 I started wondering about a certain number of Catholic groups that had been previously praised, promoted and validated by the then new pontiff John- Paul II, as the elite troops of the “new evangelisation. [...] Thus, the institutional ecclesial lie is still progressing today in the luminary trappings of Christian perversion. Lucifer camouflaged in the pseudo-spirituality of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Spirituality perverted and instrumentalized so as to justify practices that kill—both psychologically and physically.”

Christian TERRAS, GEMPPI guest
GEMPPI is a member of FECRIS
GEMPPI President is FECRIS Treasurer.

*Source: national symposium of GEMPPI, member of FECRIS, October 8th, 2011.
www.gemppl.org/accueil/liens/groupes-et-sectes-religieuses.html?id=110*

“A madman alone isn’t enough to found a cult; or rather it’s not enough to make it prosper. The ‘intervention of a smart guy is usually necessary. Moses had his right-hand man Aaron, Jesus-Christ was exploited by Saint Paul (after his death, but that doesn’t matter).”

Roger Ikor, Founding president of CCMM
CCMM is a founding member of FECRIS.

Source: Les cahiers rationalistes, No 364.

Individual beliefs...



Tawakul Karman, Nobel Peace Prize, in 2011.

“Islam is a religion of peace to all the people, men and women, and it has never been and would never be problematic for anyone. I must say that I feel I’m here not to celebrate the award but to defend my religion.”

Source: Nobel Peace Prize Laureates’ Seminar In Stockholm, December 23, 2011.
<http://afrahnasser.blogspot.fr/2011/12/reflections-on-nobel-peace-prize.html>

Tawakul Karman founded *Women Journalists Without Chains* in 2005. She has been a prominent activist and advocate of human rights and freedom of expression.

... and quotes

“[Mohammed] particularly began to preach that it was okay to forcibly convert other people into a different faith, to rob caravans, and all of this would be rightly deserved booty; not mere plunder but booty rightly deserved; and should you perish, you'd end up in the Paradise, where it would feel even nicer and better.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: Conference “Origins of Islam—Untold Stories”, University of Arkhangelsk, Russia, Febr. 2013.
http://golosislama.ru/uploads/files/2_rasshifrovka_lekcii_dvorkina.pdf

“Mohammed presents us with another case: he managed to integrate the illuminated and the mischievous in himself. Hitler too, by the way.”

Roger Ikor, Founding president of CCMM
CCMM is a founding member of FECRIS.

Source: Les cahiers rationalistes, No 364.

Individual beliefs...



Orson Scott Card, American writer, member and a teacher of theology of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons).

He is the author of the novel *Ender's Game* and its sequels (translated in 34 languages). The *Tales of Alvin Maker*, and many other novels (science fiction, fantasy, biblical), plays and scripts. *Ender's Game* became a movie in 2013 by Gavin Hood, with Harrison Ford and Asa Butterfield.

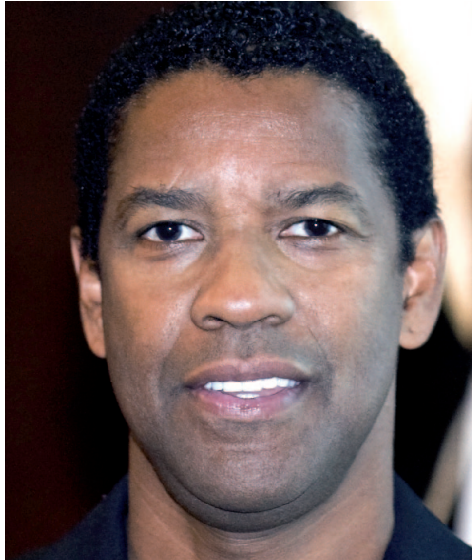
... and a quote

“The main thing to remember is that Mormons are not Christians, their organization has nothing to do with Christianity. It’s a coarse neo-Pagan occult sect with fairly serious totalitarian tendencies, and, by getting into it, a person splits himself off not only from his own people, history and culture, not only from the world of Christian heritage, but from Christ Himself and his Church as well.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-President since 2009.

Source: Sects studies. *Totalitarian Sects, 3rd edition revised and supplemented.*
Printing house of the St. Prince Alexander Nevsky Brotherhood, Nizhny Novgorod, 2002.

Individual beliefs...



Denzel Washington, American actor.

“The fundamental message is in the Bible, which I’ve read three times from front to back... If you don’t practice love, you’re missing the point. [...] I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I’ve been filled with the Holy Spirit. I know it’s real.”

Source: <http://hollowverse.com/denzel-washington/>

Denzel Washington is the son of a Pentecostal preacher and a gospel singer. He grew up in a deeply religious household.

... and a quote

“... The New Pentecostal sectarian movements, to which, according to my calculations, some 300,000 people belong in Russia... A quarter of the adepts attempt suicide! A quarter of New Pentecostal adepts.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: RenTV, Evening with Tigran Keosayan show, topic: sectarians, March 2007.

Note: Pentecostalism is one of the most dynamic forces in twentieth-century Christianity. From fast-growing denominations such as the “Assemblies of God” to popular television ministries such as “The 700 Club”, the fruits of Pentecostalism can be seen throughout modern Christian life.

Source: Theological Roots of Pentecostalism, Donald W. Dayton, Hendrickson Publ. 1991, 199 pages. Donald W. Dayton is professor of theology and ethics at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago. http://books.google.fr/books/about/Theological_Roots_of_Pentecostalism.html?id=pcHYAAAAMAAJ&redir_esc=y

Individual beliefs...



David Lynch

“I started Transcendental Meditation in 1973 and have not missed a single meditation ever since. Twice a day, every day. It has given me effortless access to unlimited reserves of energy, creativity and happiness deep within.”

Source: www.davidlynchfoundation.org/message.html – March 2014.

David Lynch is an American film maker, photographer, musician and painter, he was born January 26th 1946 in Missoula, Montana, USA. *He made numerous films among which Elephant Man, Dune, Blue Velvet, Inland Empire, etc.*

... and a quote

“It [Transcendental Meditation] is based on a huge deceit, and at the same time involves an attempt to infiltrate the public authorities through sophisticated marketing techniques.”

Bratislav Petrovic
Correspondent of FECRIS in Serbia.

*Source: FECRIS conference, 27-28 March 2004, Marseilles.
<http://griess.st1.at/gsk/fecris/85%20conf%20engl%20PETROVIC.htm>*

Individual beliefs...



Dalai-Lama, Peace Nobel Prize in 1989.

“A good motivation is what is needed: compassion without dogmatism, without complicated philosophy; just understanding that others are human brothers and sisters and respecting their human rights and dignities.”

Source: *The Pocket Dalai Lama*, edited by Mary Craig, 2002.
Reprinted by arrangement with Shambhala Publications, Boston.

... and a quote

“Why aren't the Dalai-Lama, the dignitaries of Lamaism and the great Initiates of Kalachakra and its arcane criminals, excluded from entering those countries where paedophilia, racism or cannibalism are criminal offences and punishable by law?”

Félix Crespo, GEMPPI guest
GEMPPI is a member of FECRIS,
GEMPPI President is FECRIS Treasurer.

*Source: national symposium of GEMPPI, member of FECRIS, October 8th, 2011.
www.gemppi.org/accueil/liens/groupes-et-sectes-religieuses.html?id=190*

III

**Freedom of religion
or belief:**

**What the Council of Europe
and United Nations
declare... and quotes**

What the Council of Europe declares

Respect and Understanding

“The Assembly underlines the importance of respect for, and understanding of, cultural and religious diversity in Europe and throughout the world and recognises the need for ongoing dialogue. Respect and understanding can help avoid frictions within society and between individuals. Every human being must be respected, independently of religious beliefs.”



Source: Council of Europe – Recommendation 1805 (2007)
– Blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion.

<http://assembly.coe.int/mainf.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta07/frec1805.htm>



... and quotes

“Should we follow our inclination, we would put an end to all this nonsense, that of the cults as well as that of great religions.”

Roger Ikor, Founding president of CCMM
CCMM is a founding member of FECRIS.

Source: *Les cahiers rationalistes*, No 364 December 1980.

“Either Mohammed suffered from a disease and it was a delirium vision; or it was a demonic obsession; or, once again, the Byzantine fathers claim that he was a sort of fantasizer who made it all up and then, which he hadn't expected, his relatives believed in it. But of course, the combinations of all the three are possible as well.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: Conference “Origins of Islam—Untold Stories.”, University of Arkhangelsk, Russia, Febr. 2013.
http://golosislama.ru/uploads/files/2_rasshifrovka_lekcii_dvorkina.pdf

What the Council of Europe declares

Correct and objective education

“The Assembly further urges all States in which violence against communities and individuals defined by religion or beliefs has occurred to:

- promote correct and objective education about religions and non-religious beliefs, including those of minorities.”



Source: *Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – Resolution 1928 (2013) – Safeguarding human rights in relation to religion and belief, and protecting religious communities from violence.*
www.assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefViewPDF.asp?FileID=19695&Language=EN



... and a quote

“Mormons are a huge international business corporation that operates under the guise of a religious organization. [...] Mormons are a danger for both the state and on a personal level, as their rites affect the psyche. We know that Mormons organize secret occult rituals, where they grossly abuse the memory of our Orthodox ancestors.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: Chelyabinsk City, August 26th 2009, www.dostup1.ru/comment/comment_8880.html

What the UN declares

No propensity to discriminate

“The term ‘sect’ seems to have a pejorative connotation. A sect is considered to be different from a religion, and thus not entitled to the same protection.

This kind of approach is indicative of a propensity to lump things together, to discriminate and to exclude, which is hard to justify and harder still to excuse, so injurious is it to religious freedom. [...]

“All in all, the distinction between a religion and a sect is too contrived to be acceptable. A sect that goes beyond single belief and appeals to a divinity, or at the very least, to the supernatural the transcendent, the absolute, or the sacred, enters into the religious sphere and should enjoy the protection afforded to religions.”

Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, UN Special Rapporteur

Source: Commission on Human Rights, E/CN.4/1997/91, December 30, 1996.
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G97/100/15/PDF/G9710015.pdf?OpenElement>



... and quotes

“The Orthodox Faith is the original, a traditional religion is the original; and a sect is a fake, something forged, something tawdry.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: *Lectures in Ykaterinburg, 2007.*
<http://tvspas.ru/>

“Organisations generally known as cults [...] are not religions, or even belief organisations.”

Tom Sackville
FECRIS President since 2009.

Source: *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE, September 29th, 2009.*
<http://griess.st1.at/gsk/fecris/osce/FECRIS%20President%20-%20intervention%2029%2009%202009.pdf>

What the UN declares

No propensity to discriminate

“The Committee therefore views with concern any tendency to discriminate against any religion or belief for any reason, including the fact that they are newly established, or represent religious minorities.”



Source: *United Nations, General Comment, No 22 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.4 27 September 1993.*
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G93/186/02/PDF/G9318602.pdf?OpenElement>



... and quotes

“Sect people are 80 percent primitive and stupid people.”

Frederich Griess
FECRIS President from 2005 to 2009.

Source: *Hilfe, Mein Kind ist sektenhörig*, p. 60-63,
Edition S. Verlag Der Österreichischen Staatsdruckerei, Wien.

“They would turn individuals into tools of cults, and destroy their families. Cults harm individuals, families, societies and countries like ‘cancerous cells’ in a healthy body. Cults make no contribution to the society. But they kept absorbing human resources and wealth from it. Like cancerous cells, they obtain nutrition from the healthy body of society until it collapses.”

Alexander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009

Source: *Xinhua*, “Falun Gong has Become an International Cult Organization: An Interview of Professor Alexander Dvorkin”, May 12, 2008.
www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-05/13/content_6679151.htm

IV

Repression and Discrimination: What the UN declares versus what FECRIS does and says

What the UN declares

“Reports indicated that the campaign against the Falun Gong continued unabated across China. According to information received, practitioners of Falun Gong continued to be subject to ill-treatment and torture by State officials in their attempts to force the practitioners to renounce their belief in Falun Gong.”



Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur
on freedom of religion or belief Report

Source: Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, 15 March 2005 E/
CN.4/2005/61/Add.1

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G05/129/13/PDF/G0512913.pdf?OpenElement>



... and a quote



Jean-Pierre Bousquet, FECRIS spokesman, International Peking Symposium,
9 and 10 November 2000.

Jean-Pierre Bousquet, representative of FECRIS President in Peking, participated in a conference organized by the Chinese government to justify its repression against the Falun Gong.

Excerpt from a document distributed by the Chinese authorities, and reproduced in the December 2000 bulletin, No 14 of CCMM, a founding member of FECRIS.

[excerpt from a document distributed by the Chinese authorities]

[...] *"The Falungong is a cult. Our paper will make a comparison between foreign cults and the Falungong of China, in order to discover their common features. [...]"*

Source: Inner bulletin #14 of the Center against Mind Manipulations (CCMM) whose President is Jean-Pierre Bousquet. November/December 2000.

What the UN declares



<http://manypicture.com/new/xiaoyantongxueliyongtianping/17602.htm>

“The Special Rapporteurs were concerned that reports of arrest, detention, ill-treatment, torture, denial of adequate medical treatment, sexual violence, deaths, and unfair trial of members of so-called heretical organizations, in particular Falun Gong practitioners, are increasing.”

Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur
on freedom of religion or belief Report



Source: Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, 15 March 2005, E/CN.4/2005/61/Add.1.

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G05/129/13/PDF/G0512913.pdf?OpenElement>

... and a quote

“Falun Gong is a strict totalitarian sect, whose members are used by its leader in his vendetta against the government of China.”

Aleksander Dvorkin
FECRIS Vice-president since 2009.

Source: *XVI International Christmas Educational Readings, January 30th, 2008.*
www.iriney.ru/sects/falun/news008.htm

V

The International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) Accountability Charter... and FECRIS funding

INGO* Accountability Charter

“We aim to be both politically and financially independent. Our governance programmes and policies will be non-partisan, independent of specific governments, political parties and the business sector.”

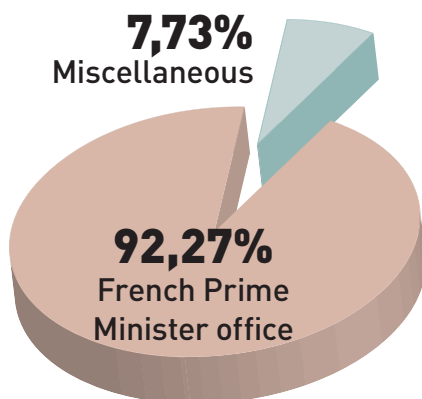
* The INGO Accountability Charter is an initiative of international NGOs including: Amnesty International, Greenpeace, Care, Transparency International, demonstrating their commitment to transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The Charter provides the only global, cross-sector accountability framework for NGOs.

Source: *International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Accountability Charter, 6 June 2006.*
www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org

* INGO: International Non-Governmental Organisation.

FECRIS Funding

FECRIS financing from 2001 to 2011



Source: *Freedom of Religion or Belief: Anti-Sects Movements and State Neutrality, A Case Study: FECRIS. Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews, Technical University of Dresden, 2012.*
http://books.google.fr/books?id=F7UQfYra0msC&dq=a+case+study+fecris&hl=fr&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Conclusion

Human Rights, constant vigilance

The respect of human rights requires constant vigilance.

We estimate that the activities of FECRIS constitute a contravention of the principles of respect and tolerance of beliefs.

Such an activity must certainly not be encouraged by European institutions as it is in direct opposition to the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

Such an attitude coming from an NGO is sufficiently alarming that it deserves to be brought to public attention.

The registration of this “NGO”, almost exclusively financed by one government, also deserves to be questioned.

European Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience

CAP Europe is a non-profit, voluntary association dedicated to defending minority beliefs. It is open to groups and individuals of all persuasions who share a deep commitment to freedom of conscience. Certain people have unleashed a witch hunt in Europe against groups engaged in spiritual research and personal development, alternative medicines and psychotherapies and new religious movements. CAP Europe is an information, communication and action springboard for groups and individuals affected by these issues: freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of therapy, freedom of belief, freedom of thought and freedom of worship. In order to guarantee its independence, CAP Europe seeks no public funding.

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European Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience

Human rights are the end result of a long and sometimes painful history. Their respect requires constant vigilance.

If one found out that an NGO was targeting new or traditional religious groups, and if this NGO was a federation of groups with similar aims, one would have every right to be surprised.

One would be all the more surprised if he or she found out that this NGO, FECRIS, is almost exclusively financed by one government, thus going against the very principles that allow it to carry the title of Non-Government Organization.

The facts presented in this document even go beyond what you might imagine.

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