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European Consortium for Church and State Research: 28th Congress, Jūrmala (Latvia), October 2016

The 28th Annual Congress of the European Consortium for Church and State Research took place from 13th to 16th October 2016 in *Jūrmala*, the seaside resort dozens of kilometres distant from Riga, the capital city of Latvia. The Congress was dedicated to the topic *Religious Assistance in Public Institutions*.

A reporter from every country of the European Union sent a paper in advance which followed fixed scheme and represented the state of origin. 32 members and correspondents from 24 states of the EU participated in the conference organized by prof. Ringolds Balodis, president of the Institute of Legal Research, Riga, Latvia.

Individual sessions focused on following topics:

- *Common Background and Common Challenges,*
- *Chaplaincy in the Armed Forces,*
- *Chaplaincy in the Penitentiaries,*
- *Chaplaincy in the Hospitals.*

Summarizing papers on four above mentioned topics were presented by prof. Zábój Horák from Prague (Czech Republic), prof. Emanuel Tăvală from Sibiu (Romania), prof. Mark Hill from London and prof. Piotr Stanisiz from Lublin (Poland).

A guided tour of Jūrmala was organized for all participants, including local world-famous beach. The participants of the Congress visited also the capital city of Riga, the parliament and the university, which was founded in 1919 (few months after Latvia declared independence).

Last of all, the general assembly of the Consortium took place. Prof. Achilles Emilianides from Nicosia (Cyprus) was elected the president. The following Congress takes place in November 2017 in Estonia.



From the Congress, SemaraH Hotel Lielupe Jūrmala: from the left Stephan Farrell (Ireland), Norman Doe (UK), Vincent De Gaetano (Malta), Gerhard Robbers (Germany), Wolfgang Wieshaider (Austria), Michaela Moravčíková (Slovakia), Lina Papadopoulou (Greece), Emanuel Tăvală (Romania), Matti Kotiranta (Finland), Iván Ibán (Spain), Lars Friedner (Sweden), Jiří Rajmund Tretera (Czech Republic), Donatas Glodenis (Lithuania), Sophie van Bijsterveld (The Netherlands), Salvatore Berlingò (Italy), Marco Ventura (Italy), Pierre Henri Prélot (France), Roberto Mazzola (Italy), Achilles Emilianides (Cyprus).

Photo Zábój Horák

Meeting of Correspondents of EUREL Internet Database, Luxembourg City, September 2016

An international scientific conference on the topic *Governance and Religion in Europe* took place at the University of Luxembourg from 28th to 30th September 2016. The conference was organized by the administration of the EUREL internet database, which incorporates legal and sociological information concerning religious communities in member states of the European Union as well as in other European states, in cooperation with Research Group for European Governance, University of Luxembourg.

Sessions of the conference were arranged in four panels dedicated to following topics: relationship between religious groupings and local public administration, religious communities and preparation of legislation, relationship between religious minorities and politics, relationship between religion and discussion inside political parties and preparation of their politics. Two parallel sessions took place during both days of the conference (in the morning and afternoon), papers on mentioned topics were presented in each session.

The conference was organized by Phillippe Poirier, Konstantinos Papasthatis (Luxembourg) and Anne-Laure Zwilling (Strasbourg). The Czech Republic was represented by prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera and doc. Zábój Horák. They have been cooperating with the database for seven years and they regularly publish information concerning Czech religion law and its development.

Our Visit to the General Court of the EU in Luxembourg and Other Places

Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera and prof. Záboj Horák visited the General Court of the European Union in Luxembourg during the conference in Luxembourg City and were greeted by prof. Irena Pelikánová, their colleague from the Faculty of Law, Charles University, who is a judge of the General Court.

They also visited the grave of king John of Bohemia as well as the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, where American soldiers who were killed during the Battle of the Bulge in winter 1944/1945 are buried.



Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial

Photo Stanislav Pavlín

From New Publications

Handreichung zu aktuellen Fragen des Kirchenasyls, Migrationskommission – Nr. 42, Sekretariat der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz, Bonn, 2015, 20 p.

Hirntod und Organspende, Glaubenskommission – Nr. 41, Sekretariat der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz, Bonn, 2015, 29 p.

Periodicals

Law Briefs, Office of the General Counsel of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC,

October 2016,

including:

Fourth Circuit Upholds County's Practice of Opening Legislative Meetings with Prayer, pp. 4–5.

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