



NEWSLETTER

FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
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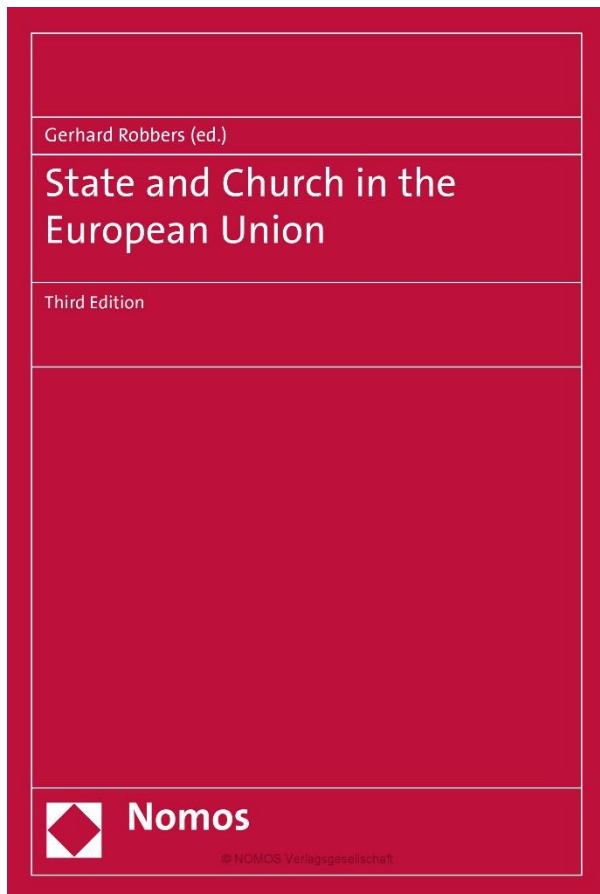
30th European Consortium for Church and State Research Congress, Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg)

From Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th November 2019, this year's international conference of the above-mentioned consortium was held in Luxembourg. Its topic was the *position of religious communities in EU Member States as taxpayers*.



*Consortium session in the Salle du Conseil de l'Université, Esch-sur-Alzette
on Saturday 16th November 2019.*

Photo Záboj Horák



Main sessions took place on Friday and Saturday in the buildings of the University of Luxembourg, located at its campus in Esch-sur-Alzette, about 20 km southwest of Luxembourg. As usual, about 35 representatives of EU Member States and correspondents attended the conference. Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábój Horák represented the Czech Republic.

Individual sessions focused on following types of tax legislation in the EU Member States: income tax, real estate tax, taxation of religious orders, taxation of social institutions of religious communities, taxation of clergy and church tax. They were chaired by Jónatas Machado (Portugal), Merilin Kiviorg (Estonia), Lina Papadopoulou (Greece), Stephen Farell (Ireland), Emanuel Tăvală (Romania) and Roberto Mazzola (Italy). Consortium members from individual EU Member States sent their national reports beforehand. A collective monograph containing treatises on individual countries will be published next year.

The conference was organized by Prof. Philippe Poirier from the University of Luxembourg, who was elected president of the consortium for the next period by the General Assembly held at the end of the conference.

The third edition of the now well-known *State and Church in the European Union* publication, translated into many languages, organized by Prof. Gerhard Robbers from Trier, representative of Germany in the Consortium, was presented during the General Assembly.

The next meeting will be convened on 12th – 15th November 2020 in Thessaloniki (Greece), it will focus on the *topic Islam and Human Rights in the European Union*.

Zábój Horák

From the Preface of the book *State and Church in the European Union*, 3rd Edition:

‘Freedom of religion has become a foremost issue and a major challenge in the European Union during recent years. Immigration contributes to the rise of Islam, the impact of Christian communities in European society is undergoing significant changes. New Member States have acceded to the European Union.

The third edition of this book responds to these developments. It gives an account of the law on religion in all the Member States and in the European Union itself. The contributions follow a similar structure to facilitate the comparison between the various systems.’

Trier, Summer 2019

Gerhard Robbers

Memory of Fourth Season of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations, Prague, 13th – 15th June 2019



Professor Gerhard Robbers (Trier, Germany) at the international conference Fourth Season of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations: Spiritual Care in Public Institution, Prague, 13th June 2019.

Photo Antonín Krč

Book *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe* Ready to Be Printed

These days, editing of the following collective monograph was completed: Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábój Horák (eds.), *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe*, Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin, 2019, 140 p., ISBN 978-3-8305-3991-9 (Print), 978-3-8305-4152-3 (E-Book).

Lecturers attending the international conference *Fourth Season of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations: Spiritual Care in Public Institution* are the authors of the monograph.

We extract from the introductory text: ‘Nowadays, involvement in spiritual care in public institutions or chaplaincy is one of the highly current topics connected with activities of religious communities. Spiritual care is the spiritual assistance provided by religious communities and their members to the benefit of the military, police, prison system, health care and social services, education, fire brigades, victims of crime and disasters, asylum seekers and other areas.

The monograph *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe* focuses on these topics in detail. It is written by leading experts in the field of religion law from several member states of the European Union and from Switzerland. The book is organized in a well-arranged way according to a unified system and offers the general public orientation in the important and

constantly developing area of activity of religious communities in the public sphere. It is published as part of a prestigious publication series *Kirche und Recht – Beihefte.*'

The book contains the following chapters:

Jiří Rajmund Tretera

West and East: New Trends in Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe. An Introductory Overview

Gerhard Robbers

The Legal Status of Pastoral Care in Public Institutions in Germany

Mark Hill QC

Chaplaincy Services in Public Institutions in England: History, Law and Practice

Francis Messner

The Status of Spiritual Assistance in France

Adrian Loretan

Spiritual Care in Swiss Public Institutions

Wolfgang Wieshaider

Pastoral Care in Public Institutions under Austrian Law

Balázs Schanda

Chaplaincies in Hungary

Piotr Stanisław

Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Poland: Searching for a Balanced Model

Martin Šabo, Michaela Moravčíková

Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Slovakia

Damián Němec

Spiritual Care in Healthcare Facilities in the Czech Republic

Záboj Horák

Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in the Czech Republic

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