

Lina Papadopoulou (ed.), *Islam and Human Rights in the European Union*

Comares, Granada, 2022, 423 p., ISBN 978-84-1369-465-8.

A few days ago, we received a book entitled *Islam and Human Rights in the European Union – Islam et droits de l’homme dans l’Union européenne*, which has been published by the European Consortium for Church and State Research.

The publication recounts the position of Islam in the countries of the European Union throughout history and up to the present day. It was compiled according to a uniform system, known as the *grille thématique*, decided on by the management of the Consortium for the reports given by the individual national spokespersons at the XXXIInd Conference of the Consortium in Thessaloniki (Greece) on 23rd – 25th September 2021, which was devoted to the same topic and dedicated to Charalambos Papastathis (1940–2012), Professor of Ecclesiastical Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a founding member of the Consortium. The book’s editor is Professor Lina Papadopoulou of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and president of the Consortium until 2023.

At the start of the book there is a greeting from His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, emphasizing the close relationship between human rights and religion. This is followed by an introduction written by Professor Evangelos Venizelos, a professor at the university in Thessaloniki and a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Greece. In his prologue, Prof. Venizelos points out that the European constitutional democracy is sensitive, flexible, pluralistic, liberal and inclusive, but it must also be self-protective and must ensure the conditions for its survival. In other words, it respects and protects Islam as a religion and the religious freedom of Muslims but requires that both Islam and Muslims shall respect European constitutionalism.

After this introduction, there are three summarising contributions written by three professors of religion law (Francis Messner, Strasbourg; Silvio Ferrari, Milan; Michał Rynkowski, Brussels). These are followed by 23 essays on Islam in the

individual Member States of the European Union, representing national reports delivered by distinguished scholars from each represented state.

The proceedings include, among others, these papers:

Wolfgang Wieshaider: *Le cadre juridique de l'islam en Autriche*,

Achilles C. Emilianides: *Islam and Human Rights in Cyprus: A complex relationship*,

Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Zábój Horák: *History and Present of Muslims in the Territory of Today's Czech Republic*,

Merilin Kiviorg: *Islam and Human Rights in Estonia*,

Matthias Pulte: *Islam and Human Rights – Report from Germany*,

Balázs Schanda: *Islam and Human Rights in Hungary: Religious freedom issues and some challenges of coexistence*,

Sophie von Bijsterveld: *Islam and Law in the Netherlands*,

Piotr Stanisz: *Islam and Human Rights in Poland*,

Lars Friedner: *Islam in Sweden*.

The European Consortium dedicated the book to Professor Salvatore Berlingò, Professor of Canon and Ecclesiastical Law, at the University of Messina, Italy, in honour of his active membership in the Consortium.

The book was published by the well-known Comares publishing house based in Albolote (Granada) in Spain, where the proceedings of the Consortium's meetings have been published since 2013.

The book is available online at: https://www.churchstate.eu/pdf/NEW/tripa_Islam_human.pdf.

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