



CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Rome, 9-10 October 2003

Draft Programme

[as of 15 September 2003]

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

15:00 – 15:15 OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks by Mr. Pier Ferdinando CASINI, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies

Welcoming remarks by Mr. Bruce GEORGE, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Welcoming remarks by Mr. Marcello PACINI, President of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

15:15 – 16: 45 SESSION 1: THE LAW AND POLITICS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Chair / moderator: Mrs. Barbara HAERING, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

- **Freedom of Religion and Belief: A Fundamental Human Right**
Speaker: Mr. Abdelfattah AMOR (Special Rapporteur for Religious Freedom – UN Commission for Human Rights)
- **Interrelation between Religion and State**
Speaker: Professor Silvio FERRARI (Milano University. Member of the European Consortium for Church and State Research)

Open debate

16:45 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 – 18:30 SESSION 2: RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN PLURALISTIC SOCIETIES

Chair / moderator: Mrs. Tone TINGSGÅRD, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

- **Respect of Religious Beliefs and Practices in Multi-Religious Societies**
Speaker: Professor Catherine COOKSON (University of Virginia – Head of the Centre for the Study of Religious Freedom)
- **Development of National Legislations Concerning Religious Freedom and the Religions**
Speaker: Professor Brigitte BASDEVANT-GAUDEMET (Paris XI University – Member of the European Consortium for Church and State)

Open debate

18:30 – 19:00 Guest Contribution by Ambassador Christian STOHAL, Director of the OSCE ODIHR: *“The role of the OSCE in Promoting Religious Freedom – OSCE Principles and Initiatives”* **To be confirmed**

Evening reserved for the Embassies

Friday 10 October 2003

09:00 – 11:00: SESSION 3: ROUND TABLE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Chair / moderator: Mr. Marcello PACINI, President of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Panelists:

Mrs. Tove FERGO, Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, Denmark

Mr. Giuseppe PISANU, Minister of Interior, Italy

Mr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference

Mr. John HANFORD III, US Commission on International Religious Freedom

Prof. Amnon RUBINSTEIN (Israel)

Open debate

Concluding Statement by Mr. Marcello PACINI, President of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Concluding Remarks by Mr. Bruce GEORGE, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

11:00 – 11:20 Transfer to the Vatican City

11:30 Papal Audience

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch
