



Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

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Member : European Federation for Freedom Of Belief - FOB
Member : European Network Of Religion and Belief - ENORB

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 16 to 27 September 2019

Working session 13: Tolerance and non-discrimination II

including:–Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination–Combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions

Is Religious Freedom ever possible in the Russian Federation ?

CAP Freedom of Conscience was created in 2000 to defend religious minorities against discrimination in France and in Europe. CAP LC is granted of the ECOSOC consultative status of the United Nations.

During the last OSCE sessions on Freedom of Religion or Belief, we exposed the harmful activities of FECRIS (the European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects) in Russia and its integral financing by the French Government.

Members of FECRIS and of its Russian branch, the Saint Ireneus of Lyons Centre for Religious Studies which is affiliated to the Orthodox Church, have been waging for years a campaign against non-Orthodox minorities in order to eradicate them from the Russian territory.

Alexander Dvorkin, Vice-President of FECRIS and Director of the Saint Ireneus of Lyons Centre is the major spokesperson and activist in this campaign against religious minorities in Russia. The situation of religious minorities has worsened during the last years as the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses, the harassment of the Hindu community and others.

FECRIS claims in its by-laws that its activities do not enter « the religious field » and declares to be neutral in this matter. How is it then, that the Vice-President of FECRIS, an organization registered in secular France and massively financed by the French State, is Alexander Dvorkin, a Russian citizen blessed, financed and missioned by the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch to combat religious minorities perceived as competitors?

We therefore ask the French Government to cease its support to FECRIS and its harmful activities in Russia.