



**Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2022**

**26 September 2022, 14:00 - 7 October 2022**

**Sofitel Victoria Warsaw Królewska St. 11, 00-065, Warsaw**

**Organized by The Polish 2022 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office,  
with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
(ODIHR)**

**Wednesday, 28 September**

**Plenary Session II: Fundamental freedoms I**

**Freedom of religion or belief; Freedom of assembly and association; Human rights  
defenders; Freedom of movement**

France, internationally recognized for its values towards secularism and respect for freedom of religion and belief, has serious deficiencies in its territory in its commitment to respect and enforce respect for freedom of religion and belief.

Our recommendations to France are to consider more seriously its commitments regarding:

Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights  
Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Article 18 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR

and to consider the recommendations of the July 2020 USCIRF's report on "The Anti-cult Movement and Religious Regulation in Russia and the Former Soviet Union".

As well as to implement the "Republican contract" that was voted in the law on Separatism in 2021 to FECRIS, an NGO that the French government has financed at more than 90% for over 20 years.

Indeed, for years, our association has been alerting the French authorities about the dangerous links that FECRIS has with one of its members Mr. Alexander Dvorkin.

Mr. Dvorkin is a Russian activist with strong links to the Russian Orthodox Church and a close to Patriarch Kirill who for decades has been inundating the Russian, Chinese and Western media with hate speech against spiritual minorities and anti-Ukrainian propaganda. He was the vice-president of FECRIS for years and today he remains a member of its board of directors.

At the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army, we have once again alerted by letter the French government of the anti-Ukrainian activities of M. Dvorkin. This has remained to this day a dead letter.

Even if FECRIS has posted on its website few lines of support to the Ukrainian people, it is not

less true that M. Dvorkin is still a member of FECRIS and that he is currently spreading his hate speech against Ukraine and *blames it for its acquaintances* with the West.

The fact that the French government continues to fund such an association, in addition to the lack of respect for freedom of religion or belief, puts France in a contradictory political position since on the one hand she supports Ukraine and at the same time gives its assent by silence and inaction to pro-Russian discourse.

You will find all the needed information on our website or by contacting us directly.

### **Recommendations to France :**

#### **To consider more seriously its commitments regarding :**

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- Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 18 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR

**and to consider the recommendations** of the July 2020 USCIRF's report on "The Anti-cult Movement and Religious Regulation in Russia and the Former Soviet Union".

As well as **to implement the "Republican contract"** that was voted in the law on Separatism in 2021 to FECRIS, an NGO that the French government has financed at more than 90% for over 20 years.

#### **Sources :**

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