

WORKSHOP

Implications of Religious Diversity for Public Policies from a Human Rights Perspective. Accommodation of rights at the subnational level

11 February 2011
University of Deusto (Bilbao)

Responsible institutions:

- “La comparación en Derecho constitucional; tendencias contemporáneas” Research Team. University of Cádiz (Jerez, Spain). Director: Prof. Dr. Miguel Revenga Sánchez.
- Human Rights Institute, University of Deusto (Bilbao). Director: Prof. Dr. Eduardo J. Ruiz Vieytez.

Supporting entities:

- Ministerio de Innovación y Ciencia. Proyecto El tiempo de los derechos (HURI-AGE). Consolider-Ingenio 2010.
- IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe) Research Network. Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Rinus Penninx (University of Amsterdam). Director of the IMISCOE-team at Deusto University: Prof. Dr. Marisa Setién.
- Basque Government; Direction on Human Rights.

Date: Friday, 11 February 2011

Place: Room 153; University of Deusto (Bilbao)

Motivation and goals:

In the framework of the research project “religious diversity in the Basque Country: new social and cultural challenges for public policies” (approved and funded by the Government of the Basque Country), and of the Consolider-Ingenio project “El tiempo de los derechos-HURI-AGE” (approved and funded by the Ministry of Science and innovation of the Spanish Government), the Imiscoe team of the University of Deusto proposes to organize a one-day seminar on “Implications of Religious Diversity for Subnational Public Policies from a Human Rights Perspective”.

After the celebration of an international conference on the management of religious diversity in a human rights framework in Donostia-San Sebastian in April 2009, and the follow-up seminar on European and North American case-law on cultural diversity, organized in Bilbao in January 2010, the Deusto Human Rights Institute, in collaboration with the University of Cádiz (through the project Consolider) and the IMISCOE research network is looking to host a one-day discussion to move forward in the same research line.

The multicultural element of our societies, which is growing in a very fast manner in some particular scenarios, demands new and deep reflections on basic concepts of our legal and political systems. The goal of this reflection is to provide the public institutions, mainly at the subnational level, of new instruments and ideas to manage a context of recent and intense religious diversity.

Within an institutional framework of self-government or devolution to regional/substate/national entities, religious diversity has to be approached in a particular way which is consistent with the balance of powers between central and peripheral institutions. The same debate can also affect to local institutions that have the obligation to implement national legislations in particular and specific local contexts.

The idea is that the seminar will lead to a new research contribution and open a possibility of compared analysis for those interested in the relation between human rights and religious diversity, and its public management from a local or regional perspective.

In this framework, the contributions seek to offer a diverse and even contradictory landscape of public policies. In particular, the quebecois experience, unlike the French one, may be enlightening from the perspective of the Spanish Autonomous Communities, whose main developments will also be taken into consideration.

Structure of the seminar:

This seminar would be structured around the presentation of 3 selected papers by invited speakers. After the presentations, the participants could take part in a general debate. A limited time for presenting short communications can also be considered.

The perspective of the contributions will mainly be legal and political, but participants from different disciplines would be welcome for a broader discussion.

Invited speakers would be asked to provide their contribution also in a written format. The purpose of the organizing group is to publish the papers within the Yearbook on Human Rights and humanitarian Action of the Human Rights Institute.

Participants:

Guest speakers:

- Jocelyn Maclure, Professeur agrégé (Faculté de philosophie), Université Laval, Québec (former adviser of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission)
- Frédérique Ast, legal adviser at HALDE (Haute autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité, France)
- David Moya, Senior lecturer of Constitutional Law, University of Barcelona

The seminar would be open to participation of professors, readers, lecturers, researchers or PhD candidates from the host university, the IMISCOE network or other institutions. The total number of participants would be limited to a maximum of 25 people.

Structure:

12:00-12:10 introduction to the workshop and participants (Eduardo J. Ruiz Vieitez)

12:10-12:45 paper 1: Jocelyn Maclure

Religious accommodation and human rights from the Quebecois experience. After the Bouchard-Taylor report.

12:45-13:30 paper 2: Frédérique Ast

Contribution of the right to non-discrimination to the protection of religious pluralism. The French experience

13:45-15:15 lunch

15:15-15:45 paper 3: David Moya

Regional (autonomous) management of the religious diversity: The Catalan approach

15:45-16:15 questions and comments on the keynote speakers' papers.

16:15-17:45 open debate

Working language

The workshop will be held exclusively in English. Interpretation to any other language will not be provided.

Registration

Participation is open to professors, lecturers, policy makers, researchers or PhD candidates interested in the field of human rights or management of diversity. Registration is free of charge and it includes the planned lunch, but

not any other travelling or accommodation expenses. Please note that the number of participants is limited.

To show your interest in participating in the workshop, please send an email message to the following address:

derechos.humanos@deusto.es

(please specify **WORKSHOP** as *subject* of the message), including the following data:

Family and given names

Position and institution

Email address