

EUROPEAN NETWORK CHURCH ON THE MOVE  
RESEAU EUROPEEN EGLISES ET LIBERTES

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[6] January, 2008

To Ms. Sophie In't Veld  
President of the All Party Working Group  
on Separation of Religion and Politics

Dear Ms. In't Veld,

The European Network Church on the Move fully supports the letter sent on behalf of the All Party Group to the presidents of the European Parliament, of the Council and of the Commission on December 12 reminding the three EU institutions of the criteria of a democratic dialogue with the churches and non-confessional organisations and recommending them to invite leaders of non-confessional organisations, such as the European humanists, representatives of liberal, progressive religious groupings, ensure that women are represented too and demand an effort from the participants in this respect.

As a liberal and -hopefully- progressive religious grouping, which is about to be granted participatory status at the Council of Europe, the European Network Church on the Move specially greets the recommendations made to the EU institutions with respect to inclusiveness and representativeness. We want to stress that for the first time it is stated that religious liberal and progressive groupings must have a voice in the dialogue under article 15 ter, thus acknowledging the fact that religious leaders cannot adequately represent the growing convictional and cultural diversity in their communities.

The All party group's initiative from within the EP is particularly timely as the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty is under way and the EU is facing a growing pressure on secularism both at top religious and state level and it appears as a new welcome move toward a parliamentary control on the dialogue under art 15.

Cordially,

Hubert Tournès

On behalf of the EN/RE