

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

“Euroscepticism and Multiculturalism”

7 December 2009
9:00 – 18:30
Raadzaal, Achter Sint Pieter 200



© Michael Berndsen 2009

Conference Programme

Foreword from the Conference Committee

The Legal Research Master Conference Committee welcomes you to the second International Legal Research Conference. This year's theme is 'Euroscepticism and Multiculturalism'. In today's Europe many discussions are concentrated to the question of to which extent Europe should interfere in national policies, decisions and legislation. The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force last week, has already lead to numerous discussions on the delegation of powers to the EU. Although the treaty does provide for several new EU competences, it also pays great attention to the role of national parliaments. The conference deals with some of the most interesting aspects of the emerging Euroscepticism. In three sub-sessions three different areas of law and three different kinds of 'culture' are elaborated upon: firstly, freedom of religion and multiculturalism, secondly, national identity, constitutional values and Euroscepticism, and thirdly, cultural identity and private law regulation.

We wish you a pleasant day and hope that you enjoy the conference!

The Utrecht University International Legal Research Conference Committee 2009

Irene Aronstein

Eduardo Arenas Catalán

Malu Beijer

Marja-Liisa Laatsit

Frank van Schendel

Conference Programme

8:30-9:00

Welcome with coffee and tea

9.00-9:30

Introductory session

Prof. Leonard Besselink – Ceremonial introduction

Irene Aronstein – Opening speech

9:30-10:40

Freedom of religion and multiculturalism (Part I)

Chair: Dr Bald de Vries

Prof. Titia Loenen

–

'The European Court of Human Rights and freedom of religion: developing European standards or supporting nationalist tendencies?'

Prof. Veit Bader

–

'Maximum accommodation constrained by minimal morality and law, or: how to resolve tensions between individual and associational freedoms of religion'

10:40-10:55

Coffee break

10:55-12:00

Freedom of religion and multiculturalism (Part II)

Dr Anat Scolnicov

–

'Defining religion and religious freedom in the UK'

Panel Discussion

12:00-12:45

Lunch

12:45-15.15

National identity, constitutional values and Euroscepticism

Chair: Dr Ton van den Brink

Prof. Antal Örkény

–

'European Identity and National Attachment: Harmony or Dissonance. A sociological Approach.'

Prof. Leonard Besselink

–

'Constitutional Identity before and after the Lisbon Treaty'

Dr Gavin Barrett

–

'Euroscepticism and the Process of Ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon in Ireland'

Panel Discussion

15:15-15:30

Break

15:30-18:00

Cultural identity and the regulation of private law in Europe

Chair: Prof. Ewoud Hondius

Dr Ruth Sefton-Green

–

'Does multiculturalism in the EU clash with harmonisation of private law?'

Prof. Jan Smits

–

'European private law: brave new world or a feast of diversity?'

Prof. Esin Örüçü

–

'When state law meets diverse socio-cultures'

Panel Discussion

18:00-18:15

Closing remarks

18:15

Drinks at Zussen, Domstraat