



FAITH &  
FREEDOM  
SUMMIT

2018

PRACTICING WHAT  
WE PREACH IN EUROPE







**The Solvay Library in Brussels welcomed,  
on the 28th of June 2018,  
the Faith and Freedom Summit.**

The Faith and Freedom Summit: Practicing what we Preach in Europe was a non-partisan summit that brought together leaders from the various fields of politics, government, academia, activism and the non-for-profit sector from across Europe and beyond, in order to propose and develop initiatives that push forward the cause for Freedom of Religion or Belief in Europe.



The Faith and Freedom Summit was particularly timely relevant as in 2018 the world celebrates the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Speakers and panellists included former US Congressman Bob McEwen, Former Member of the American Delegation to the European Parliament, Jan Figel, EU Special Envoy for the promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the European Union,

Amjad Bashir MEP, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the European Parliament, Patricia Duval, Human Rights Attorney, and many more.

With a series of Keynote speeches and panel discussions, the Faith and Freedom Summit was successful in delivering an inclusive take on religious liberties in the world, and particularly in Europe.















  
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2018







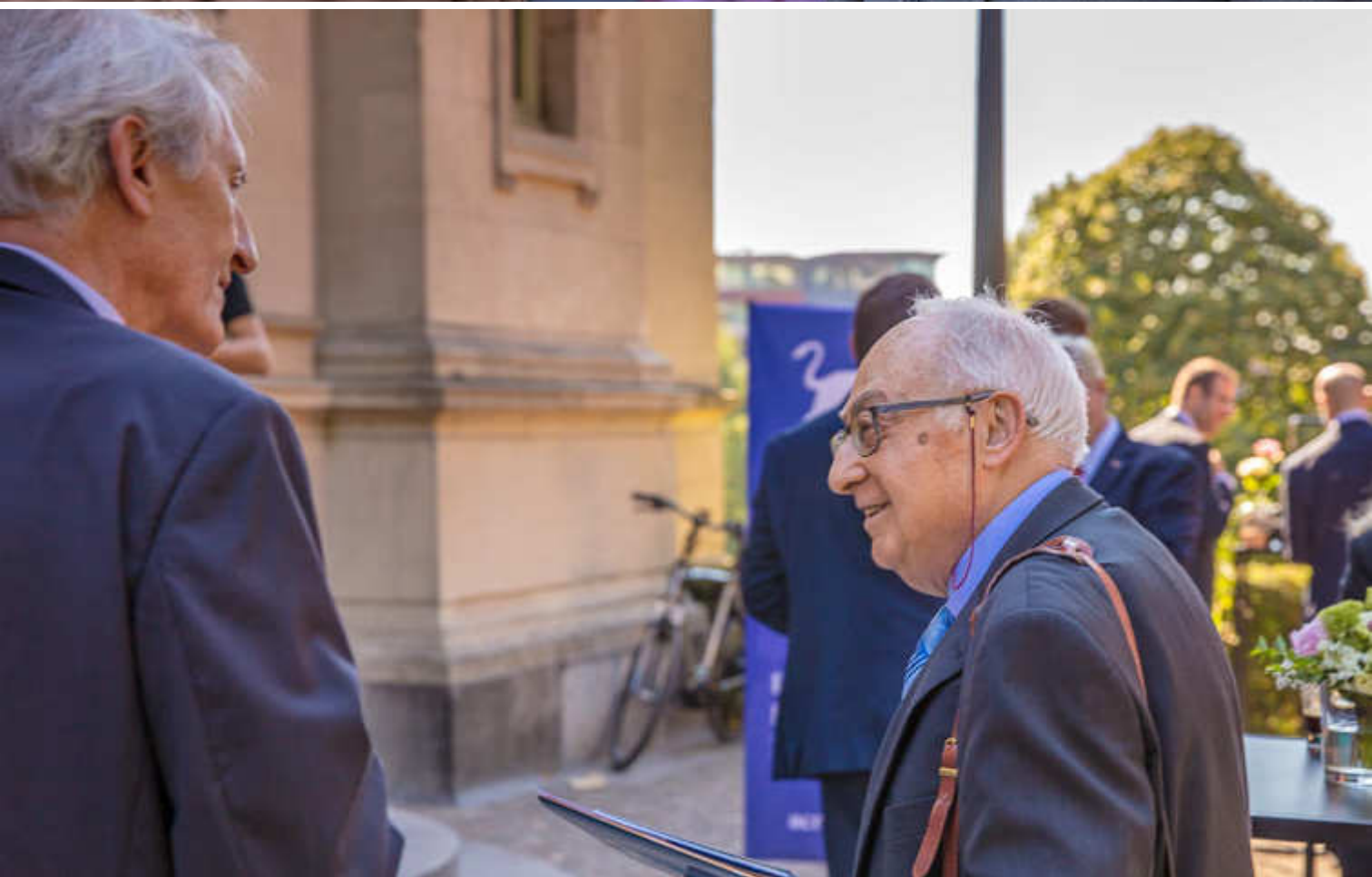


Photo Text











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# Mr. Richard Milsom

Chief Executive of Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists of Europe



[faithandfreedomsummit.eu](http://faithandfreedomsummit.eu)





Mr. Richard Milsom, inspired, applying Gandhi to  
#ReligiousFreedom by saying:

"The true measure of any society can  
be found in how it treats its most  
vulnerable members"



I pledge that I will uphold and defend the freedom of conscience and religion of all individuals by rejecting and speaking out against bigotry, discrimination, harassment and violence; and so build a more equitable society for all.

**“I call on all Members of the European Parliament to sign the [above]pledge for FoRB for all”**

**Ms. Ahmed Shaheed**



# Mr. Ahmed Shaheed

United Nations Special Rapporteur  
on Freedom of Religion or Belief





# **ERIC ROUX**

**Vice President of the European Office of the Church of Scientology  
for Public Affairs and Human Rights**





Photo Text

“Freedom of religion or belief has no religion. It has no political side. What people believe is their most ultimate freedom. Their link to God, or to the ultimate sense of life, and the expression of these inner beliefs are the most profound richness of a human being.

That is why freedom of religion or belief must be fought for all, always, with no consideration of whatever faith one chooses.”

Rev Eric Roux



# ERIC ROUX

Vice President of the European Office of the Church of Scientology  
for Public Affairs and Human Rights





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“We sometimes forget that first and foremost in our community of people living together we should be protecting the spirituality of individuals”

Mr. Martin Weightman



**Mr. Martin Weightman**  
Director of the All Faiths Network

“We cannot be satisfied when official human rights dogma leads us toward a situation when something like the freedom of religion, arguably our first freedom, the freedom of form a basic moral orientation, is equated with banal social policy”

Mr. Aaron Rhodes





# Mr. Aaron Rhodes

President of the Forum for Religious Freedom-Europe

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IN EUROPE







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ACTIVISTS  
PANEL DISCUSSION



PRACTICING WHAT  
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**“Governments have a duty to protect their citizens against any infringement upon their rights regardless of their religion or belief”.**

**Mr. Willy Fautre**

# Mr. Willy Fautre

Director of Human Rights  
Without Frontiers International





**“There is a special need amongst EU nations to work together and support each other on the road to complete Religious Freedom, tolerance of believer and non-believer, and even respectful disagreement with others”.**

**Mr. Hans Noot**

**Mr. Hans Noot**

**Director of the Gerard Noodt Foundation**











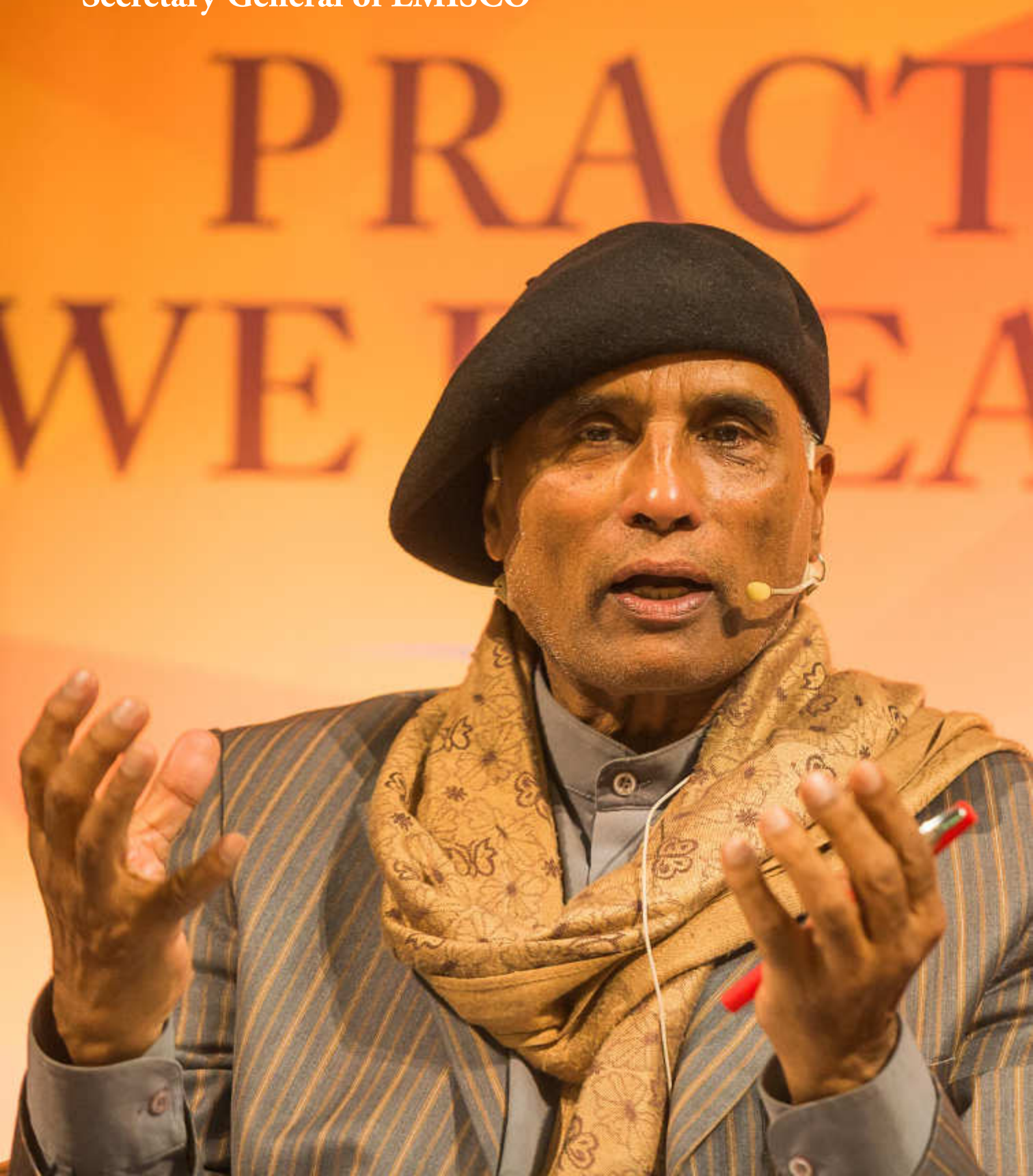
# PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH IN EUROPE

**“Europe cannot and must not have double standards when it comes to religious freedom and protect the rights of those who belong to minority faiths”.**

**Mr. Bashy Quraishy**

# Mr. Bashy Quraishy

Secretary General of EMISCO



# BRINGING WHAT IS BEST IN EUROPE









# JÁN FIGEL'

EU Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief  
outside the European Union





**“For the sake of our external  
credibility we need to show  
coherence in external and  
internal policy”**

**Mr. Jan Figel**













  
**ACRE**  
ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITARIAN  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

**FUTURE**













Arch. Thomas Schirrmacher:

“It is a noble task for any member of the European Parliament to help to spread the idea that FoRB for others is the best way to protect one’s own FoRB and that FoRB for all is a road to a peaceful society”.





THOMAS SCHIRI  
and President of the







**FAITH & FREEDOM SUMMIT 2018**

DR. THOMAS SCHIRRMACHER  
Practicing What We Preach in Europe

DR. THOMAS SCHIRRMACHER

DR. THOMAS SCHIRRMACHER



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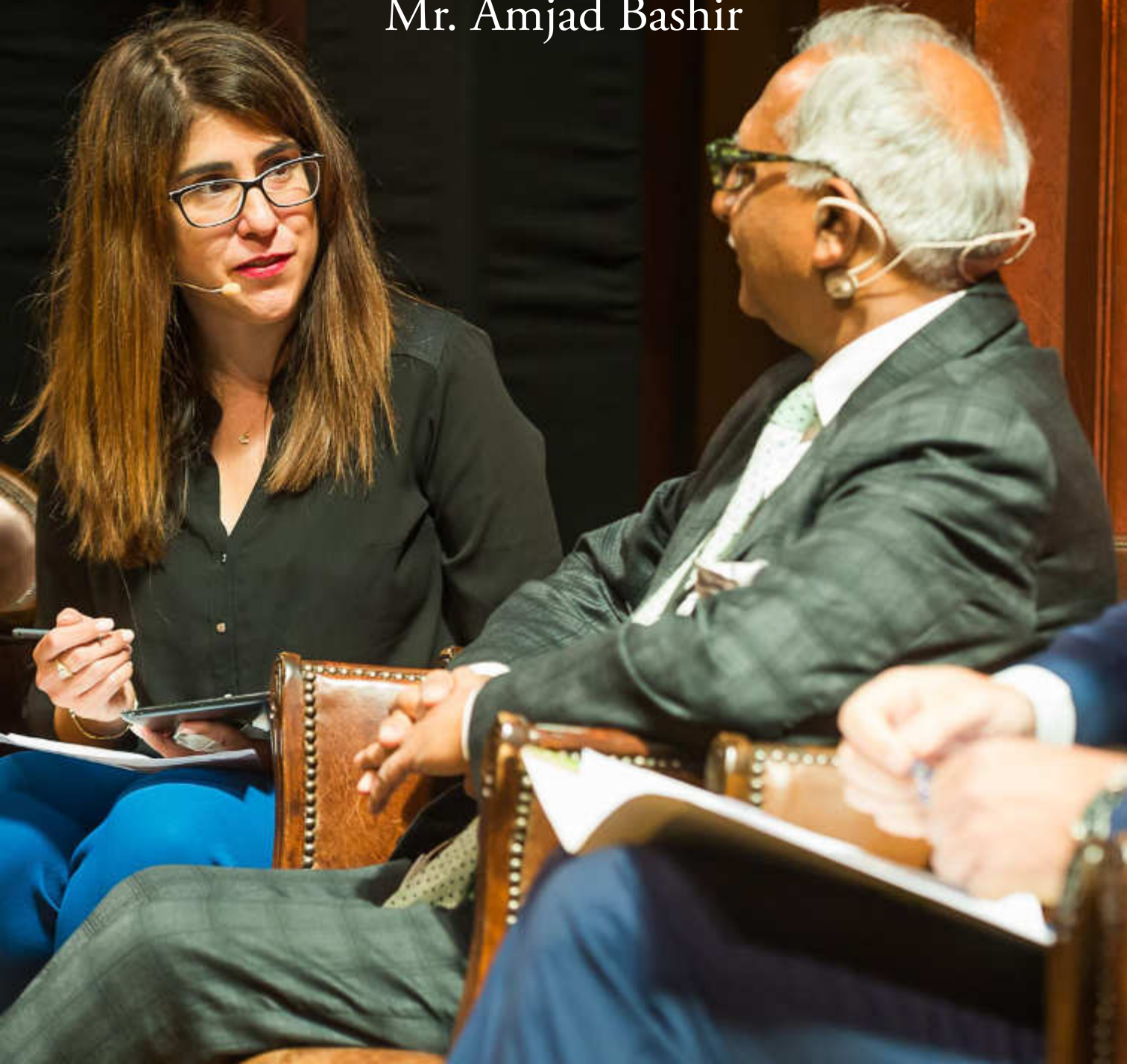
# Ms. Neva Sadikoglu-Novaky

Secretary General, ECR Group, Committee of the Regions



“We should be focusing on  
defending other people’s  
freedoms, not just ours”.

Mr. Amjad Bashir



# Mr. Amjad Bashir

Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee,  
European Parliament





# PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH IN EUROPE

**“We are not to discriminate anybody on the grounds of religion, there is no question about that”**

**Mr. Ivan Espinosa de los Monteros**

**Mr. Ivan Espinosa**

**Director of International Affairs for VOX**







# PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH IN EUROPE

FORA





# CONGRESSMAN BOB McEWEN

Former Member, American Delegation to European Parliament





AMERICAN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOB Mc

American Deputy Assistant Secretary to European



“Everything in life is either  
physical or spiritual, and wisdom  
is to be able to identify  
which one is which”  
Mr. Bob McEwen



CONGRESSMAN BO

Former Member, A... gation





# Mr. Sam Brownback

U.S. Ambassador at Large for  
International Religious Freedom



**“Religious freedom is my top  
priority. Every religion.  
Or no religion at all”.**

Mr. Sam Brownback





# KRISTINA ARRIAGA DE BUCHOLZ

USCIRF Commissioner and Vice-Chairwoman of the Commission





“Some governments view religion as competition, an alternate source of authority, which they must control.

However, in so doing, they create more instability, not enhanced authority.”

Ms. Kristina Arriaga



**ARRIAGA DE BUCH**

Member and Vice-Chairwoman of the Commission





FAITH & FREEDOM SUMMIT  
BRINGING TOGETHER THE FAITHFUL & THE FREEDOM LOVERS

THE GREAT DEBATE

THE GREAT DEBATE

# SALVATORE MARTINEZ

Representative of the Italian Presidency of the OSCE, in Charge  
Freedom of Religion, and President of the Vatican Foundation  
International Center Family of Nazareth





**“The denial of freedom of religion puts at risk the most basic rights of everyone, and when this denial concerns a whole religious community, it endangers peace and security between states themselves. Freedom of religion must also be respected in its collective dimension”**  
**Mr. Salvatore Martinez**





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THE FAITHFUL & THE FREEDOM LOVERS

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**“[in Europe] there are more and more quarrels that relate to freedom of religion and conscience”.**

**Mr. Vincent Berger**



**Mr. Vincent Berger**  
Former Jurisconsult of European Court of Human Rights

**“...misunderstandings about freedom of religion or belief are based on a static view of society, and are in turn conducive to a static vision hindering human rights.”**

**Prof. Marco Ventura**



# Dr. Marco Ventura

Professor of Law & Religion at University of Siena





COMMIT  
G WHAT  
N EUROPE







“If a group considers itself as a religion and its practices or creed do not harm the fundamental rights of citizens or public order in the sense of order that respects the dignity and freedom of people, the State should recognize it as such and protect the manifestations of their freedom of belief”.

Prof. Juan Ferreiro



# Dr. Juan Ferreiro

Professor Law and Religion, Spain







**“We can only hope that The European Union remembers that Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stresses that “In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief”**

Ms. Patricia Duval



# Ms. Patricia Duval

Human Rights attorney



“Nobody should be forced to  
choose between their religion  
and their profession.”

Ms. Adina Portaru



**Ms. Adina Portaru,**  
**Legal Counsel for ADF International in Belgium**





**“Transforming theory into practice is the essential and vital element for empowering change and to finally affirm freedom of religion and belief for all.”**

**Dr. Alessandro Amicarelli**



# Mr. Alessandro Amicarelli, Chairman of the European Federation for Freedom of Belief







**“No minority in the EU  
should be put aside when dealing with  
Freedom of Religion or Belief.  
With the efforts of all of us, true  
enlightenment and spiritual freedom is  
available. This is the ultimate  
message of Scientology”**

Mr. Ivan Arjona



# Mr. Ivan Arjona-Pelado

President of the European Office Church of  
Scientology for Public Affairs & Human Rights



“Whether we can welcome those who are persecuted in their countries because of their faith is one of the first tests of how really committed we are to the sacred principle of religious liberty and humanitarian protection of persecuted people.”

Ms. Rosita Soryte



# Ms. Rosita Soryte

Lithuanian diplomat, President of the International  
Observatory of Religious Liberty of Refugees



2018

“We ask [politicians] not to interfere, just give us the opportunity, the option, to believe in whatever we want”.

Mr. Eli Nacht





**Dr. Eli Nacht**

Official Representative of  
International Committee of Human Rights in Israel





**“Faith leaders should be  
advocates for free exercise  
and contribution  
of all faiths.”**

**Mr. Greg Mitchel**

# Mr. Greg Mitchel

Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Roundtable





PRACTICING  
WHAT WE PREACH

**“I come from visiting Pope Francis and he sends his blessings for this Faith and Freedom Summit practicing what we preach in Europe”.  
Archibishop Schirmacher**

# Mr. Thomas Schirrmacher

Archbishop and President of the International Society  
for Human Rights



# PRACTICE

# THE PREACH











# How much emphasis should there be on Religious Freedom in Europe?

Faith and Freedom Summit

Solvay Library, Brussels

28th June 2018







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[www.faithandfreedomsummit.eu](http://www.faithandfreedomsummit.eu)





This Faith and Freedom Summit:  
Practicing what we preach in Europe  
is a campaign aimed to all political groups  
and all religious denominations.

If you would like to support this campaign to  
further promote the compliance with  
Freedom of Religion or Belief within Europe  
as a whole, including all institutions and  
member states of the different European  
bodies, please contact us at:

[info@faithandfreedomsummit.eu](mailto:info@faithandfreedomsummit.eu)

For info on the coming events, please  
find out in our website:

[www.faithandfreedomsummit.eu](http://www.faithandfreedomsummit.eu)