

THE AUTONOMY OF THE CHURCH IN THE RECENT CASE LAW OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Council of Europe
Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 10am to 12pm, Room 9.

The purpose of this seminar is to make an inventory of the recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on the protection of the internal freedom enjoyed by the churches in their relationship with their religious members and employees. This issue has become particularly important; in recent months, the Court issued a dozen judgments specifying the applicable case law principles. The U.S. Supreme-Court has also ruled on the matter recently, also reaffirming the principle of church autonomy.

This seminar will also discuss the issues caused by the case *Sindicatul "Păstorul cel Bun" c. Romania* (Third Section, January 31, 2012, No. 2330/09) and the reasons for a potential referral to the Grand Chamber.

With the participation of, among others experts,

- Javier **BORREGO-BORREGO**, judge at the ECHR between 2003 and 2008 (Spain).
- Irina **CAMBREA**, Co-agent of the government of Romania to the ECHR.
- Prof. Louis-Léon **CHRISTIANS**, *Catholic University of Louvain la Neuve*, Chair Law and Religion,
- Prof. Cole **DURHAM**, *Brigham Young University*, Director of the *International Center for Law and Religion Studies*, USA, Panel of Experts OSCE / ODIHR on freedom of religion and belief.
- Prof. Igor **PONKIN**, Director of the *Institute of relations between the State and religious denominations and Law*, Moscow.
- Dr. Gregor **PUPPINCK**, Director, *European Centre for Law and Justice*, Strasbourg.
- Eric **RASSBACH**, National Litigation Director at the *Becket Fund for Religious Liberty*, USA.
- Prof. Dr. Georg **RESS**, Judge at the ECHR between 1998 and 2004 (Germany).
- Prof. Patriciu **VLAICU**, Professor of Canon Law at the *University of Cluj*, Romania.

- Open to the public -

