



Religion and politics: the dangers of instrumentalisation

Monday, April 27th, 2026 - 18.00 – 19.30

(Translation with subtitles in English & French)

Zoom : <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89263313389?pwd=N492dG2T0WdH79vxSlxe5PKLjo4aoC.1>

Meeting ID: [892 6331 3389](#) Passcode: 707142

INTRODUCTION:

In an increasingly fragmented world, interreligious and interconvictional dialogue can no longer be reduced to mere formal courtesies. Today, this dialogue faces systemic challenges that threaten social cohesion.

We are witnessing a paradoxical dual trend: on the one hand, the instrumentalization of politics by religion, where the sacred is invoked to legitimise agendas of power; on the other hand, the instrumentalization of religion by politics, where religious identities become tools for electoral polarisation.

Between these two forces, ignorance — often perpetuated or endured — erects walls where we should be building bridges. The aim of this webinar is to analyse these mechanisms:

- How can we distinguish between genuine conviction and a manipulative strategy?
- How can we move from superficial tolerance to a genuine understanding of others?
- How can we resist the ideological pressures and instrumentalization we face today?

In the face of the political appropriation of religion and the rise of ignorance, interreligious and inter-convictional dialogue is more necessary than ever. This webinar examines the mechanisms of mutual exploitation in order to restore genuine dialogue, moving beyond identity-based isolation and strategies of power.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. Elisabet Naurath – Chair of Religions for Peace Germany and member of RFP-Europe – Protestant theologian, University Augsburg, Research focus areas, Practical theology in the context of social transformation processes; perspectives on public theology. Founder of the Peace Education Center for Interreligious Education with the study for Certificate of Interfaith Mediation (CIM).

M. François Mabilie - Professor of political science, secretary general of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, and researcher at the CNRS (GSRL-EPHE)

M. Yahya Pallavicini – Chairman of EULEMA, the European Muslim Scholars Council (Brussels), Board Member of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), vice president of COREIS Italian Islamic Religious Community, imam of Milan al-Wahid Central Mosque, Founding member of EMOUNA Italy.

M. Moché Moïse Lewin - Chief Rabbi - Special Adviser to the Chief Rabbi of France, Vice-President of the Conference of European Rabbis, Board Member of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), member of EMOUNA France

MODERATOR: Dr. Thea Mohr, (European Buddhist Union), trainer of intercultural communication.