

Christian values in Europe: A new reading of Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) in view of the current global uncertainties

An event focusing on the role of Christian values in Europe in the context of global uncertainty and growing geopolitical instability. Bringing together Members of the European Parliament, representatives of Churches and Christian organisations, and policymakers from across Europe, this discussion will examine the importance of fostering an open, transparent, and regular dialogue between parliamentary institutions and religious communities, as provided for under Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU). The dialogue conducted under Article 17 serves as an important platform for addressing contemporary challenges, strengthening mutual understanding, and reflecting on the values and principles shaping Europe's future.

This event is hosted by MEP Dimitris Tsiodras (EPP, Greece) and is organized in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) and the Intergroup of the European Parliament on Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience (FORB) on the occasion of the presentation and distribution of the English publication of the proceedings of the Conference "Politics as an Area for Expressing Christian Values in Everyday Life", held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in May 2024.

Hosted by: MEP Dimitrios TSIODRAS, EPP

Wednesday, 30 September 2026: 18h00 to 20h00
Room A3E-2, European Parliament, Brussels

Draft Program

- 18.00: Arrival of Participants & Registration
- 18.05: Welcome remarks by Mr. Dimitrios Tsiodras, Member of the European Parliament
- 18.15: Video message by Ms. Antonella Sberna, Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for the implementation of Article 17 of the TFEU
- 18.20: Intervention by Ms. Miriam Lexmann, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience
- 18.30 Intervention by Mr. Vangelis Meimarakis, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the EPP Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue

- 18.40: Intervention by Mr. Maximos Charakopoulos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Secretary General of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)
- 18.50: Intervention by His Eminence Bishop Mariano Crociata, President of the Commission of Bishops' Conferences in the EU (COMECE)
- 19.00: Intervention by His Eminence Bishop Apostolos of Tanagra, Director of the Representation Office of the Church of Greece in Brussels
- 19.10: Intervention by Mr. Ioan Vulpescu, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania and President of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) General Assembly
- 19.20: Intervention by Mr. Alberto Lo Presti, Representative of the Focolare Movement on the Steering Committee of the organization Together for Europe
- 19.30: Intervention by Reverend Frank Dieter Fischbach, Secretary General of the Conference of the European Churches (CEC)
- 19.40: Q&A Session with Participants
- 20.00: End of the Event