



**COORDINATING GROUP FOR RELIGION IN EDUCATION IN EUROPE**  
*Besturenraad, Centre for Christian Education in The Netherlands*  
*Protestant Theological University, Amsterdam and Groningen*  
*VU Theological Faculty, Amsterdam*

**Invitation to an international conference**

**Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 November 2013**

**Together with the General Assembly of I.V., the International Association for Christian Education (22 November 2013)**

**Conference hotel 'Kontakt der Kontinenten'**  
**Amersfoortsestraat 20, 3769 AS Soesterberg, The Netherlands**  
[www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl](http://www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl)

**Target groups:** researchers, practitioners and politicians.

**Religion in schools in secular Europe?  
Perspectives from research, politics and practice**

Following the education ministers in their 22nd session of the Council of Europe's standing conference:

*"regardless of the religious education system that exists in a particular country, children must receive tuition that takes account of religious and philosophical diversity as part of their intercultural education"*

Section 23 of the 22nd session

In order to explore how such a recommendation may be achieved in practice and supported by research the *Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe CoGREE* its member organisations together with the *Besturenraad*, the *Protestant Theological University of Amsterdam and Groningen* and the *Theological Faculty of VU Amsterdam* are organizing a conference of experts and politicians to focus on the place and value of religion in schools in a secular dominated Europe. The programme will include statements by politicians, academics and professionals in education and findings of current research on religion and education in Europe. This will reflect the present situation in different areas in Europe and identify what is needed to reaffirm the right of each child to receive tuition that enables him to deal competently with religious and non-religious world views. The major aim of the conference is to enable academics, practitioners and policy makers to meet and consider effective strategies.

## Programme

### **Wednesday 20<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

- From 16.00h                      Arrival of (international) guests
- 18.00h                              Social gathering and common meal

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

**9.30 h                              Welcome and opening from the organizers**

**10.00h – 13.00h                Plenary programme** with key notes from

**Prof. mr. dr. Ben Vermeulen** – member of the Council of State,  
Netherlands

*What is the legal framework that enables religion in school?*

**Dr. Rebecca Nye** - Anglia Ruskin University (UK)

*Children's 'Rights' in relation to RE in the English context*

#### **Panel discussion “What about political responsibility for religion in education?”**

with CoGREE-moderator Peter Schreiner and

- Dr Uta Hallwirth, Research Unit for Protestant Schools, Hanover/Germany
- Michel Rog, member of the Second Chamber in the Netherlands
- Prof. Jan de Groof, College of Europe, Bruges/Belgium
- Prof. Wolfram Weisse, director of the REDCo research project, University of Hamburg/Germany

**13.00h – 14.00h                Lunch**

**14.00h – 15.30                Workshops I**

1. *Ritual practice in schools.* With Dr. Harmjan Dam, Germany.
2. *How social changes effect the role of religion in education in Poland.* With Prof. Elzbieta Osewska, Poland.
3. *Religion in the context of a Europeanization of Education. Challenges and Perspectives from an empirical study.* With Dr. Peter Schreiner, Germany.
4. *The Lautsi-case in Italy and the European Court. How legal decisions on European level influence education in European countries.* With Kaarina Lyhykainen, Finland and Prof. Ben Vermeulen, The Netherlands.

**15.30 – 17.00                Workshops II**

5. *What is the school's responsibility for the spiritual formation of children?* With Jos de Kock and Toke Elshof, The Netherlands.
6. *Godly Play.* With Dr. Rebecca Nye, England.
7. *Teaching religious education in the Orthodox tradition in some European countries.* With Kaarina Lyhykainen, Finland.
8. *PILGRIM schools in Austria and The Netherlands.* With Guido de Bruin, The Netherlands and Dr. Hans Hirsch, Austria.

- 17.30h**                    **Reception** of IV and Besturenraad for the participants of the conference and IV member delegates
- 18.30h**                    **Dinner**
- 19.30 h**                    **Introduction** to the education system and Christian schools in The Netherlands (Dick den Bakker)
- Music

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013**

- 8.30 – 9.00 h**            **Morning worship**  
by pastors of Alfa College (optional)
- 9.00 – 10.30h**         **Workshops** related to CoGREE's main concerns
- *The child's right to religion and religious education* (working on CoGREE statement)
  - *Pastoral care in schools* – experiences of the Alfa College in The Netherlands (during the conference there will be an exhibition with materials from Alfa College on this subject)
- 11:00-12:00**            **Closing session**  
*The role of religion in the public sphere and Christian education – trends and challenges*, Prof. James Kennedy, The Netherlands
- 12.00 – 13.00h**         **Lunch**
- 13.30h – 17.30h**       **General Assembly International Association for Christian Education**
- 18.00h**                    **Dinner** (for IV participants)

**More information**

**Costs for participants**

All-in conference three days incl. lodging	€ 350
Arriving Thursday and staying till Friday incl. lodging	€ 250
Only Thursday (no lodging)	€ 150

For more information: Dick den Bakker, [ddenbakker@besturenraad.nl](mailto:ddenbakker@besturenraad.nl), +31 623 633 849

For information about programme-content: Peter Schreiner, [cogree@comenius.de](mailto:cogree@comenius.de)

Registration: Annette Peters, [apeters@besturenraad.nl](mailto:apeters@besturenraad.nl)

After registration you will receive a confirmation with information about paying the costs of the conference.

**Route to conference-centre Kontakt der Kontinenten**  
**Amersfoortsestraat 20, 3769 AS Soesterberg, The Netherlands**  
[www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl](http://www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl)

*By plane*

When you are coming by plane, you will mostly arrive on *Amsterdam Airport* (Schiphol).

Go by train from the railway-station Schiphol to the railway-station Amersfoort. This railway-station is in the underground of the airport and can be reached by walking.

In Amersfoort there are four times per hour buses to Kontakt der Kontinenten.

The transfertime with the bus lines 52 and 56 is about 9 to 11 minutes to the hotel.

See [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl) for the timetable (Schiphol-station to Amersfoort-station).

When you are arriving by plane at *Eindhoven Airport* or *Rotterdam-The Hague Airport* you have to go by bus or taxi to the central railway-station of Eindhoven or Rotterdam (will take about half an hour). From that place you go by train to the railway-station of Amersfoort. See further above.

*By car*

When you are coming from the direction of Amersfoort: take on the A28 direction Utrecht, exit 4 (Soest/Soesterberg), at the end of the exit right.

When you are coming from the direction of Utrecht: take on the A28, direction Amersfoort, exit 4 (Soest/Soesterberg), at the end of the exit left.

You are now on the Richelleweg. At the traffic lights straight ahead, after 200 meters left is the entrance of Kontakt der Kontinenten.

Have a good trip!

When you want help on your trip, when you did arrive in The Netherlands, please contact with Dick den Bakker, +31 623 633 849.