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## Protecting the holy sites of the Mediterranean, A contribution to intercultural dialogue

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The European Commission and the Sovereign Order of Malta are both committed to the belief that the great sacred sites of the Mediterranean are areas of peace and culture. These sacred sites bear witness to living communities; they create a sense of identity and play a vital role in maintaining cultural diversity and social cohesion, attracting millions of pilgrims and tourists.

For that reason we have decided, under the cooperation set up by the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 17 February 2009, to organise a seminar on *Protecting the Sacred Sites of the Mediterranean, a contribution to intercultural dialogue*, to establish the principles of a common declaration on access to and legal protection of sacred sites of universal cultural significance.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has been working on the question of access to and protection of sacred sites for many years. A group of well-known academics, experts in their respective fields, was commissioned to study the situation of several unique and irreplaceable sites of universal cultural importance, namely Mount Athos, the Vatican, Jerusalem, the Serbian monasteries in Kosovo and the sacred sites in Cyprus. Other sites will be studied at a later stage.

The academics' work was based on a text prepared by Professor Ferrari of Milan University, which will form the basis for a report to be submitted to the appropriate bodies.

**José Manuel Durão Barroso**  
*President*  
*of the European Commission*

**Jean-Pierre Mazery**  
*Grand Chancellor*  
*of the Sovereign Order of Malta*

- 09h30**      **Opening**  
*Androulla Vassiliou, Member of the European Commission*  
*Jean-Pierre Mazery, Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta*
- 10h00**      **Introduction**  
*Silvio Ferrari, Professor at the University of Milan, coordinator sacred places and multicultural dialogue project*
- 10h15**      **Basic principles of sacred places protection**  
Speakers:  
*Marshall Breger, Professor of Law at the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.*  
*Ismini Kriari, Vice Rector at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens*  
*Cesare Mirabelli, Emeritus President of the Italian Constitutional Court, Professor at the University of Rome Tor Vergata*  
*Jens Nieper, Responsible for the Middle-East in the Evangelical Church in Germany*  
*Abou Moussa Ramadan, Professor at the Carmel Academic Center Haifa*  
Moderator:  
*Gerhard Robbers, Professor at the University of Trier*
- 11h15**      **Coffee break**
- 11h45**      **The importance of sacred places for intercultural dialogue**  
Speakers:  
*Sima Avramovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade*  
*Jack Bemporad, Director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding (CIU)*  
*Yahya Pallavicini, Vice-president of Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana (COREIS)*  
*Henry Quinson, Founder of the Saint Paul Fraternity, writer*  
Moderator:  
*Philippe de Schoutheete, Official representative of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the European Commission*

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## Programme

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- 13h00**      **Lunch hosted by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission**  
Theme: *The Arts: a sacred tool for Intercultural Dialogue*  
Discussion with representatives from the cultural world
- 14h30**      **Introduction**  
**Daniel Rondeau**, *French Ambassador to UNESCO, writer*  
Theme: *The seven sleepers: intercultural myth of the Mediterranean*
- 15h00**      **The Sacred, Art and Cultural Heritage: issues at stake around the Mediterranean**  
Speakers:  
**Mounir Bouchenaki**, *Special Adviser to the Director General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)*  
**Catherine Colonna**, *Chairman of the Board of Governors at the Ecole du Louvre, former Minister, former French Ambassador to UNESCO*  
**Vasco Graça Moura**, *writer, former Member of the European Parliament*  
**Isabel Mota**, *Trustee of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, former Minister*  
Moderator:  
**Philippe Dessaint**, *Director TV5MONDE, journalist*
- 16h15**      **Strengthening intercultural dialogue through the contribution of sacred sites**  
Speakers:  
**Xavier Beauvois**, *Film Director Des hommes et des dieux*  
**Yuri Stoyanov**, *Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London*  
**Charles Tannock**, *Member of the European Parliament*  
Moderator:  
**Philippe Dessaint**, *Director TV5MONDE, journalist*
- 17h30**      **Conclusion**  
**Jerzy Buzek**, *Member and former President of the European Parliament*  
Rapporteur:  
**Yves Gazzo**, *former European Union Ambassador to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta*
- 17h45**      **Closing remarks**  
**Jean-Pierre Mazery**, *Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta*



**Silvio Ferrari (IT)**  
Coordinator of the project

Professor of Law and Religion, University of Milan and University of Leuven. Visiting professor at the University of California (Berkeley, 1994 and 2001), the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (London, 1998-99) and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Paris, Sorbonne, 2004).

His publications in English include *Law and Religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Ashgate 2010 (edited together with Rinaldo Cristofori), *Law and Religion in Post-Communist Europe*, Leuven, Peeters, 2003 (edited together with W. Cole Durham, Jr. and E. A. Sewell), *Islam and European Legal Systems*, Dartmouth, Ashgate, 2000 (edited together with A. Bradney).

His main fields of interest are law and religion in Europe, comparative law of religions (particularly Jewish law, Canon law and Islamic law) and the Vatican policy in the Middle East.

He is honorary president of ICLARS (International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies), member of the Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the OSCE-ODIHR, and member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. He is also one of the editors-in-chief of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion* and member of the Editorial Board of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* (Cambridge Univ. Press).

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# Sacred places and multicultural dialogue project

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## Scientific Committee

Academics and Experts in religions of the Mediterranean, law, and history from various European and Mediterranean Universities and research centers, which have participated in the research:

Prof. **Sima Avramovic** (Univ. of Belgrade)

Dr. **Andrea Benzo** (Univ. of Macerata)

Prof. **Marshall Breger** (Catholic Univ. of America, Washington)

Prof. **Ida Caracciolo** (Univ. of Naples)

Dr. **Alessandro Chechi** (European University Institute, Florence)

Prof. **David-Maria Jaeger** (Antonianum University, Rome)

Prof. **Umberto Leanza** (Univ. of Rome "Tor Vergata")

Prof. **Cesare Mirabelli** (Univ. of Rome "Tor Vergata")

Prof. **Rafael Palomino** (Complutense Univ., Madrid)

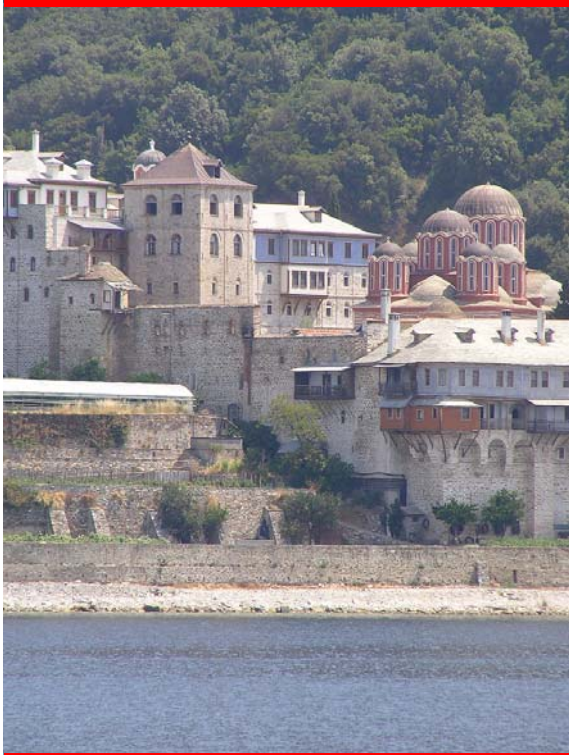
Prof. **Charalambos Papastathis** (Aristotle Univ., Thessaloniki)

Prof. **Peter Petkoff** (Univ. of Oxford)

Prof. **Moussa Ramadan** (Carmel College, Haifa)

Prof. **Yuri Stoyanov** (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

**Baki Svirca** (Institute for War Crime Research - Ministry of Justice - Kosovo)



Mount Athos  
(Monastery Xenophon)  
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Monastery Apostolos Andreas,  
Cyprus  
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Each sacred place is different in typology, size, history, legal discipline. Such variety is an asset, because it provides a large spectrum of patterns and experiences that can be useful in preparing a protection framework for the holy places.

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## The sacred places

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Universal Sacred Places in the Mediterranean that have so far been examined

- The Mount Athos
- The Serbian Orthodox Holy Places of Kosovo
- The Vatican City
- The Holy Places of Jerusalem
- The Holy Places of Cyprus



Monastery Gracanica, Kosovo  
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Vatican  
City  
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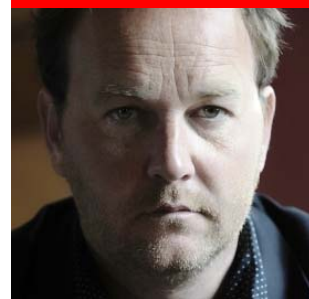
Cover: Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (former Saint Nicolas Cathedral), Cyprus  
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### **Xavier BEAUVOIS (FR)**

Film-maker Xavier Beauvois started his career as an assistant producer, working with André Techiné on *Les Innocents* (*The Innocents*) and with Manoel de Oliveira on *Mon cas* (*My Case*) before making his debut as a producer in 1986 with the short film *Le Matou*. Three years later he made his first full-length feature film, *Nord*, set in the Calais region, which depicts the break-up of a family who are unable to talk to each other.

After a period in residence at the French Academy in Rome, he made *N'oublie pas que tu vas mourir* (*Don't Forget You're Going to Die*), which tells the realistic yet romantic story of a student who discovers that he has HIV. This earned him the Jean Vigo Prize and the Prix du Jury at the Cannes Film Festival. After appearing in films by Michel Deville, Jacques Doillon and Philippe Garrel (*Le Vent de la nuit*), in 2001 he directed *Selon Matthieu* (*To Matthieu*), starring Benoît Magimel and Nathalie Baye. The latter also played one of the two leading roles in *Le Petit lieutenant* (*The Young Lieutenant*) (2005).

Xavier Beauvois returned to the big screen five years later, presenting *Des hommes et des dieux* (*Of Gods and Men*) at Cannes in 2010. In this drama Lambert Wilson and Michael Lonsdale played two venerable monks from the monastery of Tibhirine, found murdered in Algeria in 1996. The film won the Jury Prize and was a popular success, heading box-office rankings for four weeks in France. It also drew renewed attention to the story of the monks of Tibhirine, the Algerian civil war of the 1990s, and dialogue between religions.



### **Catherine COLONNA (FR)**

A graduate of the Parisian *Institut d'études politiques* and the *Ecole nationale d'administration*, Catherine Colonna is a specialist in arts and communication.

A career diplomat, she was vice-spokeswoman for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1993-1995) before joining the presidential staff after Jacques Chirac's election. She played a key role as the President's spokeswoman until 2004, when she left the presidential staff to become Director of the *Centre national de la cinématographie*. In June 2005 she was appointed Minister of European Affairs in the government of Dominique de Villepin.

In 2007 she returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, taking up the post of Ambassador to UNESCO in March 2008. In May 2010 she became Director of the prestigious *Ecole du Louvre*.



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## Representatives of the world of the arts

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### Vasco GRAÇA MOURA (PT)

After studying law at the University of Lisbon, Vasco Graça Moura worked as a lawyer from 1966 to 1983. After the revolution which brought an end to the Portuguese dictatorship, he was able to embark on a political career, rising to high office within the Portuguese state.

Having been elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1975, he was a State Secretary in two provisional governments in the same year. In 1978, he became Director of RTP1, one of Portugal's television channels. From 1979 to 1989 he was an administrator in the National Publications and Currency

Office, and from 1988 to 1995 he was in charge of the events held in commemoration of the Portuguese voyages of discovery. In 1996 Vasco Graça Moura was appointed Director of the Gulbenkian Foundation.

In 1999 he was elected to the European Parliament for the Portuguese Social Democratic Party, taking his seat as a member of the European People's Party. He became vice-chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, a post which he occupied until 2009.

An ardent defender of both the Portuguese and the French languages, Vasco Graça Moura has some thirty publications to his name, dating back as far as 1963. They include a major body of poetry and novels, a play, a number of pamphlets and numerous translations, including the works of 19<sup>th</sup> century German poets, Shakespearean sonnets and Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Vasco Graça Moura has been the Director of the Belém Centre for the Arts since January 2012.

### Isabel MOTA (PT)

Having graduated in finance at the Higher Institute of Economic and Financial Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Isabel Mota started her career as Deputy Director-General of the Office for Foreign Economic Cooperation. She represented Portugal in a number of international organisations, held the post of Deputy Director-General of the Treasury at the Ministry of Finance, and was an adviser at the Portuguese Permanent Representation in Brussels.

As State Secretary for Planning and Regional Development in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Portuguese governments after the transition to democracy, Isabel Mota represented Portugal at the negotiations with the European Union on the Structural and Cohesion Funds (1987-1995). A member of the Social Democratic Party's national political committee, she was also Vice-Chair of the International Relations Committee and a member of the political bureau of the European People's Party. In 1996 she joined the Gulbenkian Foundation, becoming a director in 1999.

At the same time, she continued to demonstrate her commitment to Europe by joining the Board of the Portuguese Council for the European Movement and the selection panel responsible for awarding the Jacques Delors Prize. Isabel Mota is also Vice-Chair of the European Forum and a member of the monitoring group on the 'White Paper on European integration' of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



### Henry QUINSON (US / FR)

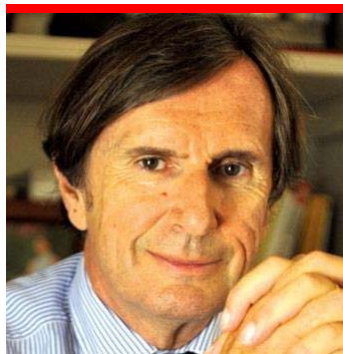
Franco-American Henry Quinson has lived in New York, Brussels and Paris. A graduate of the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (in international economics) and of the *Institut d'études politiques*, Paris, he trained as a trader in Wall Street and worked for the Banque Indosuez in Paris. He has taught at the Universities of Aix-en-Provence and Bordeaux and at the *Institut d'études politiques* in Paris.

When a bank offered him a grotesquely large salary in 1989, he had a sudden change of heart. The young millionaire trader gave up everything to join the monks of Tamié in Savoy. He gave away his millions to charitable organisations and started a new life as a poor man. Henry Quinson studied theology and was ordained as a priest. After five years in the monastery of Tamié, he went to live in a Marseille inner city neighbourhood full of temporary housing and devoted himself to helping local young people with their schooling until the neighbourhood was upgraded in 2011.

Henry Quinson, who is bilingual and a qualified teacher of English, literature and languages, first became known through his translation of John Kiser's book *The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love and Terror in Algeria*. In 2008 and 2009, his book *Moine des cités, De Wall Street aux Quartiers Nord de Marseille (The Inner-City Monk: from Wall Street to north Marseille)* was well received by the general public. In 2009 and 2010 Henry Quinson acted as an adviser on Xavier Beauvois' film *Of Gods and Men*. He tells the story of this experience in both human and spiritual terms in a book to which Xavier Beauvois wrote the preface : *Secret des hommes, secret des dieux (Secret of men, secret of gods)*, which was awarded the 2011 *Prix Spiritualités d'aujourd'hui* ('Contemporary Spirituality Prize'). Henry Quinson is still teaching in Marseille. He is also a member of the board of Loger Marseille Jeunes, an organisation concerned with housing for young people. Henry Quinson was granted the title of 'Chevalier dans l'ordre des arts et des lettres' (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters) on 18 January 2011. The monthly magazine *Challenges* has named him as one of France's five Catholic 'network leaders'.

#### **Daniel RONDEAU (FR)**

Daniel Rondeau, who has been successively chief editor of *Libération's* arts pages, a renowned reporter on the *Nouvel Observateur* magazine and the leader writer at *L'Express* magazine, is a major figure both in the world of journalism and in the world of literature. In 1987 he founded the Quai Voltaire publishing house, which brought the American writer Paul Bowles back to the public's attention. Daniel Rondeau has published numerous accounts of his travels and is the author of novels, political and literary essays, autobiographical tales and travel writing. After *Tanger et Alexandrie (Tangiers and Alexandria)*, he published a story entitled *Istanbul* in 2002 and *Dans la Marche du temps (The March of Time)*, a novel of adventure and twentieth century history, in 2004. This work, which he spent seven years writing, was well received by the French and the international press.



In April 2008 he was appointed ambassador to Malta. In October 2009 he organised 'Ulysses 2009', a voyage with symbolic and political significance from La Valetta to Beirut, via Tunis, Tripoli and Cyprus, which brought together writers, poets, historians and intellectuals from a number of Mediterranean countries. At each staging-post along the way, these authors gave talks and took part in discussions, serving as a reminder that the Mediterranean, the cradle of our shared identity, is also a region of wisdom and freedom.

In November 2011 Daniel Rondeau was appointed France's ambassador to UNESCO, following Rama Yade. In January 2012 he published *Malta Hanina*, which depicts a generous, Catholic and Semitic Malta in the midst of the Mediterranean between Sicily and Libya, half-way between East and West.