



Ecclesiastical Law (Erasmus)

Unit 6th: Church and state relations in Europe (part C)

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European Union
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Unit Contents

1. Church and state relations in modern Europe (part C)



Unit Objectives

- General understanding of the Church and state relations in modern Europe.





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Church and state relations in modern Europe

(part C)

Subsystems of multi-denominational state

- These systems may expressly recognize one or more religions at a constitutional (Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Poland, Lithuania) or a general legislative level (Israel) or may not recognize them at all. They prevail in Europe today.
- Relative equality of religions and extensive cooperation of a state with some religions.



Principles

- The countries where these subsystems apply generally accept the principles:
 - ✓ of church-state separation
 - ✓ of the state's multi-denominational nature
 - ✓ of the **relative equality of religions** (a sociological criterion)
 - ✓ of the benevolent neutrality of the state
 - ✓ of church autonomy



Registered ≠ not registered religious organizations

- This discrimination is real in any church-state system
- There must not be any discrimination in the enjoyment of religious human right.
- In practice, the unregistered religious organizations have not the same status as the registered ones.



Multi-tire structures of legal regimes

- Based on the legal character of:
 - ✓ public or private law (*sui generis*) in Germany
 - ✓ official recognition in Austria or Belgium
 - ✓ historic (Hungary) or traditional (Latvia) character of particular churches or communities



Reference Note

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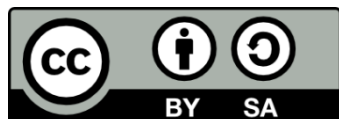
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End of unit

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