



# Ecclesiastical Law (Erasmus)

**Unit 12<sup>th</sup>:** European countries with predominantly Orthodox majority (part E)

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European Union  
European Social Fund



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
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# European countries with predominantly Orthodox majority (part E)



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# Unit Contents

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1. European countries with predominantly Orthodox majority (part F)



# Unit Objectives

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- General understanding of the Church and state relations in European countries with predominantly Orthodox majority.





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# **European countries with predominantly Orthodox majority (part F)**

# Indirect prohibition (1/2)

- Indirect prohibition of the freedom to disseminate religion through **complete banning of activities** of religious organizations (Russian Federation).
- The concept of **religious security** of the society as part of the concept of the national security.
- Indirect prohibition of the freedom to disseminate religion through **non-recognition of the right to denominational autonomy** of religious organizations (Greece).





# Indirect prohibition (2/2)

- Indirect prohibition of the freedom to disseminate religion through **restrictions** contrary to international standards **on exercising freedom of worship** (Greece).
  - ✓ Related case law (ECtHR): *Kokkinakis v. Greece* (1993).
- Indirect prohibition of the freedom to disseminate religion through **creating tension in the relations with another Church** (Russian Federation).



# Analysis and interpretation of an academic article

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- We read parts of the academic article entitled ***“Church and State in Bulgaria”***, written by Jenia Peteva (found in: Ferrari Silvio & Durham Cole (ed.), *Law and Religion in Post-Communist Europe*, Peeters Publishers, 2003, pages 37-57) and we make the necessary commentary.



# Bulgaria's legal sources

- Bulgaria's law hierarchy is the same as in Greece.
- The Constitution of 1991: constitutional principles (religious freedom, religious equality, religious pluralism, separation between Church and state, autonomy of religious denomination).
- The Religious Denominations Act of 1949: for its most part it is unconstitutional. A new law on religious denominations has passed in 2002.



# Principles and fundamental values

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- Bulgaria's constitutional principles and fundamental values (tolerance and the principle of non-discrimination, equality, protection of human rights etc.) .
- Religious pluralism for religious denominations in Bulgaria.
- Autonomy of religious denominations in Bulgaria.
- Separation between Church/religious institutions and the state in Bulgaria (multi-denominational state system).



# Bulgaria's traditional religion

- The traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is **Eastern Orthodox Christianity**.
- The Bulgarian Constitution recognizes and protects the Bulgarian Orthodox Church as a traditional region of Bulgaria, as a factor of preservation of traditional national identity and as a factor for the politics of today.



# End of the course

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- Course overview, brief summary of the previous lectures/presentations.
- Final remarks.



# Bibliography

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- Ferrari Silvio & Durham Cole (ed.),  
*Law and Religion in Post-Communist Europe*, Peeters Publishers, 2003.



# Reference Note

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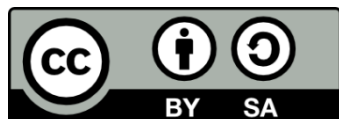
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# End of unit

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