



**Commissioner Carlos Moedas**

**Meeting with Archbishop Lebeaupin, Apostolic Nuncio to EU**  
**Commissioner's Office, Berlaymont**  
**Monday, 14 January 2019**  
**11:00**

<p>Main contact person: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], RTD-B7, ORBN [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Cabinet Member: RTD colleague at meeting: Name, ☎, RTD-unit, office  Back up (in case of absence): Name, ☎, RTD-unit, office</p>
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## **1. STEERING BRIEF**

### **Objectives**

- Inform that science can play a useful peace role in diplomatic relations and therefore that science diplomacy should be encouraged.

### **Line to Take**

- Religious tolerance, preventive and repressive policies against violent radicalisation and the peaceful coexistence of religions in Europe are of utmost importance. The Commission fully supports these aims and will continue to fund research in these areas under Horizon Europe.
- At a time of increased social tension, highlight the need for a peaceful coexistence of religions in Europe. Consequently, the Commission will continue to support research in the area of religion and radicalisation. Acknowledge the important role the Church plays as an arbiter of social dialogue.
- Ethics is an integral part of research from beginning to end, and ethical compliance is seen as pivotal to achieve real research excellence.

## **2. DEFENSIVES**

### **Are there any new provisions regarding ethics in Horizon Europe?**

Horizon Europe will build on the success of the Ethics Appraisal Scheme under Horizon 2020. This improved substantially the quality of the ethics evaluation, notably by ensuring that all proposals considered for funding are reviewed by ethics experts and by introducing Ethics Checks for sensitive cases.

For proposals involving the use of human **Embryonic Stem Cells or human embryos**, the rules will remain identical to those of Horizon 2020. Transparency and clarity will be increased in Horizon Europe, since the rules for participation now include all the main elements that were scattered in several documents under Horizon 2020.

The growing impact of science and technologies (gene editing, big data, AI, robotics) on societies and economies, calls more than ever for the adherence to the highest ethics standards. This will be a global objective of Horizon Europe.

### **How will Horizon Europe contribute to social inclusion, social policy and skills?**

Horizon Europe projects will deliver evidence, data sets, insights, indicators and policy recommendations with a view to enhancing social inclusion, addressing labour market challenges, responding to technological transformations, enhancing skills, etc.

In particular, a core part of the Inclusive and Secure Society cluster is centred on the themes of social inclusion and social policies, skills and social innovation (including the social economy).

## **3. BACKGROUND**

### **European Research Infrastructure for the Study of Religions**

The need for a European Research Infrastructure for the Study of Religions is recognised by the ESFRI Roadmap Update 2018.

The area of Religious Studies is considered by the ESFRI Roadmap 2018 as a High Strategic Potential Area of Research in the field of Social and Cultural Innovation.

Following this recognition by the ESFRI, there is currently a call open (Horizon 2020, Work programme 2018 – 2020). The Call was published in October 2018 (INFRADEV-02-2019-2020 with deadline 20 March 2019) and is on the Support to Early Phase of the above mentioned high strategic area. Under this call the Commission is expecting a proposal requesting a contribution of €2 million that would allow the specific challenge to be addressed.



Brussels, 05 JUL 2018  
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**Subject: Your letter of 15 June 2018**

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Commissioner Carlos Moedas, I would like to thank for your letter of 15 June 2018 on the development of RESILIENCE, a proposal submitted to the current Roadmap 2018 update of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

ESFRI is composed of delegates nominated by research ministers of the EU Member and Associated Countries as well as a representative of the European Commission. I would therefore underline that it is Member States and Associated Countries that play a crucial role in this ESFRI Roadmapping process. The ESFRI Roadmap 2018 was adopted by the Forum on the 28th of June and it recognised the field of religious studies as a High Strategic Potential Area, recognising its relevance for addressing the challenges Europe is facing. I expect that this will provide additional opportunities to further develop the RESILIENCE initiative.

So far a total budget of approximately EUR 50 million has been granted under Horizon 2020 to research infrastructure activities in the fields of culture and humanities. With respect to Religious Studies the European Commission currently supports a new initiative, the *Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies* (ReiReS). This is a project funded in 2017 by Horizon 2020 Research Infrastructures programme for a total budget of EUR 3 million. This project is expected to have an important impact on integrating Research Infrastructures on religious studies at European scale, stimulate the openness of the research facilities and facilitate access provision.

I wish you all the best and thank you for the interest you take in the EU Research and Innovation activities and their contribution to Research Infrastructures.

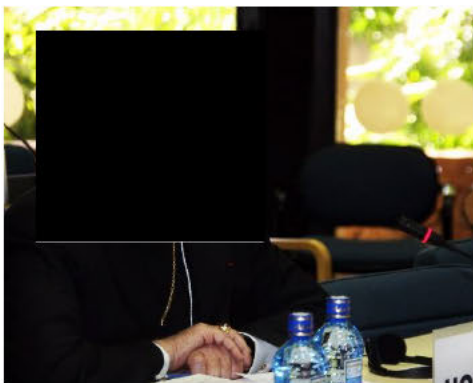
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
MALO

Cc: [REDACTED] ESFRI [REDACTED]

#### 4. CV

##### Archbishop Alain Paul Lebeaupin



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