

European Commission

Mandate of the Coordinator for the Article 17 dialogue with churches, religious, philosophical and non-confessional organisations

Article 17 TFEU provides for the dialogue between European institutions and churches, religious associations or communities, as well as with philosophical and non-confessional organisations ("Article 17 dialogue").

In order to frame the dialogue and give guidance to interlocutors in the context of the implementation of Article 17(3) TFEU, the Commission adopted in 2017 'Guidelines on the implementation of Article 17 TFEU' detailing the principle of "open, transparent and regular dialogue".

The Coordinator for the Article 17 dialogue with churches, religious, philosophical and non-confessional organisations (the Coordinator) will carry out the mandate below.

The Coordinator is part of the Secretariat-General and reports directly to the Commissioner responsible.

OBJECTIVE AND TASKS OF THE COORDINATOR

The Coordinator will implement and steer the Article 17 dialogue, under the political responsibility of the Commission, in particular the responsible Commissioner.

To operationalise this dialogue, the Coordinator will:

- Advise

The Coordinator will advise the responsible Commissioner on all issues related to the Commission's dialogue with churches and religious associations or communities, and with philosophical and non-confessional organisations.

- Coordinate and implement the Article 17 dialogue

The Coordinator will prepare Article 17 dialogue-related events, in particular the annual high-level meetings with religious and non-confessional leaders. The Coordinator will identify the relevant topics related to the EU policy agenda that should be addressed in this dialogue.

The Coordinator will monitor religious intolerance within the EU and improve knowledge about it, in cooperation notably with the Fundamental Rights Agency. The Coordinator will provide as appropriate, data and analyses and ensure early warning about trends and incidents, in particular in relation with places of worship and security threats to religious communities. The coordinator will represent the Commission in events organised by Article 17 dialogue partners, as appropriate and where so authorised following the internal rules of procedure.

The Coordinator will work closely with the Coordinator on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, the Coordinator on combatting anti-Muslim hatred and the Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief outside the EU.

- Cooperate with stakeholders and other institutions

The Coordinator will ensure regular contacts with dialogue partners (churches, religious associations or communities as well as philosophical and non-confessional organisations) that are recognised or registered as such at national level.

In liaising with their counterparts in the other EU institutions and bodies, the Coordinator will support and complement the responsible Commissioner's interinstitutional engagement on Article 17 dialogue.

- Support the work of the Special Envoy for freedom of religion or belief outside the EU in particular in their contacts with the Article 17 dialogue partners. Support coordination of the Envoy's work with EEAS and Commission services.

- Support Member States' efforts

Where similar national mechanisms are in place, the Coordinator will work closely with their counterparts in Member States to foster dialogue with churches, religious and non-confessional organisations.

- Report

The Coordinator will present a yearly report on trends, good practices and achievements to the responsible Commissioner.