

Marco Ventura, Biographical Sketch

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PhD at the University of Strasbourg, Marco Ventura is a professor with tenure in law and religion, religious diplomacy and religion and communication at the University of Siena and the Director of the Center for Religious Studies at Fondazione Bruno Kessler of Trento, devoted to investigating and enhancing the interaction of religion and innovation. He is an associate researcher at the Center Droit, Religion, Entreprise et Société of University of Strasbourg and the French National Research Council. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies.

From 2001 to 2020 he has been a member of the Law Department. Since 2020, while still teaching in the Law School, he is a member of the Department of Social, political and cognitive sciences, which has been selected by the Italian Ministry for University in order to develop in 2018-2022 as a European Centre of Excellence in interdisciplinary research.

Since 2016 he is a member of the panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief of OSCE / ODIHR. In this capacity he co-authored the 2019 OSCE / ODIHR policy guidance on Freedom of religion or belief and security.

He was the 2019 annual president of the European Consortium for Church and State Research. He is the scientific coordinator of a 2018-2020 EU funded Jean Monnet Project on Security in EU law and policy. He is the leader of a research unit in the 2020-2023 EU funded Erasmus+ project DIG4Future - Digital competencies, Inclusion and Growth for Future generation.

He co-authored the 2017 Report on Freedom of religion or belief and religious tolerance for the Intergroup on FoRB of the EU Parliament.

He was a participant in the G20 interfaith summits of Istanbul 2015, Beijing 2016, Potsdam 2017, Buenos Aires 2018 and Tokyo 2019. He has been invited to address the summit in Riyadh in October 2020. From 2020 he is the chair of the working group on religion, innovation, technology and infrastructures of the G20 interfaith (IF2020).

From 2012 to 2015 he was a professor of canon law and law and religion at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). From 2013 to 2015 he visited Vietnam as an expert in the dialogue between the European Union and the Vietnamese Committee on Religious Affairs.

He has published extensively on freedom of religion or belief, law, society and religion, comparative religious laws, politics of religion. He has authored 5 books and more than 80 articles in Italian, French and English. Some publications have been translated in German, Russian and Vietnamese. His latest book is *From Your Gods to Our Gods. A History of Religion in British, Indian and South African Courts* (Cascade Books, 2014). His latest journal article is Mauro Gatti, Pasquale Annicchino, Judd Birdsall, Valeria Fabretti & Marco Ventura (2019) 'Quantifying Persecution: Developing an

International Law-based Measurement of Freedom of Religion or Belief', *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 17:2, 87-96.

He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* (Cambridge University Press), the *Revue du droit des religions* (Presses universitaires de Strasbourg), and *Derecho y Religion* (Delta publicaciones).