



**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
(HDIM)**

**Working Session 6: Freedom of thought,  
conscience, religion or belief**

**Warsaw, 11 – 22 September 2017**

CAP is an association that was created in 2000 to unite minority religions in Europe to counter discrimination in France and in Europe. It has NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

During the last OSCE session on freedom of religion or belief in September 2016, CAP exposed the harmful activities of FECRIS (the European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Sectarianism) in Russia and its integral financing by the French Government.

Members of FECRIS and of its Russian branch, the Saint Ireneus of Lyons Centre for Religious Studies which is affiliated to the Orthodox Church, have been waging for years a campaign against non-Orthodox minorities in order to eradicate them from the Russian territory.

Alexander Dvorkin, Vice-President of FECRIS and Director of the Saint Ireneus of Lyons Centre is the major spokesperson and activist in this campaign against religious minorities in Russia.

The situation of religious minorities has now worsened during the last months: the banning of Jehovah's Witnesses' practice of their faith on the Russian territory; and the sentencing of five Scientologists to two months pretrial detention and a raid of their Church in St Petersburg.

FECRIS claims in its by-laws that its activities do not enter « the religious field » and declares to be neutral in this matter. How is it then that the Vice-President of FECRIS, an organization registered in secular France and massively financed by the French State, is Alexander Dvorkin, a Russian citizen blessed, financed and missioned by the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch to combat religious minorities perceived as competitors?

Currently the French Prime Minister wants to review the aims of MIVILUDES and questions the systematic funding of "anti-sect" associations like FECRIS.

We therefore ask the French Government to cease its support to FECRIS and its harmful activities in Russia.