

ORAL QUESTION H-0100/04  
for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2004  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Lennart Sacrédeus  
to the Council

Subject: Ban on wearing Christian crosses etc. and the EU's work to promote religious freedom in the Union and worldwide

The French National Assembly has decided by an overwhelming majority to ban the use of large crosses, Jewish skullcaps and Muslim headscarves or veils in the country's education system.

Does the Irish Presidency consider that banning religious symbols of the dominant religions in one of the EU's largest Member States strengthens the EU's work to promote religious freedom and other human rights in Europe and worldwide? Should a ban be viewed as a positive contribution or not towards tolerance and the necessary dialogue between religions as well as mutual spiritual and cultural understanding between citizens in the EU and in relation to the world at large?

Tabled: 16.02.2004

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