

The Necessity of Strategic Planning for Future Activities of European Academy of Religion

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The excellent idea of founding an overall academy for religion in Europe opened hopes for outspread scientific activities on religious studies to become synergistic efforts for better and better outcomes. The preliminary session showed that there are many potential scientific capabilities in Europe to elaborate religious studies (in general) for the future. In this preliminary meeting, we encountered with some speeches focusing on respect and peace among religions and/or different branches of religions. The speakers encouraged friendship and reject every kind of violence among different religious communities. Although these matters are most important need for the world today, it is more expected from this great and valuable community which its platform is science of religion. There are many topics that may result more important consequences for the academy that hopes to be network of networks.

For example if we can know the weaknesses of scientific activities in all part of Europe as well as its strengths, we can think of the ways that can be done for decreasing those weaknesses and developing those strengths. There are many different activities in religious works that every one of those activities can have different kind of weaknesses and strengths and it is necessary to know all of them. Not only the different activities must be examined but also different part of Europe must be examined in this respect.

We must know the opportunities of those scientific efforts as well as the treats that threaten all of them from others, namely nonreligious and antireligious activities. Based on those surveys we can hope better and better consequences for the academy to be developed.

If there will be some traditional annual conferences which is the main approach of the academy, it will be missed many other results of this great valuable community

among religious scientific thinkers. On the conference itself, we must examine that if there can be more and more other results than publication of some papers that everyone can publish in scientific and none scientific journals which have more readers.

Therefore we must learn variety of outcomes of these meetings and relationships. This cannot be known unless we have a strategic planning for the academy that not only indicates perspectives, mission and values of European Academy of Religion but also its goals, objectives and strategies in detail. We must know real situation of scientific religious activities in Europe nowadays. Based on that information we must investigate about strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of scientific religious endeavors in Europe.

By this strategic planning, we can obtain a general map for all of our efforts in next 5 or 10 years with a timetable for all of our activities in the future that will result most outcomes for the Academy. Without this strategic planning we will be blind in the future about our ongoing activities.

If it is accepted I can give many suggestions for different various activities for the Academy and can help for a fruitful program based on its strategic planning.