



Statement of CoGREE

Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe

adopted by CoGREE steering group Crêt Berard 20 January 2007

Education and Religion in a European Context

A. Starting points

- 1. Co-existence among people from different cultural backgrounds is clearly dominated by their religious and non-religious worldviews. Becoming acquainted with diversity is a matter of learning and should be facilitated by the public education system.*
- 2. Awareness of the importance of religion both for individual human development and for common life in society has become increasingly significant during the past few years.*

B. Education and Religion

- 3. Education which takes no account of the religious explanation of human and spiritual experience of humanity is ipso facto incomplete.*
- 4. Concepts and ideas aimed at the development of the education systems of Europe must take account of religious education. This implies the existence of a dialogue with the religious communities in this field.*

C. What Religious Education can offer

- 5. Religious education is of relevance to the educational system in general and it is observed in different ways according to the specific national and regional context and its history.*
- 6. Religious education is an essential factor in any education that is designed to produce autonomous and active people. It should be part of general education and vocational training.*
- 7. Religious education as an ordinary school subject in most countries of Europe offers a substantive contribution to education for democratic citizenship. Education for tolerance and peace is incomplete without religious education.*
- 8. Religious education in all schools respects the basic right of freedom of religion which includes freedom to have no religion and freedom to have religion.*