



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

May 2013 -
May 2014

Building a Secular Europe for All



European **Humanist** Federation

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Based in Brussels, the European Humanist Federation (EHF), was set up in 1991 and unites more than 50 humanist/secularist organisations from about 20 European countries. The EHF promotes a secular Europe and is strongly committed to democracy and human rights. It defends equality laws and opposes religious extremism in Europe.

The EHF aims at:

Achieving separation between religion and the State throughout Europe and at the European Union (EU) level

Defending freedom of religion or belief, which includes the right not to believe and the right to change one's belief

Defending freedom of thought and expression, which implies opposition to laws prohibiting "blasphemy"

Promoting non-discrimination on all grounds (gender, ethnic or national origin, religion and belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, etc.)

Specifically, supporting women's sexual reproductive health and rights and LGBTI people's rights when and where they are threatened

Increasing Humanists' presence at the European and international levels. This includes reaching greater recognition of EHF as the leading European voice for the non-religious and for secularism

Strengthening the humanist network throughout Europe

Main Actions - The EHF:

Proposes changes in European and international public policies when humanist values are at stake on the basis of its ethical, legal, political and scientific expertise

Promotes individual freedom and opposes the influence of religious conservatism on European policies

Works in partnership with a large network of associations – including progressive religious organisations – sharing the same values and facing strong conservative religious lobbies

Supports its 54 member organisations in the challenges they are facing at a domestic level and strengthens the humanist network throughout Europe.

Where is the EHF active?

Official partner of the EU institutions in their dialogue with churches and non-confessional organisations (Article 17TFEU)

Consulted by the EU Council, Commission, Parliament, and the European External Action Service

Member of the Advisory Board of the **European Parliament Platform for Secularism in Politics**

Member of the **Civil Society Platform of the EU FRA**

Collaboration with the **Council of Europe** (Committee of Ministers, PACE and INGOs)

Active participation to **OSCE ODIHR** (Human Dimension Implementation Meeting)

Special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the **United Nations**

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1. Ensuring a Balanced Approach to Freedom of Religion or Beliefs

The EHF is deeply committed to the protection and promotion of freedom of religion or belief as far as it does not undermine other fundamental rights. Freedom of expression is for instance also strongly valued by humanists and its exercise sometimes conflicts with the promotion of freedom of religion and belief.

EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of religion or Belief (FRoB)

On 24 June 2013, the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the EU met in Luxembourg and adopted the [EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief](#).



Whilst proclaiming the EU's impartiality towards religion or belief, these Guidelines aim at helping the EU to promote FRoB beyond its borders and address violations of this right abroad in a coherent and effective manner.

Thanks to its specific expertise on this issue, the EHF was closely involved in the Council's deliberations and was consulted several times by the European External Action Service during the drafting stage (October 2012-June 2013). We also ensured that the Guidelines had a secular and balanced approach throughout the whole legislative process. In doing so, we had to fend off several attempts from religious conservatives at the European Parliament who sought to give the text a clear religious tone.

The initial proposal presented by the European Commission to the European Parliament achieved a good balance between the need to defend FRoB and the need to defend other fundamental rights (such as freedom of expression and protection of minorities). Nevertheless, the report presented by the rapporteur Laima Andrikiénė (EPP) to the European Parliament on 29 May 2013 was highly conservative, with regards to education¹ and the right to conscientious objection².

READ MORE:

[EHF CAMPAIGN AND PRESS RELEASES](#)

¹ The report mentioned that *"the liberty of parents and guardians to ensure religious and moral education cannot be restricted."* And that (j) : *"the rights of parents to educate their children according to their religious or non-religious convictions includes their right to deny any undue interference by state or non-state actors in their education opposed to their religious or non-religious convictions"*.

² The report mentioned that *"the Guidelines should also include the right to well-defined conscientious objection as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion in relation to other morally sensitive matters"*

The EHF therefore mobilized and lobbied Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with numerous alerts and concrete amendments to get the conservative proposals rejected during the final adoption. The final European Parliament's recommendation on these Guidelines (adopted on 13 June 2013) rejected the paragraph on conscientious objection, thanks to the mobilization of progressive MEPs, but kept the section on education intact. The EHF therefore contacted several national delegations to the Council to explain the potential consequences of an unrestricted liberty for parents to educate their children according to their religious and non-religious beliefs. Thankfully, the Council in the end rejected this contentious part of the Guidelines and adopted what in the end was a well-balanced text.

EHF Denounced Blasphemy Laws at OSCE

On 26 and 27 September 2013, the EHF and its Belgian member the Centre d' Action Laïque (CAL) attended the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw. This event is Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference. EHF denounced violations of freedom of thought and expression perpetrated in the name of religion and called upon OSCE countries to decriminalize the offence of "blasphemy" and of the "defamation of religions". "Blasphemy" or "religious insult" is still considered an offence in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Russia and Turkey. [Read full speech here.](#)

2. Promoting the Defense of Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law in a Context of Rising Extremism

The EHF has been concerned with the increase of populist extremist parties in many European countries like France, Italy, The Netherlands, Greece, Denmark and Hungary. Extremism is not only at odds with humanist values, it needs to be challenged to protect citizens' fundamental rights and European democracies.

EHF's Recommendations on the Rise of Populist Extremism in Europe

Hate speeches, populist discourses, xenophobic violence and drifts towards authoritarianism should be addressed collectively and democratically at the European level by all institutions and actors there. Europe cannot do everything but it surely has a role to play in the protection of democracy on its soil and in reaffirming itself as a community of values.

The EHF developed [a set of recommendations](#) which it pushed at its meetings with EU officials over the course of the year. Among its proposals, the EHF promoted the creation

of a new Rule of Law mechanism which would monitor respect for human rights by EU member states.

Dialogue Seminar on the Rise of Populism in Europe – 15 May 2013

The EHF co-organized a dialogue seminar with EU Commission’s representatives, MEPs and researchers on the rise of extremism and populism in Europe. The EHF challenged the Commission on its strategy to fight these developments and to secure democracy and the rule of law in Europe. This event was organized in the framework of Article 17 TFEU under which EU institutions must maintain an “open, regular and transparent” dialogue with churches and non-confessional organisations. The EHF had to fight for several years in order to be able to organise these sorts of meetings with the European Commission, whereas churches had been granted them automatically for years.



Dialogue seminar at the Commission

“Stand for Secularism and Human Rights!” - EHF pledge for European Elections

The rise of radical populist parties, the persisting societal conservatism in several EU member states and the extremist religious lobbying at EU level are challenges to the progressive values humanists defend.

For the 2014 EU elections, the EHF issued a manifesto to promote secularism and human rights in Europe. Topics included the decriminalization of the offense of “blasphemy”, the protection of non-believers’ rights and the equality of treatment of non-confessional organisations, the promotion of freedom of research and the protection of the Rule of Law in Europe.

Thanks to the active contribution of EHF member organisations, the manifesto was translated into several languages (FR, PT, NL, DE, IT) and sent to national candidates to European elections.

3. Building New Alliances to Oppose Extremist Religious Activism

For several years now, extremist religious lobbies have developed at the EU level and have become very active in approaching institutions. They have professionalised and built new strategies, often presenting themselves in a very deceptive way as “human rights” activists and hijacking humanist principles (“Human dignity”, “Freedom of religion and beliefs”, “conscientious objection”, “non-discrimination”, etc).

During the course of the year, the EHF has broadened and strengthened its alliances with progressive MEPs and human rights NGOs in order to build a coordinated response to these groups’ attacks.

Strengthening Contacts in the European Parliament

The EHF continued to support the European Parliament Platform for Secularism in Politics as a member of its Advisory Board and an active contributor to its sessions. The Platform met this year on the issue of the implementation of the Directive on equal treatment in employment in Germany and on the EU as a community of values. The EHF was invited to speak in the second of these.

Separately from the Platform, the EHF maintained regular contacts with MEPs in different political groups. This year, we strengthened and broadened our contacts with MEPs from more diverse groups, with a greater number of MEPs showing their support for our positions, standing by our side during public events, and relaying our political proposals during the legislative process. This was made possible with the help of EHF member organisations who communicated EHF campaigns to their political and civilian networks.

Workshop on Extremist Religious Policy Activism – 6 November 2013

The EHF invited several organisations active in the defense of fundamental rights to participate in a closed workshop to oppose extremist religious agendas at the European level. Representatives from the EHF, the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), ILGA-Europe, the European Parliament’s LGBT Intergroup, Catholics for Choice (CFC), the International Planned Parenthood Federation – European Network (IPPF-EN) and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) met at the EHF offices in Brussels on 6 November 2013.

Participants shared information on the identity and strategy of the extremist religious groups active at the EU level, relying on concrete case studies (e.g. anti-choice lobbying on a European Commission public consultation on EU civil status legislation, women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, and a 2010 Council of Europe resolution on

conscientious objection). This fruitful workshop aimed at inspiring greater collaboration among European organisations working on diverse issues and in different sectors, but who are united in their opposition to the undemocratic imposition of a religious ideology upon those who do not share that ideology. This joint work was continued over the year on concrete legislation discussed at the EU level, particularly in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and LGBTI people's rights.

4. Mobilizing for the Protection of SRHR and LGBTI's Rights in Europe

2013 and 2014 have been tough years for SRHR and LGBTI rights in Europe with the growth of aggressive religious campaigns at EU level and religious conservative attacks in several EU countries. The EHF has strongly mobilized alongside other EU umbrella NGOs to counter these threats and protect fundamental rights in Europe.

Estrela Report on SRHR – Autumn 2013

From October to December 2013, the European Parliament discussed the progressive report authored by the MEP Edite Estrela (S&D party) on SRHR. This report was a major initiative from pro-choice MEPs which aimed at protecting and promoting SRHR within the EU and abroad in the EU's development programmes. Throughout the whole negotiating process, the proposal faced numerous and aggressive campaigns from anti-choice religious organisations (such as European Dignity Watch, FAFCE, Turtle Bay and Beyond, La Manif pour Tous) which spread terrible misinformation about the content of the report. MEPs also had to face intensive spamming and personal threats from these groups.



READ MORE

EHF CAMPAIGN:
[SEXUAL RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!](#)

Working as part of a coalition of progressive NGOs, the EHF was highly active in pushing for the European Parliament to call for the adoption of the report. We provided MEPs with detailed briefings ahead of the debates, unveiled the strategy of anti-choice groups, issued joint statements and press releases and also encouraged MEPs from the moderate-right to support the report. Despite these efforts, MEPs failed to adopt it and voted by a

narrow majority of 7 votes in favour of a center-right and far-right resolution (replacing the Estrela report) which denied the competency of the EU in relation to SRHR. All the materials of this campaign can be found on our website at: www.humanistfederation.eu.

New Bill Restricting Abortion Right in Spain – January 2014

On 20 December 2013, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a draft bill which aimed at altering the current law on SRHR by dramatically restricting a woman's right to have an abortion. If approved, abortion would be permitted in Spain only in the case of rape or should the pregnancy pose a serious physical or mental health risk to the mother.



Demonstration in Brussels to support abortion right in Spain - 29 January 2014

In order to show its support for women's rights in Spain, the [EHF co-organised a demonstration in Brussels](#) on 29 January 2014 with the European Women's Lobby, the International Planned Parenthood Federation-European Network, Marie Stopes International and the Abortion Right Platform. More than 2000 people walked from the Spanish Embassy (where a delegation of these organisations was received) to the European Parliament. Several members from different political groups of the European Parliament came and voiced their support in favour of the right to abortion in Spain. We organised this demonstration as part of a wider European movement to show solidarity with women in Spain.

"One of Us": the European Anti-Choice Petition to Protect "Life" in Europe – March/April 2011

On April 10, the European Parliament held a public hearing on "One of Us", the anti-choice European Citizen's Initiative (ECI) which requested the "protection of life" in Europe and the end of EU funding for "activities that assume or carry out the destruction of human embryos". More specifically, "One of Us" called for the end of EU funding for human embryonic stem cells (hESC) research and for NGOs which provide SRHR services in developing countries. The ECI was initiated and coordinated by extremist Christian groups and supported by Pope Francis.

The EHF, in league with other human rights organisations, SRHR providers and research foundations, actively mobilized in opposition to this initiative. We worked on the two issues attacked by “One of Us” – i.e. research in Europe and maternal health in developing countries by:

READ MORE:
[EHF BRIEFING: “ONE OF US, THE NEW EUROPEAN ANTI-CHOICE OFFENSIVE”](#)

- Providing EU decision-makers and citizens with objective and detailed information on “One of Us”, including the extremist religious background of its organisers (diagram, videos, intelligence briefs);
- Mobilizing pro-choice Members of the European Parliament to speak out against “One of Us”;
- Alerting the media on the extremist religious lobbying acting at the EU level (briefing meeting and press conference).

EHF actions led to a necessary mobilization of pro-choice MEPs who strongly opposed the initiative and to a better informed [media coverage](#) on this ECI.

The EU Roadmap Against Homophobia – January/February 2014

On 4 February 2014, the European Parliament adopted a roadmap against homophobia known as the Lunacek report (after the name of its rapporteur, the Austrian Green MEP Ulrike Lunacek). The report invited the member states to coordinate their policies and share good practices on LGBTI rights, and covered subjects such as employment policies, asylum, non-discrimination and health services. It took into consideration a [2013 survey](#) of the Fundamental Rights Agency which showed that 47% of LGBTI people felt discriminated against in the year before the survey was taken.

Although not binding, the report was the subject of ferocious attacks by religious and nationalist fundamentalists spreading misinformation that the report would “promote” homosexuality at school and push for the recognition of same-sex marriages. An online petition gathered over 200,000 signatures against the report and MEPs were spammed with tens of thousands of aggressive emails asking them to vote against it.

READ MORE:
[EHF BRIEFING: THE LUNACEK REPORT, MYTHS AND FACTS](#)
[EHF VIDEO](#)

The EHF was active in asking MEPs to push for the adoption of the report. We provided MEPs with briefing notes and issued a video documentary on the issue, interviewing MEP Ulrike Lunacek and ILGA-Europe Executive Director Evelyne Paradis. 394 MEPs eventually voted in favour of this roadmap against homophobia while 196 voted against (and 72 abstained).

EHF Denounced Homophobia at the OSCE - 26 and 27 September 2013

We also stood up in favor of LGBTI people's rights and against homophobia at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting in Warsaw. One of our representatives denounced in particular the rising (institutional) homophobia in Russia ([Read EHF full speech here](#)).

5. Increasing EHF's Presence at EU and International Levels

As in previous years, the EHF met with EU officials in line with the Union's commitment to maintain an "open, transparent and regular" dialogue with churches and non-confessional organisations (as required by Article 17 TFEU). Thanks to its expertise and increased professionalism, the EHF has improved its perceived credibility in the eyes of EU institutions as a main representative of non-believers in Europe, but institutions remain reluctant to grant it the same treatment afforded to churches.

Meeting with 3 EU Presidents – 5 November 2013

On 5 November 2013, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the Vice-President of the European Parliament, László Surján, held a high level meeting in Brussels with representatives of various philosophical and non-confessional organisations. The topic discussed was "Putting citizens at the heart of the European project in times of change", which allowed for constructive exchanges in comparison with previous meetings.



EHF President Pierre Galand with László Surján, Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso

EHF President Pierre Galand was invited to the meeting and took the opportunity to raise several questions about the rise of populist extremism in Europe. He made several concrete recommendations on how to tackle populist extremism in Europe. Among the recommended measures was the creation of a mechanism – analogous to the Council of Europe's Venice Commission – in order to monitor the respect of the rule of law and fundamental rights by all EU Member States. You can read the [EHF's full recommendations here](#).

On 26 November 2013, the European Parliament held a meeting on the same topic with inter-confessional organisations and churches representatives, which the EHF also

attended. EHF President expressed again our concerns regarding severe violations of fundamental rights in Europe.

Humanist Organisations Downgraded by the Irish Council Presidency

For many years, the rotating presidencies of the Council of the EU would receive church delegations to discuss European issues, to the exclusion of humanist organisations. It is only since the Belgian Council Presidency of 2011 that the EHF has at last been received at the same meetings. However, the EHF has continued to face obstacles from several Council presidencies.



On 21 November 2012, the EHF wrote to the Irish Prime Minister in view of the coming Irish Council Presidency to draw his attention on the need to implement Article 17 TFEU in a fair and equal way, i.e. to receive the EHF if they planned to receive representatives of churches. In a reply dated December 2012, his Office said that there was “no meeting planned” with religious groups but ensured that, in the event of a change on this position, EHF views “have been noted”. On 8 March 2013, a churches delegation led by COMECE General Secretary Fr. Patrick Daly was received at the highest level by Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in Dublin, on behalf of the Irish Council Presidency. On 14 March, the EHF therefore wrote again to the Irish Prime Minister to organise a meeting on the same footing. Despite our repeated requests, the Irish EU presidency sadly did not meet our wish. We issued a [press release](#) on this discriminatory treatment and received the support from several Members of the European Parliament. On 24 June, the MEP Sophie in't Veld sent [a letter](#) to the President of the European Council, Mr. Van Rompuy, to draw his attention on the treatment by the rotating Council Presidency of non-confessional organisations in its implementation of Article 17 TFEU.

Meeting with Lithuanian Council Presidency – 27 September 2013



Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis

On 27 September 2013, the EHF met with Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis at the Lithuanian Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. As a preliminary remark, the EHF raised the need for rotating Council Presidencies to meet representatives of churches *and* non-confessional organisations under Article 17 TFEU on the same footing, i.e. at the same level.

The EHF then underlined the concerning rise of right-wing populist parties in Europe and recent breaches of democracy rules in Hungary. On this issue, the Ambassador explained that the Lithuanian Council Presidency would be ready to support a new EU Rule of Law mechanism monitoring respect for the Rule of law *stricto sensu*. The EHF raised further concerns relating to Europe-wide issues, such as blasphemy laws on the books in several EU countries and EU funding for human embryonic research in Horizon

2020, as well as domestic issues such as coming conservative legislative proposals on abortion and LGBTI rights in Lithuania. [Read the EHF's full recommendations here.](#)

Meeting with Greek Council Presidency – 7 March 2014

On 7 March 2014, the EHF met with Greek Ambassador Mr Sotiropoulos at Greek Permanent Representation to the EU. We started by mentioning the meeting between the Greek government and churches' delegation in Athens (on 10 January) and requested to be received on the same footing.



Ambassador Théodoros
N. Sotiropoulos

We then raised several European and domestic issues and made recommendations on: equal treatment of all beliefs by rotating Council Presidencies; the creation of a new Rule of Law mechanism to protect fundamental rights within the EU; blasphemy laws in Greece and in the rest of Europe; xenophobia and far-right extremism in Greece; protection of migrants' rights, LGBTI's rights and conscientious objectors' rights in Greece. [Read the EHF's full recommendations here.](#)

EHF at the Council of Europe

The EHF contributes to the work of the Council of Europe (CoE) through the International Humanist and Ethical Union (at the INGOs group and the Parliamentary Assembly) but also on its own behalf (at the Committee of Ministers and at the Lisbon Forum). In each of these political arenas, the EHF supported progressive humanist policies and opposed extremist ones, as well as the influence of religious dogma on the CoE's work.

It is difficult to assess the value of our participation and our interventions, but it has certainly been positive. Partly it is a matter of 'flying the flag' so that the Humanists' presence and arguments are noticed. For example, over the last few years we have been asked by Council officials to play a growing part in the intercultural dialogue meetings which bring together diplomats, representatives of religions and beliefs, and officials from the Council of Europe and the host nation. We therefore attended the 2013 meeting (02 September) in Yerevan, Armenia on the Religious dimension of the Intercultural Dialogue.

In 2013, a great part of humanists' work was dedicated to the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) where anti-choice groups have been very active in trying to advance their ends. The work of PACE was closely monitored by IHEU representatives at the Council of Europe with the creation of a list of secularist Members of Parliaments and a joint IHEU/EHF response to a consultation on the future of the European Court of Human Rights. Humanists worked very effectively in informal coalitions to amend a dangerous resolution from the religious right on religious freedom so that it became positively valuable, and this year we have in a similar way prevented the commissioning by a PACE

committee of a report on the alleged persecution of Christians in Europe named "Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity".

EHF at the Fundamental Rights Agency: an Urgent Need to Increase Humanists' Presence

The EHF is member of the Fundamental Rights Platform which is part of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. This year, the Platform's meeting focused on 'Future fundamental rights priorities in the area of freedom, security and justice – The contribution of civil society'. The EHF joined three working groups on discriminations against LGBTI people, freedom of religion or belief and freedom of education as part of which it promoted humanist and secular views. Generally speaking, Humanists are under-represented in the Fundamental Rights Platform, which is to the advantage of NGOs with religious agendas and affiliations. The EHF and the humanist movement definitely needs to invest more time into working with this Platform.

EHF's Application for Accreditation to UN Continues to be Blocked

Our application for accreditation to the United Nations (which would allow us to attend and speak at the Human Rights Council) continues to be blocked by a few countries who raise large numbers of seemingly irrelevant questions at every meeting of the vetting committee. This year, we contacted Foreign Ministers of several EU countries to request support and three of them have committed to support our application.

6. Strengthening EHF Network

Besides broadening our contacts outside of our organisation, we have also paid attention to improve the links within our own network, i.e. between our members and between our members and the Brussels' office.

EHF 2013 General Assembly in Bucharest, 24-25 May 2013



EHF General Assembly, Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest – May 2013

In 2013, the EHF held its General Assembly in Bucharest (24 May) alongside two other important humanist meetings: the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) General Assembly (26 May) and a joint conference on “Education, Science and Human Rights” co-organised with the Romanian Humanist Association and IHEU (25 May).

More than 200 participants attended the conference organised at the gigantic Palace of the Parliament and listened to high-level speakers included American science and atheism blogger PZ Myers and British psychologist Richard Wiseman.

This General Assembly was the opportunity to gather representatives from humanist organisations all over Europe, from France to Russia and from Norway to Malta. By organising it in Romania, it was also a way to show our support to humanists in a country where the Orthodox Church remains very active in politics and society. In Bucharest, it was agreed that the 2014 EHF General Assembly would be held in Brussels.

New Member Organisations Joining EHF

In 2013, the EHF was pleased to welcome the Romanian Secular-Humanist Association as full member and the South West London Humanists as associate member.

🌐 Setting up Thematic Working Groups

This year, the EHF partly focused its work on strengthening the links between its member organisations on a regular basis. Following our Board's recommendations, we organised internal working groups on different themes of common interest for members: Populism, Ceremonies, Euthanasia and the creation of a Secularity Index. The objectives of these groups are multiple:

- Sharing information and best practices between EHF Member organisations;
- Fostering thoughts and ideas for future EHF actions and policies in a bottom-up perspective;
- Strengthening links between EHF member organisations.

🌐 European Humanist Youth Days, 2-5 August 2013



Freeze protest, European Humanist Youth Days in Brussels – August 2013

In 2013, we also helped (and sponsored) the International Humanist and Ethical Youth Organization (European office) organising the “European Humanist Youth Days” to strengthen the links between young humanists in Europe. We supported a meeting in Brussels (from 2 to 5 August 2013) that brought together over 120 young people from across Europe for conferences, artistic and cultural workshops. Participants discussed the future of Europe and the need to uphold and "return" to enlightenment values; as well as taking part in a diverse array of workshops on artificial intelligence, graffiti and democracy.

7. "EHF 2.0": Improving EHF's Communication and Visibility

The screenshot displays the EHF website homepage. At the top left is the EHF logo, a blue circle with a white stylized human figure. To its right is the text "European Humanist Federation" and the tagline "Building a Secular Europe for All". Further right is a graphic of stylized human figures in black and white. Below the logo and tagline are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a red "Support us" button. A navigation menu below the header includes links for Home, About us, Humanism & Secularism, Our Work, Our Positions, Videos, Members, and Contact.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Oxford Declaration on Freedom of Thought and Expression:** A section featuring a graphic of a globe with a human figure and the text: "The 2014 World Humanist Congress, gathered in Oxford, UK, on 8-10 August 2014, adopted the following declaration on freedom of thought and expression. Read it [here](#)."
- Highlights:** A section featuring a photograph of a large group of people in a grand hall, with the caption "World Humanist Congress 2014".
- Latest EHF news:** A section with the headline "Meeting with the Italian Council Presidency" dated "22 September 2014". The text states: "On 26 September, the EHF meets Italian government's representative to discuss European and Italian issues related to Freedom of religion or beliefs and fundamental rights. Our full recommendations are available here." Below the text is a "Read more" link.
- Latest European news:** A section with the headline "Urgent need for a 'cordon sanitaire' in Greece" dated "23 September 2014". It includes a photograph of a meeting and the text: "After an official event by the Office of the European Parliament in Athens with Golden Dawn MEPs, Panayote Dimitras of the Greek Helsinki Monitor calls for a cordon sanitaire in Greece (...)" Below the text is a "Read more" link.
- ONE OF US:** A graphic with a red 'X' over the text "ONE OF US" and the subtext "New European anti-choice offensive on research and maternal health". Below it is a graphic with the text "BIRTH CONTROL", "SEX EDUCATION", and "PHYSICAL INTEGRITY" and the slogan "Sexual & Reproductive Rights ARE Human Rights".

The EHF continued the efforts undertaken in 2012 to improve its visibility on the web and strengthen its communication. We re-designed the EHF's visual identity with new colors and layouts. We also built a complete new website [www.humanistfederation.eu] with improved functionality, design and navigation and worked on the referencing of the EHF on the web. Our Facebook page also climbed to more than 5,110 "likes" and we launched the EHF's Twitter account [@EU_Humanists] this year.

8. Finances

The EHF is mainly dependent on the subscriptions of its Member Organisations and can count on direct incomes of about 30,000 €. The EHF's operating costs are limited thanks to the support of the Belgian Centre d'Action laïque (CAL) which provides offices, part of the logistics and pays for the limited but permanent staff of 3 people. The overall amount of the CAL's contribution to EHF is estimated to 185,000 € per year.

Thus the main EHF's expenses are allocated to:

- EHF's intervention at the EU parliament, EU Council Presidencies, Fundamental Rights Agency, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc.
- Coordination of EHF network: General Assemblies, working groups, European Humanist Youth Days, etc.
- The organisation of public events (conferences, demonstrations, etc.)
- Communication (website, leaflets, etc.)

Our accounts for 2013 ended with a positive balance of 4,250 €.

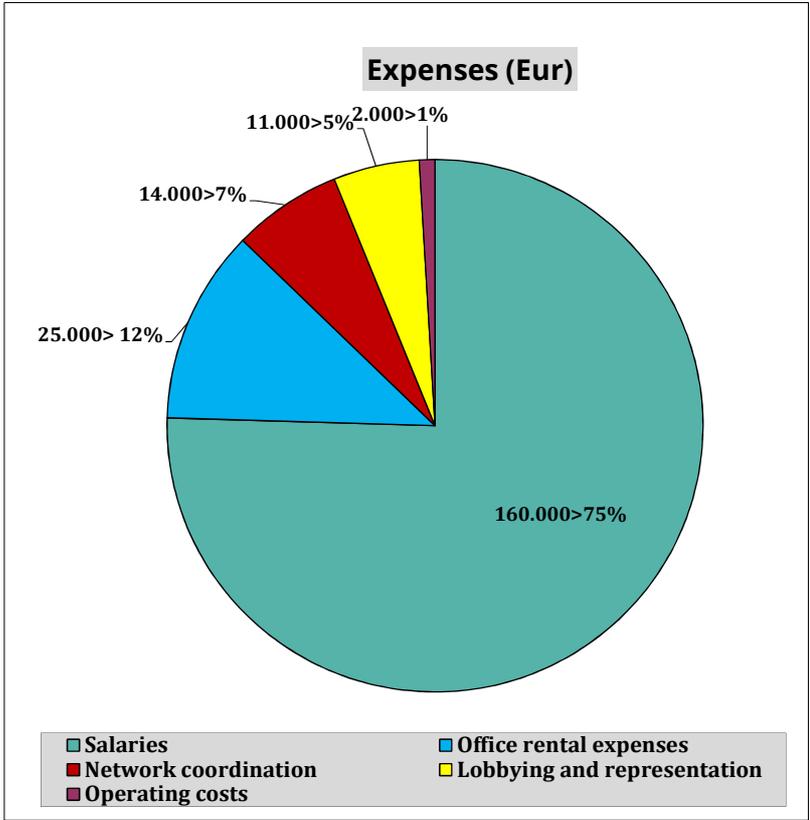
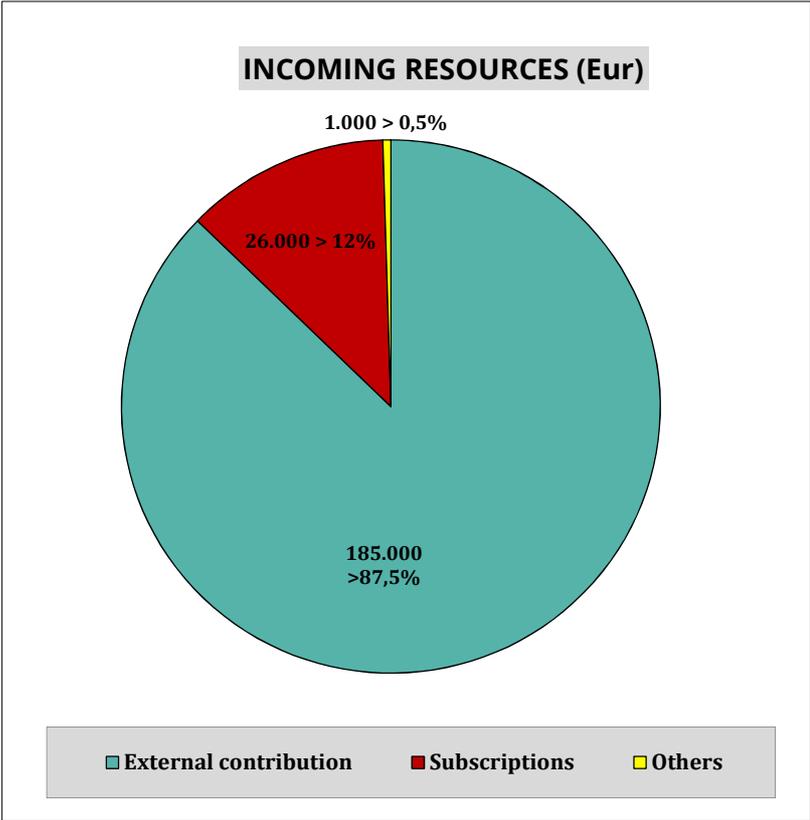
In a long term perspective, the EHF wishes to broaden its scope of action, strengthen its network and increase its visibility in the public space. In a middle-term perspective, our priorities will be to:

- Develop projects to raise citizens' awareness on Humanists' core values
- Expose the identity, the work and the strategy of extremist religious activists to raise people's awareness on the need to mobilise and secure fundamental rights
- Develop new communication strategy and tools

In order to reach these objectives, the EHF needs to increase and diversify its resources. We therefore call on potential partners who share our concerns to consider supporting our action.

European Humanist Federation details

Delta Lloyd Bank – Sterrekundelaan 23 – B1210 Brussels – Belgium
Account n° BE36 6353 6029 0181 – Swift: BNAGBE BB



9. Legal and Administrative Details

Status	The European Humanist Federation (Fédération Humaniste Européenne) is an International association governed by Belgian Law constituted by royal decree of 18 June 1992. The Association is governed by the Belgian law of 27 June 1921.
	Identification number: 19057/92 Company number: 448534037
Registered office	Campus de la Plaine of the Université Libre de Bruxelles CP 237, Boulevard de la Plaine, 1050 Brussels Belgium
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