

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethics and religion: What's the EU got to do with it?

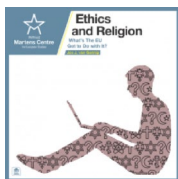
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This paper argues that the EU and its institutions are highly relevant to addressing the questions of ethics and religion. Although in general, policy matters should be dealt with at the lowest possible level, some matters concerning religion and ethics are best dealt with by a common approach at the EU level of decision-making. Applying a test of subsidiarity, the paper examines areas such as the economy, human rights, our multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, and the relationship with the Orthodox churches.

The paper contends that the EU member states and member parties of the EPP should lead the debate on ethics, values and religion. Within the atmosphere of pluralism, dialogue and tolerance, the EPP should continuously cherish its Christian roots and values while responding to the economic, social and cultural realities of the day. The party should also leave enough room for those that belong to non-Christian religions and have other beliefs and convictions.

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