



Fondation Francqui-Stichting

Fondation d'Utilité Publique - Stichting van Openbaar Nut

Ceremony of the Francqui Prize by His Majesty The King Albert II at the "Fondation Universitaire" on June 22, 2004



Marie-Claire Foblets

Report of the Jury (April 7, 2004)

Marie-Claire FOBLETS is working on one of the most important and dynamic areas of legal science of our day. It has the aim to settle problems of modern multicultural and multiconfessional migrant societies. She was one of the first scholars to realize that the legal techniques of International private law inherited from the past were insufficient to cope with the challenges of a society in which people live simultaneously in two or even more legal systems.

The most important example of this new situation is the status of Muslim minorities in Western countries. Therefore the Moroccan immigrants in Belgium have been at the center of Marie-Claire FOBLETS' investigations from the very beginning. The importance of her work lies in the fact that she combines the collection of court decisions with interviews of law practitioners and of the immigrant people concerned. Starting from this basis she maps out concrete solutions. The aim is – in Professor FOBLETS' words - "to find rules that offer the necessary guarantees to people, allowing them to start and/or continue harmonious social relationships regardless of their continuous mobility between different countries".

The Jury is convinced that Marie-Claire FOBLETS' concepts show the only realistic way to this goal - a goal which is of paramount significance if Europeans are to live in peace together without giving up what is indispensable for our legal system – the rule of law and recognition of human rights.

Jury members :

Professor Emeritus Douwe FOKKEMA

Honorary President of the International Comparative Literature Association
Utrecht University
The Netherlands

Chairman

and

Professor Jane BLOCK

Ricker Library of Architecture & Art
University of Illinois
Champaign - USA

Professor Thomas DE KONINCK

Faculté de Philosophie
Université Laval
Québec - Canada

Professor Miguel-Angel DE MARCO

Director of the Department of History At the Catholic Argentine University
Presidente Academia Nacional de la Historia
Buenos Aires - Argentina

Professor Charles DE WEERT

Decaan Sociale Wetenschappen
Nijmegen - The Netherlands

Professor Eric MASKIN

A.O. Hirschman Professor of Social Science
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton - USA

Professor Thomas METZINGER

Geschäftsführender Leiter
Philosophisches Seminar
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
Germany

Professor Richard POTZ

Institut für Recht und religion
Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät
Universität Wien
Austria

Professor Dorit RAVID

Constantiner School of Education and
the Department of Communications Disorders
Tel Aviv University
Israel

Professor Emeritus Robert W. THOMSON

The Oriental Institute
Oxford University
USA

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