

83<sup>e</sup> Semaine Sociale de France

21, 22 and 23 November 2008

Lyon - Centre des Congrès



# Religions threat or hope for our societies



[www.ssf-fr.org](http://www.ssf-fr.org)



# Religions

## Threat or hope for our

The globalization of people and ideas, the presence of religions originating from other continents and of other cultures, in particular Islam and the increase in conflicts linked more or less directly to religious beliefs lead to the following questions: are the religions elements of divisions, as some say, or do they, as they claim, contribute to the cohesion of society?

This question is relevant in Europe as the moral authority of the states decreases and politics is more and more restricted to administrative issues and forgets its visionary mission. This loss of authority and meaning goes on one hand with various identity tensions. On the other hand it provides an opportunity for debate and active participation of the civil society. Such a new situation, peculiar to the current state of affairs, deserves consideration from all parties of society, public or associative, lay or religious. Beneath the surface of an ever persistent suspicion toward





# societies

historical churches as well as the more recently established ones, there is a deep longing for meaning and value that goes beyond the usual boundaries between the private and public sectors.

Churches and religions are challenged to respond to this lacuna. Without exceeding their own missions, they could play a role of a long term reference points within democracies at this particular moment for European societies. But under what social conditions? Public authorities should certainly recognize unambiguously the social role of the Christian churches and other religions. But the latter also need to make changes as befits a pluralist society influenced by the importance of a non-authoritarian and open communication.

**Jérôme Vignon,**

*President of the « Semaines Sociales de France »*



## Religions, war or pe

8.00 am

Registration of the participants

9.00 am

Introduction by **Jérôme Vignon**, *President of the "Semaines Sociales de France"*.

9.15 am

### Prologue

Representatives of public and religious authorities coming from Lyon or its regions discuss: what do they expect from each other?

10.00 am

### Religions on trial

By **Danièle Hervieu-Léger**, *sociologist in religion, President of the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales.* ←



In the light of open conflicts, terrorism or calls for crusade, religions are more often regarded as contributors to war than to peace. Is the "shock of civilisations" a reality? What are the "friction points" between religions and our societies which stir up divisions. Such questions related to the limits of biotechnology, the integrity of human life at its beginning and at its end, as well as the man-woman differentiation are obvious examples. Is the situation the same in the different European countries?

10.30 am

Discussion

11.00 am

Break

11.30 am

### From indifference to demand for action

With **Jean-Louis Schlegel**, *sociologist, editor* ←



Despite the massive indifference to religions, in the eyes of the majority, the latter remain sources of meaning, factors of consistency, the influence of which renews itself by means other than mass communication.

Conventionally ridiculed by the media, they are paradoxically consulted or sought after more and more frequently, when one is faced to the new challenges of living together. Can we talk of an "open" laity?

→ and **Paul-Michaël Zulehner**, *sociologist, theologian - Vienna.* ←



12.10 pm

Discussion

12.30 pm

Lunch



## Place in our societies?

2.00 pm

### Religions in society, tools of interpretation

By **Bruno-Marie Duffé**, philosopher and theologian

Beyond the sociological analysis forced by definition to neutrality we must mention the constituents elements of a religion because a religion does not consist merely of questions of belongings, convictions, rites and behaviours. It is above all a matter of memory and of transmission. Memory, faith, solidarities and ethical convictions nurture the link of the religion with its social environment.

J.F. Cullatraz / Alpes 74



2.30 pm

### The role and place of religions in society

Round table discussion moderated by **Henri Tincq**, writer and journalist ("Le Monde des religions", "Le Monde")  
With **Régine Azria**, sociologist

→ **Mustapha Chérif**, former minister, former ambassador, Islamic scholar

→ **Paul Valadier**, Jesuit, professor of moral and political philosophy.

Which sort of answers do the religions give to the current questions of our societies? With this round table, we will be able to measure the possible gap between the various religions and know their respective points of view. Up to what point does the manipulation of which they declare themselves victims take place? They will express their own point of view regarding the role, they have in society. And how does the act of faith hang together with membership and visibility.



4.00 pm

Discussion

4.45 pm

Break

5.00 pm

### Stage show depicting the religious tradition in Lyon

By **Geneviève Iacono**, academic.

This stage show will recount 20 centuries of the particularly rich religious history of the town of Lyon, inseparable from the history of Lyon, and depict the transformation over the years of the relation between religions and society.



## Churches and religions in the public arena

9.00 am

### Review of Friday's sessions

By **Bernard Lecomte**, journalist and writer

9.30 am

### Individual, community, society

By **Jean-Paul Willaine**, sociologist, Director of the group of sociology of religions and of the European Institute in Sciences of Religions



If religions can contribute to divisions, then it is necessary to question the contradictions existing in our societies. When they let themselves be dominated by the promotion of the solitary and independent individual, can they still advocate solidarity and social cohesion? Admittedly the communitarian movement divides. However, have we systematically mistaken it for communities which give both meaning and value to living together? Is the public sphere/private sphere duality relevant? Which roles are societies ready to give to the communities of faith where one learns the meaning of openness to others, whoever they are?

10.15 am

Discussion

10.30 am

Break

11.00 am

### Universalism set against pluralism

With **Enzo Bianchi**, theologian, prior of the Bose Community (Italy)



If societies are subjected to the test of meaning, the religions for their part are subjected to the test of universalism for which they have a vocation to express within the environment where pluralism became the fruit of a democratic development. How can we reconcile universalism and tolerance? What is the significance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue for the parties who are sincerely committed to ecumenism? What is the gain of such a dialogue for the whole society?

→ and **Agnès von Kirchbach**, minister of the Reformed Church of France



11.40 am

Debate with the audience

12.00 am

Presentation of the Saturday afternoon's workshops

12.15 pm

Lunch





## 6 workshops

for sharing experience and discussion

Using observations, concrete examples and the analysis of conflicts and synergies, these workshops will try to reveal how the relationships between religions and societies develop. They will explore how the communities of faith can – without merging into the society – contribute today to its vitality and its cohesion. What can be their contribution to a society in search of moral references and meaning?

from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm  
by choice

The workshops – the organization of which has been entrusted to a member of the board of the “Semaines sociales” – will be held simultaneously in 6 different locations in the Cité des Congrès and will comprise seminars, round table discussions, examples and – of course – discussions. Each workshop will issue suggestions for a better integration of religions in the public arena. Their outputs will be part of the message to the society that, the “Semaines Sociales de France” will present the following day.



### The management of religions in the public arena

How do religions get organized in the public arena? Which answers do the public authorities give to allow the religions to structure themselves? How do they manage their cultural, ritual and community requirements? Can the religions be recognized as structural element for society as a whole? Does the reminder to devote free time to God, for example, avoid society being hide-bound in pure utilitarianism?

- ➔ **IN CHARGE:** **Philippe Da Costa**
- ➔ **EXPERT:** **Olivier Bobineau**, sociologist
- ➔ **MODERATOR:** **René Poujol**, publication director of the magazine “Pèlerin”
- ➔ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS:** **Stéphane Bathion**, researcher, political scientist, **Mohamed Ali Bouhard**, Chaplain to the French Gendarmerie, **Mgr Gérard Defois**, Archbishop, President of Justice and Peace, Europe, **Didier Leschi**, high ranking civil servant at the “Ministère de l’intérieur”, **Gerhard**

*Robbers*, professor of law at the University of Trier, **Pierre Tournemire**, Deputy General Secretary of the “Ligue de l’Enseignement”.



### Religions in the media, art and culture

Often blamed on all occasions, are the media in the process of changing their view about religions? They do it using their own language. Does this harm the understanding of the religions? Do the religious leaders have to accept the language and working methods of the media and their critical aspects? But what is their freedom of expression, when they are faced with derision or, more simply, faced with the lack of knowledge of the religious reality? Religions have been the source of founding historical accounts, great figures and major symbols of our cultures and identity. While we live in a time of unprecedented cultural upheaval, why should not they contribute in a more decisive way to the cultural expression? Are they expected to? How to reinforce the res-



pect they deserve in domains that belong, according to them, to the sacred?

→ **IN CHARGE: Gilles de Courtivron**

→ **EXPERT AND MODERATOR: Frédéric**

**Mounier**, Editor-in-chief of the magazine "Croire aujourd'hui"

→ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS: Claire**

**Chartier**, special correspondent and head of the department for Religions at "L'Express", **Franco Garelli**, sociologist of religions, Turin, **Fabrice Hadjadj**, professor of philosophy and writer, **Stanislas Lalanne**, Bishop of Coutances, former spokesman of the bishops' conference.



### Religion, education and training of citizens

Belonging to a religion exempts nobody from his duty as citizen and is not sufficient for the building of consciences. However the religions can offer, as a real social service, a set of values structuring people and allowing them to play their role as citizens. How, for its part, can education give more room to the study and knowledge of religious realities? How can it be wider opened to an optional but specifically religious teaching?

→ **IN CHARGE: Luc Ziegler**

→ **EXPERT: Eric Vinson**, Professor at the "IEP Paris", Editor-in-chief of the magazine "Prier"

→ **MODERATOR: Jean-Luc Mouton**, editor in chief of "Réforme".

→ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS: Pierre-Yves Bing**, in charge of the external relations of "Scouts et guides de France", **Mario Giro**, Community Sant'Egidio (to be confirmed), **Paul Malartre**, former

General Secretary of "L'enseignement catholique", **Claire Reggio**, historian, "Institut catholique de la Méditerranée".



### Religions and social cohesion

In order that religions take their full part in the building of social cohesion, they cannot restrict themselves to one social class nor to one community. How can it be arranged that their own resources are used for the benefit of all in solidarity, in building the world through work and a sense of justice? Can they be officially recognized as preferred partners for everything pertaining to humanitarianism and social justice? Which critical and stimulating role can they play in the entrepreneurial life? Either daily, by accepting the difference, or more generally by challenging a market driven and consumerist world?

→ **IN CHARGE: Bernard Ibal**

→ **EXPERT: Pierre Lévené**, General Secretary of Secours Catholique

→ **MODERATOR: Agnès Thouvenot**, journalist, specialized economic and social press and radio (RCF)

→ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS: Olivier Brachet**, Director of "Forum Réfugiés", elected representative for Lyon, Vice-President of "Grand Lyon", **Bruno Lachiff**, deacon, local delegate of "Secours Catholique du Rhône", **Farid Khelifi**, Spanish teacher, **Cyril Kretzschmar**, President of the association "Forum Citoyen Rhône Alpes", deputy mayor of Francheville (Rhône), **Inès Minin**, National President of "JOC", **Jean-Marie Petitclerc**, Salesian priest, Director of the association Le Valdocco,





**Henryk Wozniakowski**, *President of Znak publishing firm (Poland), and a leader of the MCC* ("Mouvement des cadres chrétiens").



### Religions and societies faced with science and ethical dilemmas

Religions have a lot to learn from sciences, provided that they are ready to be questioned by the latter. Conversely, they may expect from sciences themselves to be questioned by their wisdom, regarding everything pertaining to their aims, their basic motivations for research and the use of their findings. Is the room currently left available to religions in ethical committees wide enough?

⇒ **IN CHARGE:** **Hubert Chicou, Marie Jourdain**

⇒ **EXPERT:** **Alain Cordier**, *national inspector of public finances and member of the "Comité national consultatif d'éthique"*

⇒ **MODERATOR:** **Olivier Jay**, *deputy director by the "Journal du Dimanche" (on request)*

⇒ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS:** **Xavier Lacroix**, *philosopher, moralistic theologian, member of the "Comité national consultatif d'éthique"*, **Thierry Magnin**, *priest, theologian, doctor of science, Professor at the "ENS des Mines de Saint-Etienne*, **Didier Sicard**, *professor of medicine*



### Religions and body issues

Source of anxiety and uncertainties in the contemporary world, the status of the body vacillates between contradictory logics:

body subject, body object? Sexed body, un-differentiated body? Sacred body, merchandise body? The various religions have different views on the body issues but all of them are faced with the importance of the autonomy of the person for the control of his body. How can we conciliate religions and modernity?

⇒ **IN CHARGE:** **Blandine de Dinechin, Geneviève Iacono**

⇒ **CHOREOGRAPHY:** **Pierre Deloche**

⇒ **MODERATOR:** **Françoise Le Corre**, *philosopher, former deputy editor of the journal Etudes*, **Christian Delorme**, *Le Prado priest in the diocese of Lyon.*

⇒ **AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS:** **Arnaud Alibert**, *priest from the diocese of Montpellier*, **Françoise Blaise-Kopp**, *psychologist at the interdisciplinary center of ethics at the Catholic University of Lyon*, **Souhila Diab**, *lawyer*, **Arthur Kermalvezen**, *student in psychology, author of "Born from an unknown spermatozoon"*, **Laure Marmilloud**, *hospital nurse in a unit of palliative care in Lyon*, **Hugues Puel**, *Dominican, economist, former General Secretary of Economie et Humanisme"*, **Soufiane Zitouni**, *philosopher.*

**Saturday's night : see page 11**



## Conditions for renewed

9.00 am

### Message from the "Semaines Sociales"

By **Jean-Pierre Rosa**, General Delegate of the "Semaines Sociales de France". ←

The message from the "Semaines Sociales" will be illustrated with the accounts of the workshops of the previous day.



9.40 am

### Interreligious declaration for peace and justice

This special moment will bring together all participating religions and faiths.

10.00 am

Break

10.30 am

### Questions to the public authorities

Round table discussion moderated by **François Ernenwein**, editor in chief of the daily paper "La Croix".

With **Jacques Barrot**, former minister, vice-chairman of the European Commission ←

→ **Tony Blair**, former prime minister of the UK (to be confirmed)

→ **Elisabeth Guigou**, former French minister, member of parliament ←

**Jordi Pujol**, founder chairman of CDC, former President of the Spanish autonomous community of Catalonia. ←

Nowhere in the European Union is the separation between Churches, Religions and State absolute. Everywhere it is accepted that the principles of secularism confirm the respective autonomy of the lay and religious responsibilities.

However is it conceivable to live differently in the current framework barely subject variations of the institutional relations in each country? In particular, as the European Union suggests it, is it conceivable for the political authorities to expect a contribution of Churches and Religions on the key issues of the societies' future?

12.00 pm

Discussion

12.30 pm

Lunch



## mutual relationships

2.00 pm

### Conditions for a Christian presence in society

Round table discussion moderated by **Jean-Claude Escaffit**, journalist at the weekly magazine "La Vie".

- ➔ With **Antoine Arjakovsky**, Orthodox layman, Director of the Institute of ecumenical studies of the Catholic University of Ukraine
- ➔ Minister **Claude Baty**, President of the French Protestant Federation



Cardinal **Peter Erdő**, Primate of Hungary, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest

and **Bruno Frappat**, journalist and chairman of the Bayard Group's board.



How should the views of the churches evolve in a moving world, so that they can be heard? As much in the form as in the way of elaboration of a message which is directed to believers as well as to the society as a whole? Which elements of method, which principles for cooperation between the hierarchy and the lay people can be sought after in that respect?

3.30 pm

Discussion

4.00 pm

### Conclusions

By **Jérôme Vignon**, President of the "Semaines Sociales de France"



### Place of prayer

An interreligious place of prayer will be open to those who want it during this session. This place is entrusted to the Frères de Taizé in partnership with the other religions.

## November, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>

2.00 - 7.00 pm

Religious celebrations in different parts of the town

8.30 - 10.30 pm

"Young European's night"

This night of relaxation is free of charge and will take place at the Père Thierry Jacou's Paroisse Saint François de Villeurbanne (underground Gratte Ciel).



## Choice of registration and payment methods

To be accepted, your registration form must be accompanied by your payment by bank transfer or bank card. Two ways of registration are available:

### • Registration on the site [www.ssf-fr.org](http://www.ssf-fr.org)

Fill in the registration form available on line and pay with your bank card (secure site).

### • Registration by mail

Fill in the form overleaf and enclose for payment:

- a copy of your transfer order, payable to Semaines Sociales de France:

Bank Identification Code (BIC)/SWIFT: CMCIFRPP

International Bank Account Number (IBAN): FR76 3006 6100 4100 0105 8340 125

## Saturday's workshops pages 7 to 9

Please choose 2 workshops in decreasing preference order. Your confirmation/badge will indicate which workshop was reserved for you according to places available at the time of your registration.

- 1 Management of religions in the public arena
- 2 Religions in the media, art and culture
- 3 Education and training of citizens
- 4 Religions and social cohesion
- 5 Religions and societies faced with science and ethical dilemmas
- 6 Religions and body issues

## Confirmation of your registration

A letter of confirmation with your badge for the session and all practical information will be sent to you within a fortnight of your registration. For residents living outside the Rhône-Alpes region, a "fiche congrès SNCF" allowing a 20% reduction will be enclosed.

### To send your registration :

Semaines Sociales de France  
c/o All in Web

38 rue Louis Ulbach - 92400 Courbevoie - France

Tel. : +33 (0)1 74 31 69 00

Fax : +33 (0)1 74 31 60 99

E-mail: [session@ssf-fr.org](mailto:session@ssf-fr.org)

Practical information: [www.ssf-fr.org](http://www.ssf-fr.org)

## Registration fees

Category	All 3 days	Per day
Individual	100 €	50 €
Couple (per person)	80 €	40 €
Clerical	80 €	40 €
Under 30*	50 €	20 €
Unemployed	50 €	20 €

## Options

### Lunch:

• lunch - 19 € per person per day, wine and coffee included.

• Packed lunch – 8 € per person per day

The meal or the packed lunch must be reserved and paid for at the same time as the registration for the session.

### Accommodation with local residents

Some friends of the "Semaines Sociales de France" in the Rhône-Alpes region kindly offer accommodation to participants living far away. If you are interested please indicate it on the registration form (attention: limited number of beds). You will be contacted before the session concerning arrangements.

### Child minding facilities

These are free but can only be arranged via advance booking (limited number of places). You will be contacted before the session.

## Sponsorship

The registration fees above cover barely 40% of the real expenses related to the organization of such a meeting. As a matter of fact, thanks to the generosity of those who can make an additional donation that we can offer reduced prices and allow several participants of Eastern Europe to attend the session this year. Your donation will entitle you to a tax receipt.

Conversely, if you have difficulties to pay the registration fees, do not hesitate to contact us.

## Subscription to "La Lettre"

This quarterly 8-page publication allows you to follow the thinking associated with "Semaines Sociales de France" throughout the year. The subscription to "La Lettre" is 12 € for 4 publications

\* Please enclose documentary evidence with your registration: photocopy of I.D.



**Tick and complete as specified on page 12**

	Participant 1	Participant 2
Title	Mr, Mrs, Miss, Mgr, Father, Brother, Sister	Mr, Mrs, Miss, Mgr, Father, Brother, Sister
Surname	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Forename	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Identification number*	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Year of birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Occupation/activity	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/> <small>N° ET LIBELLE DE LA VOIE - RUE - AVENUE - HAMBAU</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>N° ET LIBELLE DE LA VOIE - RUE - AVENUE - HAMBEAU</small>
	<input type="text"/> <small>COMPLEMENT LOCALISATION ENTREE - BATIMENT - IMMEUBLE - RESIDENCE</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>COMPLEMENT LOCALISATION ENTREE - BATIMENT - IMMEUBLE - RESIDENCE</small>
	<input type="text"/> <small>N° APPARTEMENT - BOITE - ETAGE - COULOIR - ESCALIER</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>N° APPARTEMENT - BOITE - ETAGE - COULOIR - ESCALIER</small>
	<input type="text"/> <small>CODE POSTAL LOCALITE / CEDEX</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>CODE POSTAL LOCALITE / CEDEX</small>
	<input type="text"/> <small>CODE PAYS SI ETRANGER</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>CODE PAYS SI ETRANGER</small>

\*Useful information for handling of your registration (the identifying number is mentioned on your SSF communications)

### Registration fees

Individual  Couple  Clerical  Under 30  Unemployed

#### Participant 1

I will be present all 3 days   €

*I will only participate on the ticked days*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November   €

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November   €

*I state my choice of workshop:*

1<sup>st</sup> choice..... 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.....  no workshop

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November   €

**Session participation total**  €

#### Lunch options:

	Lunch	Packed-lunch	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €

**Options subtotal**  €

I wish to take advantage of the guest accommodation  
night 20th/21st Nov  night 21st/22nd Nov  night 22nd/23rd Nov

I wish to use the child-minded facilities on site for our..... children  
Friday  Saturday  Sunday

#### Sponsorship and/or subscription to "LA LETTRE"

I wish to sponsor the 2008 session  €

for which I will receive a tax receipt

I wish to subscribe to SSF's "La Lettre" (4 publications per year)  €

**TOTAL FOR PARTICIPANT 1**  +  +  =  €

### Registration fees

Individual  Couple  Clerical  Under 30  Unemployed

#### Participant 2

I will be present all 3 days   €

*I will only participate on the ticked days*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November   €

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November   €

*I state my choice of workshop:*

1<sup>st</sup> choice..... 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.....  no workshop

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November   €

**Session participation total**  €

#### Lunch options:

	Lunch	Packed-lunch	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	19 € <input type="checkbox"/>	8 € <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/> €

**Options subtotal**  €

I wish to take advantage of the guest accommodation  
night 20th/21st Nov  night 21st/22nd Nov  night 22nd/23rd Nov

I wish to use the child-minded facilities on site for our..... children  
Friday  Saturday  Sunday

#### Sponsorship and/or subscription to "LA LETTRE"

I wish to sponsor the 2008 session  €

for which I will receive a tax receipt

I wish to subscribe to SSF's "La Lettre" (4 publications per year)  €

**TOTAL FOR PARTICIPANT 2**  +  +  =  €

**Total payment (participant 1 + participant 2)**  €

Issuing bank : ..... Date : .....

Cheque's number (or reference of the transfer order): .....

Name of the account holder if different from the name of participant 1



**Please indicate how you heard about the 2008 session of the "Semaines Sociales de France":**

- member of SSF
- already attended sessions
- via "La Lettre"
- via friends/family
- via newspapers/media
- via leaflet/poster
- via the site [www.ssf-fr.org](http://www.ssf-fr.org)
- via another site (indicate which one) .....
- .....
- other: .....
- .....

If you do not wish the information mentioned on your registration form to be communicated to others, please tick the box opposite



### Participants with reduced mobility

At the time of your registration, please tell us the degree of your handicap or send us an e-mail to [session@ssf-fr.org](mailto:session@ssf-fr.org) so we can welcome you to the best of our ability.

### Access to the "Centre des Congrès"

In view of the high cost of the car park we suggest you use public transport (*For passenger station, get off at Lyon Part-Dieu*).

#### Public transport:

- Bus TCL No. 4 in correspondence with the line metro A at the Foch station and the subway line D to Gambetta station
- Trolleybus TCL C1 from Lyon Part-Dieu station to the TCL Cité Internationale
- Bus TCL No. 58 directly from the city center (Presqu'île and Place Bellecour)

**By car:** The "Centre des Congrès" is near the Northern peripheral. Exit Porte Saint Clair, direction Cite Internationale. Quai Charles de Gaulle. Underground car parks.

**By bike:** Several Vélo'v stations near the "Centre des Congrès".

### Cloakroom

The cloakroom is manned by a charity that will receive the takings.

### Meeting Arena

The area includes in particular:

- a bookshop (with books about the theme and those mentioned during the sessions)
- a stall where you can buy the audio-CDs of the conferences
- a fast-food stall
- exhibition stands of various organizations
- meeting points for participants (for example, by regions or host/guest).

Any partner, enterprise or organization that wishes to present its activities can do it in this arena. Contact the "Semaines Sociales" for terms and conditions.

### Continuing education

Are you employed? Do you know that your employer can cover your entire participation costs in the capacity of continuing education? A special registration form will be sent to you on demand to:  
[session@ssf-fr.org](mailto:session@ssf-fr.org) or +33 (0)1 74 31 69 00



## Religions

### threat or hope for our societies

In the complex and changing situation which characterize our societies, actors of the social and economical life need forums where they can train, exchange views and debate. The "Semaines sociales" is one of them. Tackling an essential theme each year, they act as a popular university of Christian inspiration, welcoming nearly 4000 people for 3 days of seminars, debates, exchanges and suggestions.

Thus the "Semaines sociales" maintain a long tradition of meetings that, since their creation in 1904 by two catholic laymen keen to spread the Church's social message and to apply it to their time, have contributed to the promotion and elaboration the Christian social thinking, to the training of committed Christians and to the issuing of social proposals, many of which were finally adopted by the various governments. During the last few years, thanks to their involvement in a network of similar European organizations, the "Semaines sociales" firmly implant their efforts within a European perspective.

*This session has been prepared by **Jean-Pierre Rosa**, editor, General Delegate of SSF, together with, in particular, **Luc Champagne**, President of the Lyon social antenna, **Geneviève Iacono**, academic, **Jean Boissonnat**, former President of "Semaines sociales de France" and **Jean-Marie Brunot**, Vice-President of "Semaines sociales de France".*

#### **Semaines Sociales de France**

18 rue Barbès - 92128 Montrouge Cedex - France

Tel. : +33 (0)1 74 31 69 00 - Fax : +33 (0)1 74 31 60 99

E-mail : [session@ssf-fr.org](mailto:session@ssf-fr.org)

Site Internet : [www.ssf-fr.org](http://www.ssf-fr.org)

Association loi 1901 - Siret : 381 374 925 00034 – APE 9499Z

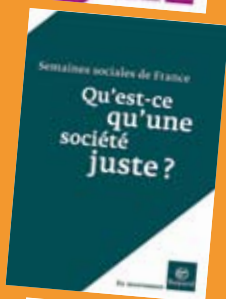
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