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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: The role of religion in the post-Conflict period in the West Balkan region

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

After the fall of the Berlin wall the countries from the Balkan region entered in deep and dramatic social crisis. There are a few crucial social characteristics which are common for countries from West Balkan. Firstly, this is the extremely high link between the religious and ethnic personal identification. Secondly, it is the high degree of connection between the religious and political elite. These characteristics were a precondition of the bloody interethnic conflicts in the region. All serious sociological researches proved that these conflicts didn't have typical characteristics of religious conflicts. But using the revitalization of religion and the deep crisis of secularization the political elites of the West Balkan states misused the religious feelings of their own citizens for the accomplishment of their goals and dark scenarios. After the conflicts ended with mediation from the international community, the countries from the region (Croatia, BH, Serbia, Macedonia etc.) entered in a so called post conflict period. From that moment on the political and religious elite started with the realization of the processes of interethnic and interreligious tolerance, a priority condition for the entrance in EU and NATO. Based on what we already said this session, based on sociological researches and analysis, should answer these crucial questions:

-What is the role of religion in peace and conflict in the West Balkan states?

-What is the type of interreligious tolerance (dogmatic, practical, dosed or declarative)?

-What is the role of the political and religious elite in the practical implementation of religious tolerance?

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.