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**RELIGION, CULTURE AND LAW AS INCLUSIVE CONDITIONS AND
CRITERIA FOR BELONGING TO THE EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Abstract: The history of a national state is not understandable, taken on its own and unrelated to the other. Groups of related communities, known as civilizations, are the distinct spheres of learning. Civilization is the broadest cultural community. It is a characteristic of every civilization to protect and preserve its identity. At the core of each civilization there are characteristics that define it as such, and accordingly distinguish it from others. These are - religion; as a consequence of the way the state-religion relations are regulated; the heritage (considered as historical and / or cultural); the role of law in public life (sources, principles).

Religion is a major determinant of civilizations, and great religions are the foundations of great civilizations. Christianity has created the principle of moral unity and has given peoples in Europe spiritual values, moral standards, and the concept of divine law from which all human laws are derived in sanction and validity.

The peoples, divided by ideologies but connected with a common culture, converge. Societies united on an ideological basis or with historical circumstances, but divided on a civilization basis, either disintegrate or have to overcome a tremendous internal tension

Culturally related countries cooperate economically and politically. International organizations based on culturally similar countries are developing much more successfully than organizations that aspire to overcome cultures. Culture in different countries has its own specificity and distinctive features, however the sharing of common cultural values, thus creating a common cultural characteristic of a particular community. The idea of a united Europe must reflect both the common and the private. To be able to combine universal and peculiar.

Keywords: Civilization, community, religion, culture, belonging, Europe, European Union

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