

PROMOTING JUSTICE AS POLICY-MAKERS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Justice is often considered to be one of the core values in life. Justice is a Biblical term. As Christians, it is important to know what God has meant justice to be and how we can look after it in our lives and our environment.

Within the Christian-philosophical tradition, the promotion of *public justice* is considered as the core task of a government. Formally, the EU is not a state and the EU institutions are not a government. Yet practically the EU institutions function surely as a common government, which exercises competences in an authoritative way that are binding for the member states and citizens of the Union. This is increasingly the case. Therefore the EU institutions should also be led by the principle of public justice in their actions and policies.

This raises the question how the promotion of public justice by the EU institutions may look like and what role Christian civil servants, politicians, lobbyists and the like may play in this respect.

In the group project, we assume that we are working for one of the EU institutions. We would like the EU to pursue public justice in its actions and policies within and outside its borders and make a contribution ourselves. In view of this, we will ask ourselves the following questions:

1. What is justice according to the Bible?
 - E.g. How can it be defined? Can we make a distinction between different types of justice?
2. What is public justice from a Christian-political perspective?
 - E.g. What is the difference between justice and public justice? Are there different dimensions to public justice?
3. How can policy-makers within the EU promote public justice?
 - E.g. In what ways? To what extent? What role may Christians play?

During our group project time, we will discuss these questions with each other and explore possible answers. We will present the results to the other ESF participants on Wednesday evening.

As a preparation for this group project, you are expected to read the following:

- Jonathan Chaplin (2000), 'Defining Public Justice in a Pluralistic Society' (response to the 2000 Kuyper Lecture), Washington: Center for Public Justice. Available at: www.cpjustice.org/stories/storyReader%24693
- Jonathan Chaplin (2008), 'A Christian-democratic Vision: Foundations and Futures' (The 2008 Kuyper Lecture), Washington: Center for Public Justice. Available at: www.cpjustice.org/content/2008-kuyper-lecture

Recommended:

- Tim Keller (2010), *Generous Justice. How God's Grace Makes Us Just*, Chapter 1, 'What Is Doing Justice?' New York: Dutton.