

GENSEC-2017-180

To CEC Member Churches, National Councils of
Churches and Organisations in Partnership

Brussels, 7 December 2017

Invitation

PLAYING GOD? – The science, theology, and societal issues on gene-editing

Gene-editing (in particular, germline editing) is one of the most important and controversial topics in modern bioethics. What are its implications for our understanding of what it means to be human? What effects might it have on society as well as on individuals and families? What limits ought to be set for scientific intervention in the process of human development?

These and related questions will be discussed at a special conference to be held at:

Institut Protestant de Théologie
83, boulevard Arago
75014 Paris (FR)

27-28 February 2018

At the conference we will hear from scientists who are at the leading edge of developing and potentially using new gene-editing techniques. They will be joined by theologians from Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant approaches as we consider Christian responses to what has been described as the bioethical equivalent of splitting the atom. The theological views are followed up with contributions on the legal and societal issues.

By interacting directly with scientists we hope not only to gain an essential understanding of the techniques involved but also the motivation behind research and possible therapeutic applications.

Conference of European Churches - Conférence des Églises européennes - Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen - Конференция Европейских Церквей

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Our goal is to explore what contribution Christian churches might usefully and effectively make in this pivotal interdisciplinary debate, highlighting the importance of their presence in Public Square's debate, and what recommendation we might realistically make to legislators.

We invite you to register before **19 January 2018** with Maura O'Riordan at mor@cec-kek.be using enclosed form and look forward to welcoming you in Paris early next year.

With warm wishes for Advent,



Fr Heikki Huttunen

General Secretary



pp Véronique Engels

Dr Ulrik Nissen

Moderator

CEC Thematic Reference Group on Bioethics

Enclosures:

Agenda

Registration form

Practical information

This conference is organised by the Conference of European Churches' Thematic Reference Group on Bioethics with financial support of the Council on Interchurch Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and hosted by Institut Protestant de Théologie and Institut de Théologie Orthodoxe St Serge. Our media partner for this event is Orthodoxie.com