

**Rasim Hasanaj**, Chairman, State Committee on Cults of the Republic of Albania

Rasim is a lawyer, and has headed the State Committee on Cults since 2005.

He served as chair of the working group that prepared the agreements between the state and the four traditional religions in Albania that were finalized in 2008. Similarly, he chaired the expert group on the newly promulgated law on religious aid that was approved this year by the Albanian Parliament – the 2009 law on “Financial Aid for Religious Communities.” He is also chair of the expert group that just finished the final draft of the law “On Religious Communities,” which was recently the subject of a favorable review by the Venice Commission.

Rasim has participated actively in numerous international activities designed to foster religious collaboration and tolerance, particularly in the Balkan region and elsewhere in Europe. He has authored numerous publications on religious tolerance in Albania.