

*“Libertas philosophandi”, “libero filosofare”,
“free-thinking”, “liberté de penser”.*

Variations and transformations in modern philosophy

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This article tries to retrace through some authors of the 17th and 18th century the history of the motto libertas philosophandi, which, following its original affirmation and defence of the freedom of the philosopher, scholar or professor, finds in the age of Enlightenment the true universality of political, intellectual and civil rights.

Key-words: “Libertas philosophandi”, “Libero filosofare”, “Free-thinking”, “Liberté de penser”, Modern Philosophy.

In December 2000, the European Parliament, Council and Commission solemnly signed and proclaimed the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*. Article 10 protects the *Freedom of thought, conscience and religion*: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”¹. Article 11 protects the *Freedom of expression and information*: “Everyone has the right to freedom of expression”².

This is the welcome result of a long history of searching for and defending freedom of thought, with no lack of achievements and setbacks, victories and defeats, accelerations and delays. But the

¹ *Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union*

“Article 10

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

2. The right to conscientious objection is recognised, in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of this right”.

² *Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union*

“Article 11

Freedom of expression and information

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

2. The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected”.