



# اتحاد المنظمات الإسلامية في أوروبا Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe

Head Office المقر الرئيس

*In the Name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful*

## **Final statement issued by the Shoura Council of the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe (FIOE)**

Istanbul, 6-9 January 2011 (1-4 Safar 1432H)

The Shoura Council of the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe (FIOE), with the blessing and aid of Allah, held its second ordinary meeting of the Federation's ninth term in the city of Istanbul from 6-9 January 2011 (1-4 Safar 1432H). The meeting was attended by Federation officials, representatives of member organisations from around the Continent, and a number of esteemed guests.

The Council deliberated over the Executive Office's proposed plan for the current term, in striving for continued institutional development, and reinforced contribution by the Federation and its institutions in the areas of social presence, and development of positive participation, while opening up opportunities for the youth, strengthening women's and girls' participation in the various levels of Federation work, and widening the circle of cooperation and coordination, as well as reinforcing participation in social dialogue, in continuing to strive to serve the best interests of Muslims around the European continent, and the public interest of European societies and nations.

The Council discussed and endorsed this ambitious plan, including specific comments, in the hope that it would pave the way to further achievements, and improvements in performance, projects and programmes, with the aid and blessing of Allah.

The Council also issued several resolutions and recommendations, aiming for further development in the work of the Federation, and greater improvement in the actual state of its institutions on a variety of levels; measures that would achieve fruitful interaction between member organisations, and exchange of expertise, and experiences among them.

At the close of deliberations, focusing on the performance of the Federation and its institutions, the state of affairs in Europe and that of Muslims on the continent, as well as relevant issues and concerns, the Council, praise to Allah, came to the following conclusions:

1. The Council invites Muslims in Europe, as communities, organisations, and individuals, to continue their collective good efforts, develop positive performance in the various areas, shoulder the burden of the diverse responsibilities arising from European citizenship, improve the reality of the European Muslim presence, and serve the public interest of European societies, while directing a significant portion of effort to meet the needs of the new generations, in the need for projects, programmes, and conscientious effort.
2. The Council invites Muslims to hold fast to the principles of Islam, strengthen their relationship with Allah, the Almighty, embody good citizenship that reflects a positive



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role model in daily life, deal with the spirit of tolerance, and noble manners, and participate effectively in serving their societies, and striving towards their prosperity.

3. The Council notes the unfolding effects of the economic crisis on some European countries, with the consequent burdens placed on citizens. The Council considers that this requires doubled efforts in the areas of welfare, and social solidarity. Moreover, containing this crisis must not be at the expense of the weaker sections of society, or opportunities for future generations in education and employment. The Council also emphasises the importance of protecting the family during this difficult time; the family must not be made to pay the price, and bear the brunt of the financial, social, and psychological burden.
4. The Council expresses its sadness regarding incidents, in a number of European States, where fundamental rights, and religious and personal liberties have been eroded. The Council also expresses its worry regarding the rising trend in hate speech, and incitement against Islam and Muslims, feeding a culture of extremism, and harming society's culture and harmony, while being a disservice to the interests of any nation.
5. The Council applauds the efforts and initiatives by Muslim organisations in Europe, which support the choice of good citizenship, and ceaselessly strive to remove injustice or discrimination through societal participation, and within the framework of law and morality. The Council, in this regard, urges everyone, Muslims and non-Muslims, to effectively and wisely confront all that may harm the ties of harmonious coexistence, and mutual respect.
6. The Council welcomes the statements made recently by a number of prominent European personalities, expressing their intent to open up towards Europe's Muslims, and reinforce mutual understanding in European societies. The Council urges support for this trend, and building upon it by adopting practical stances, and directions with tangible effects, which are in harmony with the obligations of European states in the area of respect for diversity, and rejection of marginalisation in any form.
7. The Council condemns acts of violence and extremism in any form, and expresses its strong denouncement of the wicked bombing incidents witnessed in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, recently, and strongly condemns any attempt to disturb the peace, and shed the blood of innocents, or terrorise them. The Council praises the wise and responsible action by the Swedish government in dealing with this horrific incident, and is confident in the ability of Swedish society, with its diverse constituents, to remain united in confronting the situation, and working together within the rule of law, to stop anyone exploiting the opportunity to disturb social peace, and jeopardise the safety of citizens.
8. The Council expresses its grave concern regarding the suffering of the Palestinian people, and the continued denial of liberties, rights, and sovereignty over land and resources. The Council considers the weak international positions to be quite unacceptable, with respect to the horrific crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation on unarmed civilians, and its escalating colonisation policies and racist measures. The Council calls for effective



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European pressure to halt the spiralling cycle of ethnic cleansing in al-Quds (Jerusalem), including an end to expulsion of its inhabitants, demolition of homes, and forced removal of elected members of the legislature.

9. The Council expresses its strong condemnation of the shameful attacks targeting churches in Iraq and Egypt, resulting in many innocent victims. The Council warns that such attacks are aimed at undermining the unity of peoples, the peaceful coexistence of constituents, the integrity of societies, and the brotherhood rooted in common nationhood through history. The Council calls for strengthening the ties of coexistence and harmony, and the spirit of dialogue and communication, to prevent those, regardless of their identity, wishing to exploit the opportunity in their attempt to spread tension, or undermine civil peace.

All praise is to Allah, Lord of all creation

Istanbul, 6-9 January 2011 (1-4 Safar 1432H)

The Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe (FIOE)

Shoura Council