



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Secretariat**

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**Conference Services**

Please find attached the contribution by Mr. Fatih Dursun, Swiss Delegation with regard to plenary session 2 (*Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims*) of the OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding - Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, Romania, Bucharest, 7 - 8 June 2007.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

## **High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, Bucharest, 7 and 8 June 2007**

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to express my thoughts as a Swiss Moslem and a member of the Swiss Federal Commission against Racism (\*) before such a distinguished audience.

The Moslems in the world and in Europe are on the defence because of a very small group of so called Moslems who have selected to express their dissatisfaction with the world order through violence and terror instead of using the available means of expression or protest.

We therefore need the dialogue with other religions since violence exists in all religions. We need solidarity in that area between all of us. We want to remind that a culture or a religion may not be deemed guilty as a punishment to actions of a few.

Even though the Moslem community of Switzerland, which is about 4.5% of the population, is on a good way of integration, the public opinion about this minority has continuous negative tendency in recent years. Particularly, some political parties exploit Islam and Moslems, and create Islamophobia to win the votes. Last example is the new launched public initiative that will forbid in the constitution building minarets in Switzerland. The referendum will take place after 100'000 signatures are collected until October next year. This type of political actions accompanied with high-budget anti-Islam and anti-Moslem campaigns in the media burden to live together in peace.

We expect a different attitude of politics to give us a framework for a forum of constructive dialogue and to give us the confidence and support. We strongly hope that mutual understanding and respect will help us to address the common problems and to jointly find appropriate and sustainable solutions. We European Moslems need to be integrated in Europe and to have the chance to help integrate also non-European Moslems living in Europe.

We need the fair and objective attitude of the media. We expect more professional ethics of the media than commercial interest. We say to the media: Stop to use Islam as a commercial commodity and to base your success on exaggeration and excitation.

We have to learn how to deal with such complex phenomena such as terrorism, which is primarily political, social and psychological and not religious. We endeavour to understand the causes of terrorism and expect other religions, politics and media to be creative with us on how to contribute to their elimination. We want to jointly establish peace between religions and condemn together all forms of violence.

We all need the blessings of God that he may help us to reach the inner peace which is necessary to realize the peace in the European societies in which we live and also in the world.

Thank you.

Fatih Dursun

(\*) <http://www.ekr-cfr.ch>