

## HUMAN DIMENSION SESSIONS OF THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE

Working Session 2 – Intolerance against Migrants

Warsaw, 8 October 2010

After extensive consultations with various NGOs and our own member organizations, COJEP International and European Initiative for Social Cohesion - EMISCO have formulated some recommendations, regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Dimension Sessions of the 2010 Review Conference.

There is sufficient documentation and data collected by respected organizations like the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna that proves that a lack of trust between the Western law enforcement authorities and the Muslim Communities is increasing rapidly. It results in diminishing police action on hate crimes specifically targeting Muslim groups as well as their desire to complain. That is why we have organized this Side Event on; **Civil Society and Law Enforcement Agencies as Partners in Fighting Islamophobic Hate Crimes**

We appreciate and support the actions of the OSCE / ODIHR about Hate Crimes but at present, Hate Crimes against Muslims have gone far beyond this specific context. We therefore are presenting a set of recommendations to be urgently considered

### Recommendations:

- Participating States of the OSCE are requested to adopt a specific OSCE Ministerial Decision on measures that must be taken in order to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims at the local, national, regional and international level.

- States must take all necessary legal measures to ensure a safe environment free from Islamophobic harassment, violence and discrimination in all walks of life;

- We call for the organization of an OSCE High Level Conference on Intolerance against Muslim Communities.

- The upcoming Chairmanship of the OSCE is requested to organize a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Religious Symbols.

- The intolerance must be treated in terms of Human Rights threat, which is tinged with a strong relationship with racism and xenophobia in Europe.

- Special Representatives should be more pro-active, especially M. Mario Mauro who has to be even more vigilant about racism and xenophobia.

- The visits of special representatives in some countries must move beyond hate crimes and also to consider the discriminations, intolerances and racism in daily life.

- The OSCE should monitor and develop its future plans in relation to the current developments of intolerance and discrimination, especially against Muslims.

- States must take in to consideration that hate crimes against Muslims are often fuelled by Islamophobic hate speech in the media, on the Internet and by the politicians.

In the end, it is vital to have a consensus on the definition of Islamophobia to have a more effective implementation of international commitments in this field. We have worked on this issue and our proposal is attached as an annex. We also propose the same in the case of Christianophobia.

**This Statement is supported by:** European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion, Austrian Muslim Initiative, Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en France (CCIF), Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association, The Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), Ethnic Debate Forum and Fair Play- Denmark.

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