

SYMPOSIUM COLLOQUE international

Sous le patronage du secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe
Under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe

Islam en in Europe : formation des cadres, training of executives, éducation religieuse et religious education and enseignement du fait religieux teaching of the religious fact

29-30 mars
March 2010
Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg
Council of Europe in Strasbourg

Presentation

International Symposium:

« Islam in Europe : training of executives, religious education and teaching of the religious fact »

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 29-30 March 2010

We have been witnessing during the last decades a heated debate, not to say controversial, around religion in general and the situation of Islam and Muslims in Europe, in particular. The Muslim faith, which has become an integral component of the social and religious fabric of European societies, moved gradually from the status of a religion of migrants to that of a religion of European citizens.

Newcomer to an increasingly diversified European religious landscape, the Muslim denomination must catch up and bridge its historical gap in view of the established religions, especially in terms of building places of worship, reference frame, education and religious staff. In this respect, the European context is as much a challenge as an opportunity for Islam.

The process of Islam secularization in European countries, marked by a « cultural secularism » and the emergence of new generations of European Muslims, revives again the debate on the concepts of values, ethics and transmission models. Although European countries have taken action to institutionalize Islam, their efforts have not dealt, however, with the issue of determining who, within Islam, is in charge of interpreting and conveying faith and the tenets, through which content and within what structures, to the various generations of Europe's Muslims. What role should the mosque play in this debate?

In parallel to the debate on the training of Muslim religious staff, a problematic may be raised regarding the teaching of Islam to the young generations: should we teach Islam or teach the Muslim culture at schools, or choose a teaching of the history of religions? Should we leave this teaching to Muslim associations, for instance, but what would be the reliability? What structure to deal with this teaching: public school or private school?

Muslims expect from the religious framework to bring to the community a recognition and answers to its expectations. However, the States expect from this framework to convey the norms and values of the residence society to the fellow believers. On this basis, it is legitimate in the eyes of the various stakeholders to raise the problematic of the religious staff coming from the home countries, their training and their knowledge of European societies, but also the issue of the type of cooperation and exchange with institutions and academics of the home countries. In view of such expectations and taking into account various aspects, the current situation is deemed unsatisfactory by both Muslims and institutions, as much for the training of religious staff as for their area of authority.

Based on the above, a responsible debate is necessary on the problematic of teaching Islam, regarding the nature of the educational supply for the young generations, and on the outlines of the training of the Muslim denominational staff who are deemed to perform the role of guides and advisers for Europe's Muslims.

Programme

International Symposium

Islam in Europe: training of executives, religious education and teaching of religious fact

March 29-30, 2010 - Council of Europe - Strasbourg

Sessions of March 30, 2010

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09.00-12.30

Islam in Europe: training of religious executives

Legislation, experiences and perspectives

President: Henk Vroom

Reporter: Nadia Kajjou

- *Centers of training of Muslim religious executives in the European Union*, Juan Ferreiro Galguera, Director General of «the coordination and promotion of religious freedom», Ministry of Justice, Madrid, Spain.
- *Training of Muslim executives in France: challenges and perspectives*, Mohammed Moussaoui, President of French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM), Paris, France.
- *Training of Muslim executives in the Netherlands: Situation and perspectives*, Mohamed Ghaly, teacher at the University of Leiden, Netherlands.

10.30-11.00 : Break

- *Training of Muslim religious executives: the Spanish experience*, Ana Planet Contreras, professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain.
- *From Islamic Education to the training of Muslim executives: the German experience*, Abdussalah El Hamrouni, professor at the University of Münster, Düsseldorf, Germany.
- *The experience of continuous training in «Religious Sciences: Islam» of the UCL*, Brigitte Maréchal, professor at the Louvain Catholic University, Belgium.
- *Train Muslim religious executives within the framework of French secularism*, Bernard Godard, Consultant at the Central Bureau of Cults, affiliated to the Ministry of the Interior, Paris, France.

12.30-14.00 : Lunch

Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad

A national advisory institution

The Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), placed under the authority of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, was established by virtue of the Royal Dahir No. 1.07.208 of 21 December 2007 for an initial four-year term. As an advisory institution with administrative and financial autonomy, the CCME is in charge of monitoring and assessing public policies of the Kingdom as regards its emigrant nationals, ensuring the protection of their rights and enhancing their participation in the political, economic, cultural and social development of the country. The CCME is also entrusted with discharging missions of monitoring and foresight of migration issues and contributing to the development of relations between Morocco, and governments and societies of the countries of residence of Moroccan emigrants.

Terms of reference

The Council shall have a mandate to give its opinion on:

- Preliminary draft bills and by-laws related to emigration issues and matters concerning Moroccans living abroad;
- Basic trends in public policies aimed at enabling Moroccan expatriates to remain committed to their Moroccan identity, especially in respect of teaching languages, religious education and cultural activities;
- Measures to safeguard the rights and advance the interests of Moroccan expatriates, especially those in difficult or precarious situations;
- Means designed to encourage Moroccan expatriates to join institutions, get involved in various areas of national activity and help promote programmes designed to support them;
- Means to upgrade Moroccan expatriates' input in building the capacities of their country of origin, at the national, regional and international levels, and in shoring up its efforts to achieve sustainable human development in a modernised society;
- Developing modern strategies for communication, interaction and cooperation with host countries, at the cultural, human and economic levels.

Composition and organs

The CCME shall be composed in accordance with the transitional provisions in Article 24 of the Dahir No. 1.07.208 of 21 December 2007 of two categories of members: deliberative members (President, the Secretary General and fifty members) and observer members (eleven ministries and national institutions).

The ministries represented are the Ministry of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Economy and Finance, Education, Training and Scientific Research, Youth and Sports, Employment, Social Development, Culture and the Moroccan Expatriates.

Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad

The following institutions are also observer members:

- High Council of Ulemas (Muslims scholars);
- Council of Moroccan ulemas in Europe;
- Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Expatriates;
- Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity;
- Advisory Council on Human Rights;
- Diwan Al Madhalim (ombudsman);
- Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture.

Bodies

To discharge its missions, the CCME rests upon the following permanent bodies:

The general assembly : it shall be composed of all CCME members. It shall discuss in particular:

- The CCME annual or multiannual program, rules of procedure and budget;
- The draft reports, recommendations and advisory opinions submitted to it;
- The requests of his Majesty King Mohamed VI asking the CCME to discuss an urgent business falling within the CCME competence.

The President : he shall be appointed by Royal Dahir for a 6-year renewable term of office. The President shall be in charge of running the CCME and ensuring coordination between its organs and activities. He shall be the CCME spokesperson and the official interlocutor of government authorities, of similar institutions and of international agencies operating in the same areas of competence.

The Secretary-General : he shall be appointed by Dahir for a four-year term of office. He may or may not be a CCME member. He shall ensure the CCME administrative and financial management.

The CCME Bureau : it shall be composed of the President, Secretary General, chairmen/chairwomen of working groups. It helps the president in managing the CCME activities.

The working groups : The General Assembly may set up working groups and determine their areas of competence. They shall elect a chairman/chairwoman and a rapporteur and draw up an activity report and integrate it in the CCME report. The CCME may set up ad-hoc committees which shall look into a specific question each. Six working groups were set up:

1. Citizenship and Political Participation;
2. Cultures, Education and Identities;
3. Gender Approach and New Generations;
4. Administration, User Rights and Public Policies;
5. Scientific, Technical and Economic Skills for Solidarity Development;
6. Religions and Religious Education.