



OIC/ACM/CG-EUROPE/REP-2018
ANNEXE - VIII

**REPORT OF THE
OIC CONTACT GROUP ON MUSLIMS IN EUROPE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL SECRETARIAT, NEW YORK
26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Report of the Contact Group on Muslims in Europe
New York
26 September 2018

1. The Contact Group on Muslims in Europe of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held their meeting on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting on 24 September 2018 in New York, USA, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Secretary General Dr Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen.
2. Statements were heard from the OIC Secretary General and members of the OIC Contact Group.
3. The Meeting reviewed the conditions of Muslims in Europe since the last meeting of the Contact Group and reiterated support for the community, with full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of European nations.
4. The Meeting called for the OIC and its Member States to continue to maintain interest in the conditions of Muslims in Europe.
5. The Meeting expressed concern at the rising anti-Muslim sentiment, Islamophobia, and right-wing extremism in Europe. The meeting also reiterated the principled position of the OIC to condemn extremism, terrorism and all forms of violence, which threatens the peace, security, and stability in the countries in Europe.
6. The Meeting commended the Secretary General for engaging in dialogue with the European Union, and other international organizations, political leaders and civil society to raise awareness over the dangers of Islamophobia.
7. The Meeting took note of the OIC Engagement Strategy for Muslims in Europe in the report of the Secretariat and requested the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to assist in its implementation as a way of contributing to the welfare of Muslim communities in Europe.
8. The Meeting requested the Member States, OIC financial institutions, particularly the IDB, and other OIC institutions to provide the necessary assistance for the implementation of the OIC engagement strategy and other long term development of programs for Muslims in Europe, particularly for the youth.
9. The Meeting invited Member States within the framework of their bilateral cooperation with European countries to raise the challenges facing Muslims in Europe.
10. The Meeting called upon institutions such as ISESCO and IRCICA to take necessary measures to identify, preserve and protect the Islamic cultural heritage of Muslims in Europe.

11. The Meeting called on Muslim community leaders in Europe to intensify efforts to engage with Muslim youth and promote positive teaching of the noble Islamic faith which call for peace, tolerance and inclusivity and harmony.

12. The Meeting welcomed the positive steps taken by the Secretary General with OIC offices in Brussels and Geneva and urged all parties to intensify their efforts in this regard.