PRESS RELEASE

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TWO EUROPES, ONE DAY

EMISCO warns against the normalisation of anti-Muslim suspicion

Warsaw / Strasbourg, 8 October 2026 - At the OSCE/ODIHR Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, EMISCO's side event and plenary contribution called for tolerance, equality and freedom of religion or belief. On the same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution under the banner of combating so-called “Islamist entryism” and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood network, by 381 votes to 167, with 15 abstentions.

The resolution claims to target so-called “political Islamist networks”, calling for scrutiny of financing, transparency of foreign funding, restrictions on institutional access and assessment of whether particular entities meet EU terrorist-list criteria. Its supporters present the distinction between political Islam and Islam as a faith as a safeguard. **EMISCO considers that this framing masks an exclusionary approach to Muslim communities' visible, equal and free participation in European life.**

Violent and unlawful activities are already subject to existing law and the investigative, preventive and prosecutorial responsibilities of security services and judicial authorities. This provides no justification for collective suspicion towards Muslim citizens or civil society. Though not legally binding, the resolution risks encouraging national restrictions on lawful civic participation.

These concerns extend beyond one country. FRA's 2024 Being Muslim in the EU report documents discrimination across 13 Member States, including France. Among surveyed Muslims, Austria, Germany and Finland recorded the highest rates of racial discrimination; Denmark also recorded high levels in employment. These findings call for European scrutiny that respects different national contexts.

Left-wing Members of the European Parliament and some civil society organisations, including ENAR, condemned the resolution, warning that presenting legitimate Muslim civil society and human rights groups as linked to extremism and as a threat would reinforce Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice. EMISCO shares this concern: solidarity with Palestine, defending headscarf rights, advocating measures for Muslim women's equal participation and combating discrimination are legitimate civic activities, not evidence of extremism.

EMISCO warns that repeatedly depicting Muslim community initiatives as a fabricated political Islam project without a factual basis also targets Muslims without a migrant background. The danger is broader exclusion of Muslims and their communities from civic life. **Europe cannot defend tolerance in Warsaw while allowing suspicion and exclusion to gain institutional legitimacy in Strasbourg. Defending one's rights must never become grounds for suspicion.**

EMISCO calls on OSCE/ODIHR, FRA, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, ECRI, UN human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions to coordinate monitoring, independent assessments, public reporting and effective follow-up within their mandates. Policies must rest on verifiable evidence, individual responsibility, proportionality and effective remedies. Human rights organisations, anti-racist associations and civil society must also mobilise.

Europe must heed the warning of the Nuremberg Laws: discrimination must never be legitimised through law. **No European citizen can afford silence when genuine equality and shared values are at stake. We must speak out together for a free, prosperous Europe where everyone can live in dignity.** Human rights cannot be selective; equality cannot be conditional.

“If we remain silent today, we may be paving the way for a much colder and darker morning tomorrow.”
Veysel Filiz, EMISCO Spokesperson

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Sources: FRA (2024) | EP vote (8 October 2026) | ENAR statement (8 October 2026)