

**N.B.:** This Article has been linguistically modified by the **Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs**

*Egypt Islamic Conference: Renovation of the Islamic Thought is the first step towards improving the Muslims own situation*

Cairo - Under the auspices of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the honorary presidency of the Grand Sheikh Al-Azhar, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, and chaired by Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Hamdi Zakzouk, Minister of Al-'Awqaf and head of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Islamic Conference has been organized in Egypt.



Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo

Over 400 scholars, scientists and representatives of non-governmental organizations from over 80 countries attended the annual Islamic conference held in Cairo, including the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, whose Secretary Aiman A. Mazyek is already among the conference's participants for the last four years.



Aiman A. Mazyek, Secretary General of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany at the Conference of Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo

Over 25 ministers of Islamic affairs were involved with speech, including, the Saudi, Jordanian and Turkish ministers of Islamic Affairs. From Europe and America, about 30 representatives of Islamic organizations.

Egyptian Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmad Nazeef has delivered the opening speech of the President of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, which deals with the theme "Renovation of the Islamic Thought" where he warned that the efforts for the renewal of Islamic thought must not slacken, and that "thinking is the first step towards improving the situation which contributes significantly to a positive change in the environment."

Similarly, expressed His Eminence the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sayyed Tantawy that "The renewal of Islamic thought and is obviously very welcomed. The major Sheikh of a considerable importance defines the fact that this happens "at the service of humanity."

Different speakers followed, including the Christian top representative of Egypt, and senior clergyman of the Egyptian Coptic Church His Sanctity Pope Shenouda III Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of Saint Mark Episcopate.

Guest of honor at this conference was the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

Prof. Ihsanoglu, who is of Turkish descent, was explicit in his speech to the Muslims in the West.

Repeatedly he warned Europe against the new racism: Islamophobia. This dangerous phenomenon can not be underestimated. The OIC Secretary General and the Islamic countries observe with concern the increasing personal attacks on Muslims and their institutions such as mosques or schools." Ihsanoglu lamented the discrimination of Muslims and the growing Islamophobia in the public and the media. He appealed for the address of the Muslims and their efforts towards reconciliation and dialogue.

Thanks to various banquets and the small panels held at parallel by the Minister of the "Al-Awqaf" Mahmoud Hamdi Zakzouk where there was enough time for participants in individual meetings to exchange ideas and deepens the themes of the plenary.

Traditionally, closed the conference with an invitation from the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt to an official state celebration of the Prophet Birthday.



Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqzouk, Minister of Al-'Awqaf "; Sheikh / Ben Saleh Abdel-Aziz Aal-el-Sheikh, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Islamic Affairs and the Grand Sheikh Al-Azhar Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi (from left to right)



Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar receives a delegation from the Vatican at the conference in Cairo