المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

3 January 1995

Mr Berhard Rhein
Director General
Middle East Section
European Commission

Dear Mr Rhein,

We are anxious to develop relations between ourselves and the European Union with a view to promoting better understanding between the Muslim world and the West. I feel that there is much unnecessary misunderstanding on both parts which is exacerbated by inaccurate reporting and comment in some sections of the media.

Allow me to tell you a little about the Islamic Council. We have been established now for many years and our major aims are to explain what Islam stands for and to promote cooperation and understanding between the West and the Muslim world. To further these aims, we have, amongst other activities, written and published books and declarations , for example the Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights (1981) and A Model of an Islamic Constitution (1983)- please find copies enclosed. (I am arranging to send you a small selection of our books under separate cover). We have also organised major international conferences both in Europe and in Muslim countries, please see the list attached.

We have strong links with Muslim organisations in Europe and throughout the Muslim world, and with their leaders, and I believe that we are very well placed to further cooperation and respect between the Muslim people and the people of Europe. It is our belief that relations between the two can be much improved with greater understanding, greater respect by each for the rights and views of the other, leading to a greater tolerance of the rights of minority groups in society.

We should be pleased to cooperate with you in this important work, and I am at your service for anyway in which we might further the ends summarised in this letter.

With my best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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