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## Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

### European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) Questionnaire

**Ms Doris FIALA**  
**Switzerland, ALDE**

**Rapporteur of the Committee on:**

***Regulating foreign funding of Islam in Europe  
in order to prevent radicalisation and Islamophobia***

## **Title: Foreign funding of Islam in Europe**

Ms Doris Fiala, Swiss parliamentarian, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, was appointed Rapporteur on *Assessing the political consequences of foreign funding of Islam in Europe* by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the PACE.

As you will see on reading the enclosed outline report, the objective is both to take stock of our current state of knowledge and to distinguish between what is based on unfounded suspicion, or even Islamophobia – foreign funding of religions does not solely concern Islam, however it is that aspect which is currently most debated – and what may, quite rightly, raise concerns for public authorities and the general public, especially when foreign funding originates from radical organisations.

This is why we are sending you this questionnaire, which should make it possible, thanks to the answers you may provide, to carry out a real comparative inventory of the available data on the funding of religions, and in particular the Muslim religion, within member countries of the Council.

The responses to this questionnaire will also allow me to clarify the balance to be struck between transparency and respect for human rights, whether in connection with the right to freedom of religion or anonymity of donors.

### **Questionnaire**

1. Does your country have data collected on a regular and/or formal basis (reporting requirements, publication of annual public subsidies, etc.) giving an insight into the funding sources for different religions and their breakdown (public/private and national/foreign)?
2. If so, what areas are covered (construction of religious buildings, payment of religious officials' salaries, cultural, sports or charitable activities, establishing and running private schools, religious visitors in hospitals or the armed forces, etc.)?
3. In your country have ad hoc data been made available in the last five years concerning the funding sources of religions (parliamentary reports, expert reports commissioned by public authorities, academic work, public and/or declassified reports by the intelligence services, etc.)?
4. If so, what have these data revealed regarding foreign funding of Islam in your country and to what extent has it been shown to be similar/dissimilar to foreign funding of other religions?
5. Does your country's legislation require religious worship to be financially independent and/or does it regulate foreign funding of religions and, if so, in what way?
6. With regard to the funding of religions, does your country's legislation make distinctions according to whether funding originates from private or public donors (for example, a disclosure obligation, a requirement concerning the utilisation of public funds)?
7. Similarly, as regards funding of religions, does your country's legislation distinguish between donations from nationals (natural or legal persons) and donations from foreign natural or legal persons, including governments?
8. Whether for religious worship or activities that are not directly religious (running religious schools, cultural, charitable or sports activities, etc.), the legal form used is sometimes merely an association. What transparency requirements does your legislation impose in such matters?

**Deadline for receipt of responses: 6 October 2017**