

Semaine de Rencontres Islamo-Chrétiennes
Rencontre bilan 2009-Objectifs 2010
22 et 23 janvier 2010

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to reflecting on the following questions :

What is specific about Islamic-Christian dialogue today? How important does the development of a yearly Islamo-Christian week throughout Europe seem to you ?

❖ What is specific about Islamic-Christian dialogue today ?

Inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogues are a growing phenomenon, which is only natural in a more and more secularized world, if we hope to live together in harmony despite our multiple identities. However, developing an Islamo-Christian dialogue is of the most fundamental importance for the world today and for Europe in particular :

- Due to the numerical weight of both Islam and Christianity : Christians and Muslims together represent half the world's population,
- Depending on the country, Islam's presence in Europe is more or less recent and more or less important,
- Despite all they share, Christians have a more or less negative image of Islam and Muslims have a predominately negative view of Christianity,
- European populations in general, whether secularized or not, share this negative view of Islam,
- Muslims, from whatever country, tend to assimilate Christianity and the West.

Developing these encounters should contribute to altering the vision that Christians have of Islam, that Muslims have of Christianity and that a growing number of Europeans have of religions in general.

- Deepening our knowledge and understanding of each-other
- Broadening our historical awareness of the relations between East and West, between Islam and Christianity
- Developing a common stand on issues which believers and humanists can share in

❖ How important does the development of a yearly Islamo-Christian Week (SERIC) throughout Europe seem to you ?

The development of the Week of Islamo-Christian Encounters (SERIC) at the European level is an occasion to communicate on those joint events that already exist in numerous European cities, as well as the opportunity to further their extension and growth. It allows us to:

- Show that Islamo-Chrétien Dialogue has an important following today
- Consecrating a whole week to these events gives them prominence. It induces a new awareness, it makes our interreligious actions a normal part of the city's life. Little by little, we can hope the SERIC happenings will penetrate the surrounding mentalities and media...
- Giving the SERIC a European dimension makes it an overall contribution, notwithstanding the diversity of the situations and the styles the events may have locally.
- The fact that these events are organized jointly by Christians and Muslims makes it clear that believers of both religions have consideration for each-other. Both communities have something to gain from knowing each-other better.
-
- We hope to enrich our Week of Islamo-Christian Encounters
- By including in this week happenings that could have been planned for other dates
- By making use of all the means of communication offered by the net : portals, facebook, blogs...
- By taking stock of the impact our activities have had.

Dates of the SERIC for 2010 : 18th to 28th of November