European Council for Fatwa and Research

Statement on

Determining the Start of the Month of Shawal the year 1431 Hijri.

1) The accurate astronomical calculations confirm that the crescent of the month of Shawal for the year 1431 Hijri will be born at 10:30am GMT on Wednesday 8th September 2010. This is at 1:30pm according to Makkah Al-Mukarramah local time.

2) The astronomical studies show that sighting of the moon is possible in several countries in Latin America according to the conditions adopted by the European Council for Fatwa and Research in its nineteenth session held in Istanbul (8th – 12th Rajab 1430 Hijri, 30th June – 4th July 2009).

3) In the city of Saint Diego the sun sets at 18:29 while the moon sets at 19:04, that is 35 minutes after sunset. The crescent's position above the horizon will be more than 6 degrees. In the city of Córdoba, Argentine, the sun will set at 19:05 and the moon sets at 19:37, that is 32 minutes after sunset and its position above the horizon is more than 5 degrees.

4) Based on these conditions and the decision passed by the International Fiqh Academy, resolution number 18, during its third assembly in 1986 which stated that there is no importance in the difference in sighting-zones (La 'ibra fi Ikhtilaf Al-matali')[1] due to the generality of the speech ('umum Al-Khitab) of the prophet PBUH[2]: "Fast by seeing it and end the fast by seeing it"[3] the first day of Shawal for the year 1431 Hijri (the first day of blessed Eid Al-fitr) shall be by the will of Allah (the most high) on Thursday 9th September 2010.

We ask Allah (the all high) to make it a month of goodness, blessing and glory for Islam and Muslims.

On behalf of the European Council for Fatwa and Research

Dr. Muhammad Al-Hawari

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[1] i.e. if sighted in any zone, it is binding for all other zones.
[2] PBUH = Peace be upon him.
[3] Reported by Bukhari and Muslim.