

Middle East – Europe Think Tank (MEET)

...for bridge building and influence

International events the last 10 years have damaged decades of good relations between the countries in the Middle East and Europe. But indeed and generally between the West and the entire Muslim World.

The rise of anti Islamic tendencies especially in the last 5 years throughout Europe – in despite of the millions of Muslim origins living in Europe – have rapidly hijacked the agenda regarding relations between the Arab/Muslim countries and the European/Western countries.

Therefore the need to build bridges between Denmark/Europe/the West and the Middle East/Muslim world is greater than ever before.

In the Danish – and the western media in general - disseminated virtually only negative stories about the Middle East and the Muslim World.

Positive articles and stories in the press are missing in both Denmark and Europe. It is a fact that information work for both worlds and cultures is lagging tremendously.

The purpose of the following paper is to initiate a process of 2 years duration to establish a Think Tank working on the issues of bridge building between the West and the Muslim World.

Beside that, the Think Tank will also initiate a real and serious needed work for lobbying politicians and decision makers in Europe.

The Think Tank will adopt projects and efforts that would mobilize private funds for continued dialogue and bridge building between Denmark/Europe and the Muslim world, where the emphasis is on a nuance of the stereotyped media images. But also on the good stories and positive images of both worlds must be shown to both peoples and cultures. The ambition is to establish long and continuous efforts that are designed to bring Denmark/Europe and the Muslim world closer to each other.

To ensure continuity in the efforts to build bridges and create a greater understanding between Denmark/Europe and the Muslim world, it is necessary to collect all the threads that appear to have gathered around the interest in an enhanced and sustained effort.