

The General Secretariat of the European Council for Fatwa and Research

**A statement Re. the commencement of Ramadan and Shauwal
1446HJ – 2025 CE**

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds and may Allah's peace, blessings and mercy be upon our prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and those who follow his guidance until the Day of Judgment.

The General Secretariat of the European Council for Fatwa and Research would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all Muslims to hold fast to Allah's religion together and to be united in full conformity with the verse in which Allah states:

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ
بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا..... (Al – Imran /103)

“Hold on firmly together to the rope of God, and be not divided among yourselves, and remember the favours God bestowed on you when you were one another's foe and He reconciled your hearts, and you turned into brethren through His grace.”
(3:103)

The General Secretariat of the European Council for Fatwa and Research is praying to Allah for the acceptance of Muslims' fasting, *Salah*, and their entire good deeds, and making these blessed days full of goodness and graces for His worshippers all over the globe, for indeed He is well-able to achieve all of this.

Regarding Ramadan's and Shuwal's crescent 1446HJ – 2025CE, based on the stipulations adopted by the United Hijra Chronology in its first session held in Istanbul in the period 26-29 Dhul-Hijja 1389HJ corresponding to 27-30 November

1978, and the confirmation made by the International Fiqh Academy in its 18th resolution issued in the third session held in 1986, based on the stipulations adopted by the ECFR in a resolution taken in its 19th session held in the period 08-12 Rajab 1430HJ corresponding to 30th of June – 4th of July 2009, what was issued by the Scientific Seminar on the commencement of the lunar months and the lunar chronology held in Paris in the period 12-13 of Rabi Al-Auwal 1433HJ corresponding to 4-5 of February 2012 and attended by a great number of Islamic and astronomy scholars, who deliberated on a number of studies of Fiqh and astronomy, what was issued by the International Conference on Proving the Commencement of the Lunar Months by Islamic and Astronomy Scholars conducted in the period 19-21 of Rabi Al-Auwal 1433HJ corresponding to 11-13 of February 2012 by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), and what was issued by the Conference of Unifying the Hijri chronology held in Istanbul in the period 21-23 of Sha’ban 1437 corresponding to 28-30 of May 2016, in which more than 70 countries, departments of religious endowments, and Fatwa governorates were represented by officials. It was attended by scholars, jurists and astronomers in addition to representatives of the world’s Fiqh academies that agreed on fundamental criteria among which is the following:

In essence, fasting during the month of Ramadan becomes incumbent upon Muslims by the commencement of the month of Ramadan, provided that it is proved by means of certainty. Scientific astronomical calculations inform us of the timing of true sighting of the crescent in a definitive way in advance. They can never contradict a true sighting of crescent. The theory that different locations mean different dates is irrelevant since the Prophet’s address is expressed in general terms: “Observe fasting, when seeing it and break fasting, when seeing it.” Agreed

upon Also the Prophet, peace be upon him, says: “The day of fasting is the day you fast and the day of breaking the fast is the day you break your fast and the day of sacrifice is the day you offer your sacrificial animals.” Reported by Abu Dauud and Ibn Majjah. At-Tirmithi ranked it as Sahih.

Based on the above-mentioned, the general Secretariat announces the following:

1-Precise astronomical calculations for the crescent of Ramadan 1446 HJ confirm that the conjunction will occur at 00:45 (12:45 AM) UTC (Greenwich Mean Time) on Friday, February 28, 2025, corresponding to the 29th of Sha’ban 1446 HJ, which is equivalent to 03:45 AM local time in Mecca.

2- Therefore, the crescent can be sighted after sunset on the 29th of Sha’ban 1446 HJ from any location on Earth, either with the naked eye or using telescopes and observation equipment.

Therefore, the first day of the blessed month of Ramadan 1446 HJ, Insha’Allah, will be on Saturday, March 1st, 2025.

Regarding Shuwal's crescent 1446HJ – 2025CE

- 1- Accurate astronomical calculations of Shuwal's crescent 1446HJ confirm that the waning of the moon will be at 10:58 AM UTC (Greenwich Mean Time) on Saturday, March 29, 2025, corresponding to the 29th of Ramadan 1446 HJ, which is equivalent to 1:58 PM local time in Mecca.
- 2- Therefore, the crescent of Shawwal 1446 AH can be sighted after sunset on Saturday, March 29, 2025, corresponding to the 29th of Ramadan 1446 AH, in North America and the northern part of South America, either with the naked eye or using telescopes and observation equipment.

Therefore, the first day of Shawwal i.e. Eid-ul-Fitr 1446HJ will be on Sunday the 30th March 2025.

We pray to Allah that the month of Ramadan commences, while Muslims are enjoying prosperity and blessings.

May Allah accept our and your good deeds.

The General Secretariat of the European Council for Fatwa and Research