



# Islamic Finance and Halal Industry in Europe

## Challenges, common arenas and meeting points

Mediterranean Food, Tourism & Lifestyle Exhibition

IFEMA (Madrid Exhibition Center) Pavilion 2 (Parque Ferial Juan Carlos I, s/n), Madrid,  
11<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

With assets that surpass the 1.8 billion in US dollars globally, the development of Islamic banking and finance in Europe has generated great expectations in the last years from different sectors, from infrastructure and project finance to international trade and local mortgage markets. With 6 fully Sharia compliant banks and 20 international banks working in Islamic finance, in the last years UK has become leader of the industry in Europe, although not always without difficulties and uncertainty, especially now when international capital may reconsider its strategies of investment after June's Referendum. The potential and challenges of growth for Islamic finance in other countries of Europe, including France and Spain, in the aftermath of the Brexit, needs to be explored and evaluated.

Part of the whole halal provision chain, the access to Islamic finance can become a key distinctive component in promoting halal products and services among Muslim communities inside and outside Europe. In this way, the branding and marketing of Islamic finance as part of other alternatives forms of finance needs to take into account the particular characteristics of every market and context.

Organized in the context of the Expo Halal 2016, the objective of these series of talks and roundtables will be to discuss the challenges and prospects of Islamic finance as part of the Halal industry in Europe, also in development.

### PROGRAM

10:00 *Islamic Finance and capital raising in the Halal sectors*

Introduction: **José Antonio Rodríguez**, Marimón Abogados

Guest speaker: **Akmal Saalem**, CEO, Maarij Capital

11:00 *Ethical and Islamic Finance: branding and marketing alternative finance in multicultural contexts*

Moderator: **Tomás Guerrero**, Associate Researcher, IE Business School; Head of Madrid Office, Instituto Halal

Speakers:

**Laurent Marliere**, Director General, IsFin

**Gonzalo Rodríguez Marín**, General Coordinator, Spanish-Saudi Islamic Economic and Finance Center (SCIEF)

**Pilar Sánchez González**, ESIC Business & Marketing School of Madrid

12:00 *Coffee break*

12:30 *Islamic finance in Europe after the Brexit: challenges and opportunities outside UK*

Moderator: **Olivia Orozco**, coordinator of Education and Economics, Casa Árabe

**Pierre-Charles Pradier**, Professor of Economics and Finance, University Paris 1 – Sorbonne

**Radi Hamudeh**, Executive Manager, BMCE Bank International

**Khaled Zarrugh**, Chairman & Head of the Islamic Finance Consulting Committee, Central Bank of Libya