



COREIS  
COMUNITÀ  
RELIGIOSA  
ISLAMICA  
ITALIANA



20 YEARS OF DIALOGUE



## TWENTY YEARS OF DIALOGUE WHAT DIALOGUE?

For eight centuries Islam was not visibly present in Italy, and many people would still like to confine it to a very special historical period like that of Frederick II in the Kingdom of Sicily.

The recent wave of immigration to Italy, which started in the 1980s, has been the cause of an important Islamic presence once again. It would, however, be reductive to continue to regard these events from the historical, quantitative, sociological and anthropological points of view without taking into account their effective spiritual significance in the cycle of time.

In the last twenty years, the Italian Muslims belonging to COREIS (Comunità Religiosa Islamica) Italiana have witnessed a number of epoch-making changes that have renewed in Westerners their memory of their own sacred origins, which are also present in Judaism and Christianity, and, in Orientals, a renewed intellectual vision of the Islamic religion.

This was the original intention behind the foundation of an association of native-born Muslims that has organized numerous conferences, university lectures and training courses, and promoted publications.

Distant from any proselytism, which is unfortunately rife in all religious misconceptions, dialogue has become the antidote to ideological exploitation and the preferred means of recognizing the validity of the other religions.

As the founder of COREIS, Shaykh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini, put it, the metaphysical reference to the value of the dialogue in the continuous quest for a more fundamental knowledge of reality, «Is the testimony of the universality of Islam, conveyed to our compatriots by the presence of us Italian Muslims, which prevents our co-religionists from feeling they are condemned to always being immigrants in this world that belongs to the One God, the one and the same for all of us, “the Lord of the East and the West” (Koran 73:9), the geographical and spiritual poles between which we ask to be helped to form a bridge».

President Shaykh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini  
(on the right) with the President of the  
Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano



# AL-WAHID MOSQUE IN MILAN

In 2000, with the unanimous approval of all the political parties, Milan City Council permitted the construction of the Al-Wahid Mosque – the second official mosque in Italy after the one in Rome – inside the COREIS headquarters at Via Giuseppe Meda 9 in Milan.

In the Al-Wahid Mosque there is a training school for Italian imams who deliver sermons in Italian every Friday.

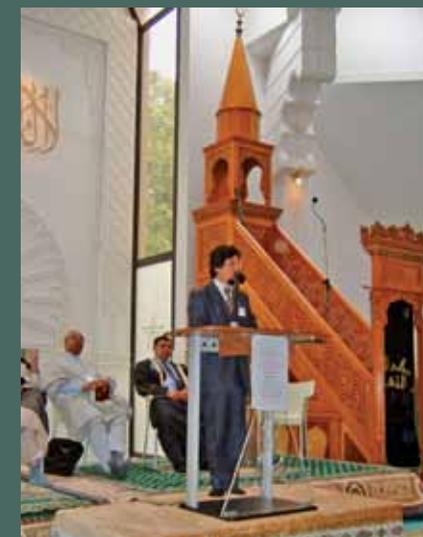
At the same time, COREIS Italiana has had a great deal of experience with the immigrant communities, including the Turkish, Pakistani, Moroccan, Bosnian and Senegalese ones. This bears witness to the universal nature of Islam, which unites different peoples in a single community, the *ummah*, irrespective of their national, ethnic and cultural origins.



Abd as Sabur Turrini (Director General) presents the project of Al-Wahid Mosque to Roberto Jarach, Vice President of UCEI (Union of Italian Jewish Communities)



Imam Yahya Pallavicini (Vice President) at the Grand Mosque of Lyon



Meeting at the Grand Mosque of Rome during the annual event called “Week of Islamic Culture” (2011)



# COUNCIL FOR ITALIAN ISLAM

Since 2006 Yahya Pallavicini, imam of the *Al-Wahid* Mosque, has been invited to become a member of the Council for Italian Islam set up by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the only official body catering for a cooperation with Muslims in Italy.

The fruitful collaboration with, firstly, the minister of Internal Affairs Giuseppe Pisanu, then with the minister Giuliano Amato and in 2010 with the minister Roberto Maroni, is indicative of the need for an institutional dialogue.

Already in 1996 COREIS had filed with the Ministry of the Interior the draft of an official agreement with the Italian state and an application for legal status as a non-profit organization for the Islamic religion, obtaining the approval of the Council of State in 2002.



Imam Yahya Pallavicini with Minister  
of Internal Affairs Giuliano Amato (2007)

# INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

COREIS has always focused on promoting interreligious dialogue, especially with the Jewish community and the Catholic Church, thanks to its president, Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahid Pallavicini, who was present in Assisi in 1986 at the ecumenical meeting organized by Pope John Paul II.

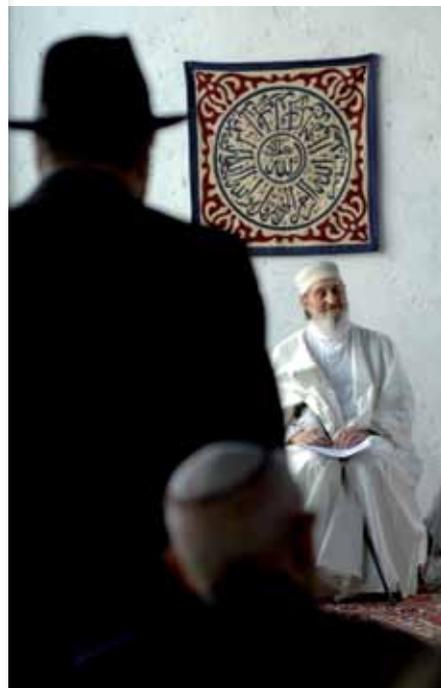
In line with this approach, COREIS decided to participate, as the only representatives of Italian Islam, in the three world congresses of Imams and Rabbis for Peace, the last of which, entitled "Israel-Palestine: the Sacredness of Peace", was held in Paris in 2008 as part of the interreligious programme of UNESCO.

In the same spirit of fraternity and collaboration, COREIS has staged a series of meetings in Italy entitled "Italian Imams and Rabbis in Dialogue", which took place in 2007 and 2008 in six Italian cities, in collaboration with the Italian Rabbinical Assembly.

With regard to the Islamic-Christian dialogue, COREIS has taken part in the initiatives of the group of 138 international Muslim scholars, clerics and intellectuals who, in 2007, sent a letter entitled "A Common Word between Us and You" to all the Christian authorities in the world.

Yahya Pallavicini, together with representatives of the other signatories of the letter, participated in the first Islamic-Catholic Forum, which was held in the Vatican in November 2008 in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI.

In December 2008, as recognition «for their noble contribution to the development of the intercultural and interreligious dialogue promoted for over twenty years», the Mayor of Milan conferred the Certificate of Civic Merit, the Ambrogino Award, on COREIS Italiana.





mem e nabini 2008  
**il rispetto  
e l'amore  
per il prossimo**

**Mercoledì 14 maggio, ore 17.00**  
Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose  
Giovanni XXIII, Sala Atrio  
Bologna, via San Vitale, 114



**Introduce e modera**  
Prof. Alberto Melloni  
Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia  
FSCIRE, Giovanni XXIII

**Intervengono**  
Imam Yusuf Pisani  
CO.RE.IS. Italiana - Emilia Romagna  
Rav. Alberto Scammata  
Rabbino Capo di Bologna  
Prof. Pier Cesare Bori  
Università di Bologna

**ISLAM  
CRISTIANESIMO  
E COSTITUZIONE**  
CRISTIANI E MUSULMANI  
A CONFRONTO  
CON LA LAICITÀ  
DELLO STATO

**YAHYA ABD AL-WAHID ZAWQI**  
Responsabile CO.RE.IS. per il Trentino,  
**IMBERTO COCCHI**  
Responsabile per la Sezione di Padova  
**RODOLFO ROMAN JORDANO**  
Direttore Generale, Associazione Islamica  
**NICOLA GIUSEPPE CALO NASTOLINI**  
Direttore Nazionale, Associazione Islamica  
**MICHELE WILLIAM JORDAN**  
Chiesa Metodista d'Italia  
**PIETRO SANDO GALLA COSTA**  
Direttore di ricerca, Istituto Nazionale di Studi e Ricerche

**SABATO 27 OTTOBRE ORE 20.30**  
CO.RE.IS. ITALIANA - Sala di viale di Cesare al Venezia



**CONCERTO DEL SUKUN ENSEMBLE**  
**GIOVEDÌ 24 MAGGIO ORE 21.00**  
ROMA - TEATRO GHIONE  
VIA DELLE FORNACI 37

**MAESTRI SPIRITUALI  
MESSAGGERI DI  
CONOSCENZA INTERIORE**  
PROF. EMERITO BROCCOLI  
Professore emerito di Storia della Letteratura e della Cultura  
PROF. KENAN GURSOY  
Professore emerito di Lettere e Lingue  
RAV JACK BEMFORAD  
Professore emerito di Lettere e Lingue  
PADRE GIOVANNI RIZZI  
Professore emerito di Lettere e Lingue  
SHAYKH 'ABD AL-WAHID FALLACI  
Prof. emerito di Lettere e Lingue

**Il Sacro e la Pace**  
22 gennaio 2009 / ore 10.00 Milano / Castello Sforzesco / Sala dei Pilastri

La CO.RE.IS. ITALIANA (Comunità Religiosa Islamica) promuove un incontro/dibattito con la cittadinanza. Parteciperanno rappresentanti del Governo italiano e delle istituzioni locali, autorità religiose dell'Ebraismo, del Cristianesimo, dell'Islam e personalità della società civile italiana. L'urgenza di salvaguardare la dignità sacrale dell'uomo e la necessità di costruire modelli di coesistenza pacifica e cittadinanza democratica costituiscono le premesse di una dichiarazione di responsabilità spirituale e civile che i musulmani moderati, ecumenici e italiani intendono presentare a tutti i cittadini di ogni religione e cultura attraverso un Appello.

**A SUFI MASTER'S MESSAGE  
IN MEMORIAM RENÉ GUÉNON**  
IL MESSAGGIO DI UN MAESTRO SUFI  
DA MAESTRO A DISCEPOLO  
DI PADRE IN FIGLIO

**AL-GHAZALI**  
1058 - 1105  
VENERDI 2 DICEMBRE 2011  
SALA DEI MOSTRI - GALLERIA NUOVA  
19.00 ORE - INGRESSO LIBERO  
INSTRUMENTI DI MUSICA ARABICA  
E TURCA

**CRISTIANI  
E MUSULMANI:  
L'UOMO,  
L'ETICA,  
E LA NATURA**  
Martedì 27 ottobre 2009 / ore 19.30  
Venerdì 12 / Sala Ex Chiesa San Francesco

Palermo 6-7 maggio 1997

**l'Italia e l'Islam**

MASTER DI I LIVELLO

**ATTUALITÀ E STORIA  
DELLE RELIGIONI  
DEL MEDITERRANEO**

Master internazionale per l'anno 2011-2012  
a cura di Paolo di Lorenzo e Paolo di Lorenzo  
Scienze Politiche dell'Università degli Studi di Genova, in  
collaborazione con:  
CO.RE.IS. Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana  
l'Accademia I.S.A. (International Studies Academy)  
il Comitato Ebraico di Genova  
e l'Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose di Genova.

Si tratta di un percorso di studi innovativo, grazie al coinvolgimento diretto delle diverse rappresentanze delle Religioni Abrahamiche, volto a formare giovani politici, formatori, amministratori e intellettuali ma anche quadri aziendali e dirigenti nel settore della sanità, del commercio, dell'edilizia e dell'industria, alla relazione concreta ed attuale con le comunità religiose fortemente radicate nel Mediterraneo, evidenziando gli aspetti culturali, geopolitici, filosofici e culturali ma anche le problematiche di relazione con il contesto laico e con le nuove istanze democratiche emergenti.

**COREIS  
COMUNITÀ  
RELIGIOSA  
ISLAMICA  
ITALIANA**  
20 YEARS  
1993 - 2013  
OF DIALOGUE

**A Sufi Master's Message**  
In Memoriam René Guénon

Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahid Pallavicini

YAHYA PALLAVICINI (ed.)  
**La Sura di Maria**  
Traduzione e commento  
del capitolo 31 del Corano

EDIZIONI QUATTRO VENTI

# INTERNATIONAL ROLE

Mention should be also made of the fruitful relations established with the leading international institutions of the Islamic world, including ISESCO, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, forming part of OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation, formerly Organization of the Islamic Conference), the most important Islamic institution, with over fifty member states with which a bilateral agreement was signed in 1997; since 2005 COREIS has assumed the presidency of its Council for Education and Culture in the West.

With regard to policies for religious freedom, integration and prevention of radicalism, COREIS has participated in a programme of cultural exchanges for European Muslim leaders organized by the American Department of State and has also taken part in numerous initiatives all over the world, in the following cities: New York (UN), Washington (Migration Policy Institute), Rome (International Organisation for Migration), Berlin (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung), Davos (World Economic Forum), Brussels (European Commission), Baku (Council of Europe), Vienna (OSCE, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and, also in Vienna, it participated in the Conference of European Imams, promoted by the European Commission.

In 2009, the president of European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, included Imam Yahya Pallavicini among the European religious leaders invited to take part in a meeting focusing on the ethical contribution to governance in view of the economic and financial crisis.

H.E. Abd al-Aziz Uthman Al Twajiri,  
Director General of ISESCO  
(second from right)



Meeting with Farah Pandith  
of the United States Secretary  
of State at Al-Wahid Mosque  
(2010)



# SOCIAL COMMITMENT

In 2006 the World Economic Forum invited the vice-president of COREIS, Yahya Pallavicini, to participate in the C-100 (Council of One Hundred Leaders) West-Islamic Dialogue in preparation for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum – involving leading representatives of the political, business and academic worlds, and civil society – in Davos, and the subsequent meeting on the Middle East in Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt.

As a result of these meetings, a new work group of COREIS Italiana prepared a commentary on the third chapter – “Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society” – of Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical entitled Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth).

At the same time, the ethical committee of COREIS drew up the rules and regulations for halal certification of food products, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. More recently, special certification has been made available for the products of Islamic finance, health care and services for the tourist industry.

In 2010, the Italian foreign minister, Franco Frattini, involved the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies in the signing of an inter-institutional agreement aimed at ensuring the necessary support for the Halal Italia project promoted by COREIS.

In 2012, on the occasion of the Week of Islamic Culture, sponsored by the Municipality of Rome, COREIS and ISESCO organized a forum on the economy and integration, intended to promote the first network of cooperation between Italy and the Islamic world in the fields of financial investment, foreign trade and international relations between politicians and entrepreneurs in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

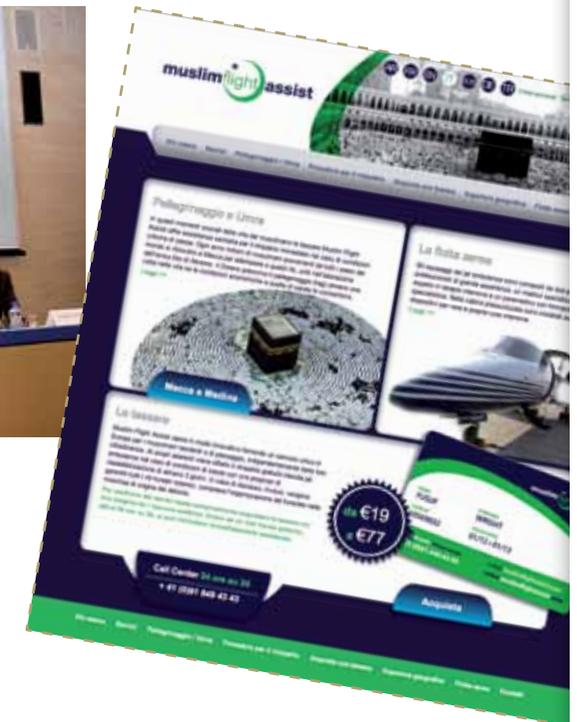
Also in 2012, the minister for international cooperation, Andrea Riccardi, after having included COREIS among the members of the permanent conference on ‘Religions, Culture and Integration’, invited it to participate actively in the renewed group of members of the civil society engaged in international cooperation for development, with sustainable projects for social cohesion, antiradicalism, education for peace, social enterprise, ethical finance and the fight against poverty.



Forum on Economy and Integration (Rome, 2012)



IlhamAllah Chiara Ferrero (Secretary General) with Ministers Galan, Frattini and Fazio for the presentation of Halal Italia project ([www.halalitalia.org](http://www.halalitalia.org))



# INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

1993

Foundation of the “Associazione Italiana Internazionale per l’informazione” sull’Islam (Italian International Association for Information on Islam), which was renamed COREIS (Comunità Religiosa Islamica) Italiana in 2000 following a change in its charter.

1997-2001

Ministry of Education, Universities and Research. Islamic representatives in the National Committee for Intercultural Education..

1997

(Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). International agreement.

1998-2000

Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Assets.  
Islamic representatives in the National Committee for the Heritage and Memory of Mediterranean Culture.

2005-2011

Ministry of the Interior. Participation in the Council for Italian Islam.

2010

The president of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, awarded the young members of COREIS and UGEI (Unione Giovani Ebrei italiani/Italian Union of Jewish Youth) a commemorative plaque in recognition of the success of the programme “I giovani e il futuro” (Young People and the Future) aimed at Italian schools.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Inter-institutional signature in support of the promotion by COREIS of the Halal Italia project.

2011

Municipality of Milan. Participation in the working table with the Islamic community.

2012

Ministry for International Cooperation and Integration. Participation in the permanent conference on “Religions, Culture and Integration”.

Ministry of Health. Participation in the work group on the theme “Acceptance of Cultural and Religious Specificity in Health Facilities”.

Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies. Participation in the committee dealing with the theme “Food, Culture and Peace”.



Interreligious conference with President Fini, Mons. Fisichella, Rav Laras and Shaykh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini at the Chamber of Deputies (2008)



COREIS delegation receives the Ambrogino award from the Mayor of Milan (2008)



Shaykh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini  
with his wife Nuriyyah  
at the Teatro alla Scala  
during a concert for peace



Sukun Ensemble  
plays traditional music

## SUPPORT COREIS ACTIVITIES

### BANK DETAILS

UBI – Banca Popolare Commercio e Industria  
Agency 0051 / Milan

IBAN: IT15 L031 1101 6340 0000 0011 812

SWIFT: BLOPIT22

IN FAVOUR OF COREIS Italiana

### CREDITS

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