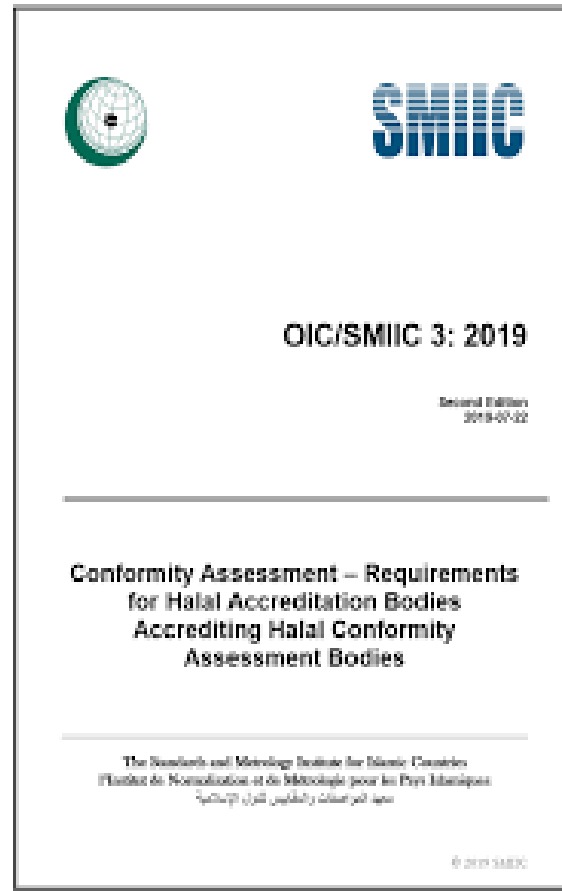
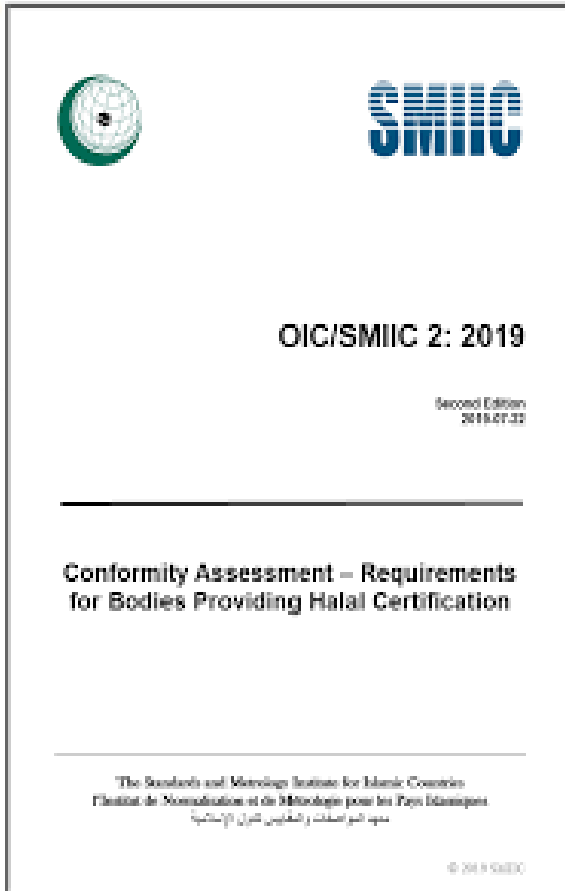




## **DO WE NEED EUROPEAN HALAL ACCREDITATION AGENCY?**

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# Halal accreditation



# EU HALAL MARKET




The Halal Food and Beverage market in Europe has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, as highlighted in a report by Bonafide Research titled "Halal Food and Beverage Market Outlook in Europe to 2027." According to the report, the market surged by US\$29 billion between 2016 and 2021, with further growth anticipated at an annual rate of 6% to 7% until 2027.

## Challenges on the market



- 1. Recognition of Islam**
- 2. National Organization of Islamic Communities**
- 3. Lack of Official Halal Standard**
- 4. Lack of Accreditation**
- 5. Self-Proclamation of Halal**
- 6. Import Regulation and Supervision**



Efforts to address the challenges in the EU halal market have been met with both progress and obstacles. Two notable attempts to overcome these challenges include:

- 1. European Association of Halal Certifiers (AHC-EUROPE)**
- 2. European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Working Group**

**These attempts highlight the complexities surrounding the regulation and standardization of halal certification in the EU. While there have been initiatives to address these challenges, resistance from Muslim communities underscores the importance of respecting religious authority and ensuring that any regulatory framework aligns with Islamic principles and practices.**





## The foundation of European Halal Accreditation Agency?

The establishment of a Halal Accreditation Agency in non-OIC is viewed as imperative from the perspective of halal certification bodies. **Over 65%** of them advocate for the need to accredit or recognize halal certificates from Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries for products sold in non-OIC countries. Additionally, **half of these bodies** believe that a halal accreditation agency should be established in countries outside the OIC, such as the USA or the EU.



The main requirements of OIC/SMIIC 3:2019 stipulate that:

1. The halal accreditation body (HAB) must be an Islamic entity legally registered.
2. Personnel of HAB must adhere to Islamic principles in their actions.
3. HAB must ensure that all personnel involved in halal conformity assessments and accreditation activities are Muslims with technical competency and ethical commitment to Islamic values.
4. Accreditation criteria for halal conformity assessment bodies must align with relevant normative documents, such as OIC/SMIIC standards and guidelines.



Given the challenges faced by halal certification bodies in the EU market and their expressed need for accreditation, establishing a **European Halal Accreditation Agency** following these standard requirements is deemed necessary. Countries such as **Croatia** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** are prime candidates for hosting the headquarters of such an institution. Croatia, an EU member, recognized Islam in 1916 and has a history of collaboration with its Islamic community, as evidenced by agreements signed in 2002.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a longstanding tradition of Islamic authority and holds observer status in the OIC, with EU candidate status. Both countries have developed national halal standards and possess decades of expertise in halal standardization and certification, making them well-suited to host the European Halal Accreditation Agency.



**Such an agency, adhering to the requirements of OIC/SMIIC 3:2019, and with membership in IFHAB, would ensure consistency, credibility, and adherence to Islamic principles in the halal certification process within the EU.**

