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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful**

The Eleventh Regular Session of the European Council of Fatwa and Research, Held at the Headquarters of the Islamic Association of Sweden, at the Islamic Center, Stockholm, Sweden, For the Period of 1-7 Jumada I, 1424 H. (1-7 July 2003 A.D.)

Fatwa 11 / 11

The following question has been received from the East Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization:

As you know, for about a decade the World Health Organization (WHO) has been carrying on a campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis, so that, with God's permission and assistance, it would no longer exist at all on the face of the earth. The incidence of disability and death that humanity will be spared is obvious. The disease, God willing, will no longer afflict the human race.

The child vaccine for immunization against poliomyelitis is prepared with the virus that causes the diseases on a tissular culture, i.e. a culture made of multiplying cells that form a cellular tissue of contiguous cells. When the culture succeeds, these cells have to be disconnected. The disconnection is done by using an enzyme called trypsin, derived from pigs. Small, almost negligible, amounts of trypsin are added, because the enzymes achieve the desired effect with minimal concentration. When added to the contiguous tissue cells, trypsin disconnects them in a very short period of time. The disconnected cells are thoroughly laved, so that no trace of trypsin remains. Next, poliomyelitis viruses are cultivated, in order to multiply on the cells. The multiplied viruses are then cropped, and an undoubtedly-lawful solution is added. The viruses are thus made ready for the preparation of vaccine, two or three drops of which are orally administered to every child.

Out of piety, some brother Muslims in various parts of the world, particularly in East Asia, have made the *fatwa* that it is not permissible to administer this vaccine to children, due to the fact that porcine trypsin is used in preparing it.

We have argued back as follows:



*Second,* the Council urges Muslim leaders and officials at Islamic centers not to be too strict in such matters that are open to considered opinion and that bring considerable benefits to Muslim children, as long as these matters involve no conflict with any definite texts.